

THE ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN DISASTERS RISK MANAGEMENT

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Introduction

- Disasters can affect human health, people's lives and the infrastructure built to support them.
- Environmental health problems arise from these disasters and are related to the effects on the environment that affect human's health and well-being.
- Disasters risk management can involve contributions of environmental health professionals in different ways.

Objective: This work address the role of environmental health in the field of disaster management.

New inputs

- During COVID-19 pandemic EHP have been played a critical role.
- EHP are also facing several constraints that can jeopardize the effectiveness of their role.
- An international workgroup was created as a taskforce to endorse EHP practice during pandemic.

Environmental Health practices and interventions in disaster management

- Environmental health interventions and practice in the field of disaster management are related to:
 1. Reducing the vulnerability of communities to hazards, increasing their ability to respond, to withstand disruption and to recover rapidly;
 2. Collaborating in hazards identification and risk assessment;
 3. Strengthening routine services so that the potential health effects of emergencies and disasters are minimized;
 4. Responding to a disaster considering elements such as drinking water, hazardous waste, general waste, sanitation, food safety, communicable diseases, vector issues, or mass gatherings.

Barriers

- Ambiguity about EH professionals' functions and their limited representation in some phases;
- The low visibility and profile of the profession;
- The positioning of environmental health within public health.
- Insufficient human resources.

COVID-19 pandemic

- Stressed the relevance of public health professionals all over the world;
- EH professionals roles and responsibilities relating to promoting safety and health across occupational, domestic, and commercial settings are uniquely valuable.
- Given limited human resources, EH professionals may temporarily abandon their day-to-day role, creating gaps in services and performance of critical activities essential to public health and safety.
- A workgroup was formed to discuss current and prospective roles and responsibilities of EHPs in the COVID-19 response.

EHP practice during pandemic



Lack of human resources

Covid-19: Falta de técnicos de saúde ambiental põe em causa vigilância sanitária

6 de Julho, 2020

Défice de 45% destes profissionais nas Unidades de Saúde Pública é preocupante, alerta o Sindicatos dos Técnicos de Diagnóstico e Terapêutica.



Não sendo possível combater à pandemia atual sem medidas de higienização eficazes e eficientes, o défice de Técnicos de Saúde Ambiental, nas Unidades preocupante.

Expresso

EXCLUSIVOS

SEMANA



ÚLTIMAS

OPINIÃO

ECONOMIA

EXPRESSO CURTO

PODCASTS

TRIBUNA

COVID-19

VIVER PORTUGAL

2:59

Pesquisa

EXCLUSIVO CORONAVÍRUS

Covid. Falta de técnicos impediu controlo da epidemia em Lisboa

26.06.2020 às 23h00

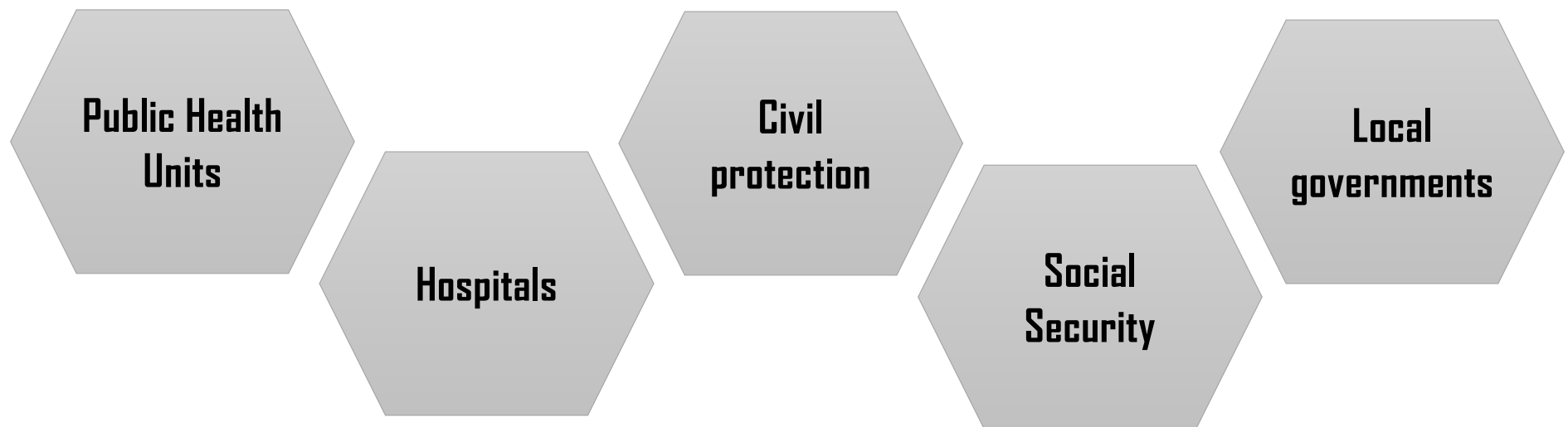


Aumento de casos levou autoridades locais a pedirem mais meios de rastreio. Saúde demorou 15 dias a reagir. Número de técnicos de saúde está longe do ideal. Peritos dizem que próximas semanas são determinantes para evitar segunda vaga. “Houve claramente falha de planeamento”, acusam Médicos de Saúde Pública

P. PORTO

ESCOLA
SUPERIOR
DE SAÚDE

Difficulties in coordination between entities



Training



Thank you!

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