

#05

Biweekly COVID-19 overview
Impact & Response Team, Resilient Rotterdam

KNOWLEDGE AND INSPIRATION

24 june 2020



Gemeente Rotterdam





Food for thought

This document aims to inspire you and increase your knowledge about the strategy and recovery from the current COVID-19 crisis. Here you will find examples of the measures that cities in Europe and other parts of the world are taking in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Different domains are covered in the selection process of examples; those most relevant to Rotterdam have been given special consideration. Besides, the document includes sections linked to the different phases of the crisis. We hope to contribute to the process towards a more resilient and robust city.

Based on demands, the structure and content of this knowledge & inspiration update will be developed in the coming weeks.

For specific requests or suggestions regarding future updates on COVID 19, please contact the ImpactopRotterdam team: impactoprotterdam@rotterdam.nl

During a
crisis.



Share
inspiration &
knowledge

Team Impact & Nazorg
Resilient Rotterdam



A 100 Resilient Cities Member

International inspiration



Besiktas | Antistress-campagnes

The municipality of Beşiktaş has launched an anti-stress campaign. Citizens can meet psychologists at events held in public parks, online or privately by appointment. Stress relieving activities such as yoga are facilitated in local parks and other public places. Social distance is taken into account. There are also games at various locations in the city. More [information in Turkish here.](#)

San Francisco | regain tourist confidence

- San Francisco has worked out a 15 step plan to regain passenger confidence. These steps include: providing good information, cleaning vehicles more frequently, using longer vehicles and selling personal hand straps. These can tie passengers to the rails in the vehicles. They can hold on to this. You have to wash your hands at home after use. [See here the full step-by-step plan.](#)

London/ Coronaproof bushokjes

Transport for London (TfL), responsible for public transport in London, has used the Geographical Information System (GIS) to analyse at which bus stops in the city it is and/or becomes difficult to keep a distance of 1.5 metres. Stickers have been placed on the ground to indicate how bus passengers can keep a sufficient distance. It was also investigated whether it is possible to enlarge the pavement so that walkers and bus passengers do not stand in each other's way. [Read more here.](#)

Nantes| Transforms parks into food gardens

Fewer flowers, more tomatoes, courgettes and potatoes to feed vulnerable people in Nantes. The city transforms vegetation, greenhouses, communal gardens or vacant green spaces into vegetable gardens. In total, the city hopes to collect 25 tons of vegetables, which will be distributed through the Food Bank and neighbourhood associations to about 1,000 households in difficulty. [Read here more \(in French\).](#)

Vilnius | Supports artists

In attempt to support artists in these difficult times, Vilnius will be exhibiting 100 printed works by 100 artists on outdoor advertising billboards for 3 weeks from 7 July. [Read more here.](#)





Featured

- Corona & Heat a toxic combination -

Corona & Heat | New challenges.

COVID-19 increases the risks of hot weather and 2020 is on track to be one of the warmest years ever. So there are new challenges for residents, health institutions and policy makers. The Global Heat Health Information Network has launched an information series to highlight the problems and options that need to be taken into account in managing the health risks of extreme heat during the COVID-19 pandemic. Click on the video below.



Increased risks of hot weather and COVID-19

- Many vulnerable groups are susceptible to both COVID-19 and heat stress ;Self-isolation increases the heat-related risk of illness and death at home - especially of the elderly, people with disabilities, people with mental health problems.
- People at extra risk during hot weather may live in worse socio-economic conditions because of COVID-19
- Recent research shows that there is a significant correlation between densely populated urban communities and COVID-19 infections. Because of the already existing exposure to air pollution and little green base (e.g. parks).



Featured

"Corona & Hitze" Tools from the Global Heat Information Network

PLANNING CHECKLIST

GLOBAL HEAT HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK

TECHNICAL BRIEF

PROTECTING HEALTH FROM HOT WEATHER DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

COVID-19 amplifies the health risks of hot weather, presenting individuals and local decision-makers with new challenges on the optimal ways to stay safe from both hot weather and COVID-19. Communities around the world are facing unprecedented compound risks as the health and socio-economic impacts of the pandemic exacerbate already deadly heat risks.

The COVID-19 pandemic amplifies health risks for many people in hot weather. To reduce heat-related illness and loss of life authorities and communities should prepare for hot weather and heatwaves — in addition to managing COVID-19.

Authorities should expect and urgently prepare for hot weather and heatwaves, in addition to managing COVID-19. Common public health actions to reduce heat-related illness and death may need to be modified in locations where they are restricted, unavailable or in contradiction to public health measures to limit the transmission of COVID-19. These measures include: "leave hot apartments for public spaces"; "go to public air-conditioned locations such as cooling centers, shopping malls, and libraries"; "regularly check on vulnerable persons"; "use fans to cool rooms without air-conditioning"; and "seek urgent medical care if showing signs of heat stroke".

Furthermore, hot weather conditions may complicate COVID-19 responses by increasing patient loads, and creating occupational health risks for health workers and responders.

[Technische brief : Protecting health from hot weather during COVID-19](#)

GLOBAL HEAT HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK + Climate Centre

PLANNING CHECKLIST

MANAGING HEAT RISK DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

This checklist is for local and national authorities coordinating heatwave preparedness and response measures.

It provides a list of measures to consider when adapting heatwave plans and interventions in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak.

VULNERABLE GROUPS AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The people who are most vulnerable to hot weather and COVID-19 include older people (over age 65); those with pre-existing medical conditions such as heart disease, respiratory illness or diabetes; those taking certain medications; those who are overweight and obese; those who are marginalized and isolated, including those experiencing homelessness; pregnant women and people wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) in places that are not temperature controlled.

People infected with, or recovering from, COVID-19 are presumed more vulnerable to heat stress, including outdoor workers returning to the workplace.

Vulnerable populations may be in more precarious social and economic conditions due to COVID-19, including from lost wages, increased isolation, and strains or gaps in social networks. This can increase vulnerability to heat risk by limiting healthcare access, transport options, food security and utility access.

- Identify your high risk communities by reviewing where local heat islands occur, and where this may overlap with high incidence or risk of COVID-19.
- Increase the use of [telephone outreach programmes](#) for regular check-ins with the most vulnerable during hot weather to reduce the need for face-to-face interactions due to COVID-19. Social service partners, general practitioners and local authorities can help with setting up a system. If there is a system already in place, consider advertising it to increase enrolment.
- Review plans for in-home safety checks. Ensure the health and safety of outreach staff and volunteers and the people they visit through training and the provision of PPE.
- Coordinate with formal and informal social service systems to identify vulnerable individuals and reach them more effectively with key messages and support.
- Review and expand social safety net programmes to support at-home cooling strategies for the most vulnerable people. For example, agency subsidies could be provided to at-risk households.

Disclaimer: The suggestions in this checklist will not be applicable in all contexts. Please review these measures and use the context of your city or locality as a guide to which actions you should implement.

These suggestions focus mainly on heat action measures which may be affected by COVID-19, and may require adaptation to the local context. Interventions that are unlikely to be affected are not listed here. For general heat action guidance see additional resources listed at the end of this document. These ideas are based on existing guidance and peer-reviewed information, as well as expert opinion.

[Planning Checklist: Managing heat Risk During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)



- COORDINATION
- PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS
- HEALTH SERVICES
- UTILITIES
- OUTDOOR PUBLIC SPACES
- WORKFORCE
- COOLING CENTRES
- INDOOR COOLING

Checklist: Is our city well prepared for a heat wave during the corona crisis?

What can we learn from the Chief Resilience Officer of Houston?



Interview with CRO Marissa Aho

By: Naomi Sonneveld & Moussa Azaouagh & Daniela Ochoa-Peralta (10 June)

Marissa Aho is a Chief Resilience Officer of Houston. She leads the Resilient Houston program and collaborates with the international Global Resilient Cities Network.

A day after George Floyd's funeral the interview with Marissa took place. She talked about the situation in Houston and the specific corona approach of the municipal organization. Houston has endured several types of crisis. For example, the city was hit by Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and for decades there have been social tensions related to the social inequality of the black population in particular. "Houston is still recovering from Harvey. Now there's corona, the oil crisis and the BLM protests. We're living toward the next presidential election that will be decisive for our country. - Marissa Aho

Below are the insights Marissa Aho shared with us.



1) As a city, deploy your (international) network.

This period of time brings prolonged and often invisible tensions to the surface. In a crisis, these structures become visible and all kinds of different shocks take place at different levels. For example, we are now facing protests and the chief of police has just been dismissed. As a city you don't always have a plan B ready, but chances are that other cities have experienced a similar situation. Because we can quickly contact cities from our Global Resilient Cities Network, we had immediate access to crucial information to take action.

2) Unambiguity about vulnerable groups requires fine-tuning and an eye for inclusiveness.

During the response phase, cities try to get a grip on the situation by monitoring. A distinction is made between different population groups. During a crisis, however, the view of these groups may deviate from the status quo. In Houston there were different views on the 'vulnerable group'. For example, there was the view that vulnerable groups were only the elderly, carers, doctors and patients. This excludes a large group of residents and does not take into account the vulnerable groups that were already there. Moreover, as a result of the crisis, new vulnerable residents are also emerging. In order to create clarity and ensure inclusiveness, Houston has set up a vulnerable populations working group. This has been an official part of the corona task force from the beginning. This working group identifies vulnerable groups and neighbourhoods. Twenty-two neighbourhoods have now been given that designation. For example, their residents have no vehicles, health insurance or suffer from major chronic illnesses (such as asthma). This resulted in a 'health-equity response task force'. This ensured that the residents of these neighbourhoods had direct access to test centres and food facilities.

3) Use influencers and the creative sector in communication campaigns.

We noticed in Houston that more and more residents are tired of receiving corona-related information. That's why we use celebrities from Houston, such as Simone Biles (Olympic gymnast) and Slim Thug (rapper) in press conferences and campaigns. In addition, there are many individual artists who are struggling right now. By involving them in the creation of campaigns, we create a win-win situation: the artists have work again and we reach our audience more effectively. From our Resilience programme we aim for a sustainable relationship between the public and the creative sector by continuing to link the resilience strategy to cultural initiatives.

4) Use the resilience strategy to guide your recovery plan.

In response to Hurricane Harvey, Houston developed a [resilience strategy](#). It was launched a few months before the corona crisis broke out. The mayor of Houston, Sylvester Turner, immediately gave the order to add a special COVID-19 appendix to the strategy after the outbreak. "We didn't develop the Resilience strategy to put on the shelf," said Sylvester Turner.

The COVID-19-Appendix applies the resilience framework to current corona conditions and helps the city and its partners prioritise actions to support the people of Houston as effectively as possible. It identifies 42 out of a total of 62 actions within the Resilience Strategy. These 42 actions then focus on the COVID-19 response, recovery and transformation phase. They focus, among other things, on job creation, supporting small businesses, promoting locally produced products, fair access to recreational/public spaces that enhance physical and mental health, community involvement in the recovery and transformation phase, and improving smart-infrastructure to better monitor public health. [See here the Resilience COVID-19-appendix](#) (p. 174 -176).

5) Make resilience part of the urban infrastructure.

After the Harvey disaster it became painfully clear that the city is not prepared for extreme weather. In order to absorb shocks (disruptive events), Houston has developed a resilience approach to which building decisions are geared. For each urban development project Houston uses a so-called 'resilience checklist'. This stimulates the market to work on, among other things, water collection, solar energy, community accommodations, green infrastructure, smart applications, multifunctional roofs, heat resistance, accessibility, sustainable building materials and health standards. In this way you work systematically and in a structured way on the resilience of your city and in the future you will be better prepared for shocks and stress (long-term developments that have a negative impact on the urban system).

6) Effective recovery depends on the support and ownership of residents.

Residents themselves play an important role in the recovery and transformation phase. It is therefore very important that residents and/or residents' organisations are committed to the plans of the municipal organisation. If residents themselves do not play a role in the realisation of recovery and transformation plans, there is little chance of success. However, it remains a challenge for cities to actually make their inhabitants part of the recovery strategies. We will have to work harder on this and organise special participation processes.



Update: *Vital Cities & Citizens*



- A joint venture between Erasmus University Rotterdam and
the City of Rotterdam -



Dr. Jan Fransen
Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies
Contact



Prof. dr. Jurian Edelenbos
Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences
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This Policy Brief has been prepared by: Dr. Brian P. Godor and Dr. Ruth Van der Hallen.
Department of Psychology, Education & Child Studies and Vital Cities & Citizens Department of Psychology, Education & Child Studies

Policybrief 5: Resilient Citizens (English version)

Times of crisis, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic, will confront and challenge the prior existing societal equilibrium. Thankfully, every system will strive to regain this balance and move towards a post-event recovery. However, the pace and strength of that recovery can differ at an individual, family, community, and societal level. The ability of a system to “bounce back” is founded on two essential building blocks: Coping and Resiliency. Coping refers to an ability to deal with problems and difficulties, either through cognitive or behavioral efforts. Resilience is the capacity of a system to successfully face challenges that threaten the functioning, the survival or the positive development of that system.

This policy brief will outline what steps can be taken to ensure that the people of Rotterdam make a strong recovery as well as point out what constructs are the important at an individual and societal level to better face future challenges.

The the full policy brief here

Meer info: over Vital Cities & Citizens : [klik hier](#)



View on Policy Letter 5: Resilient Citizens



Transformation

Incorporating the essential building blocks to the new fabric of society

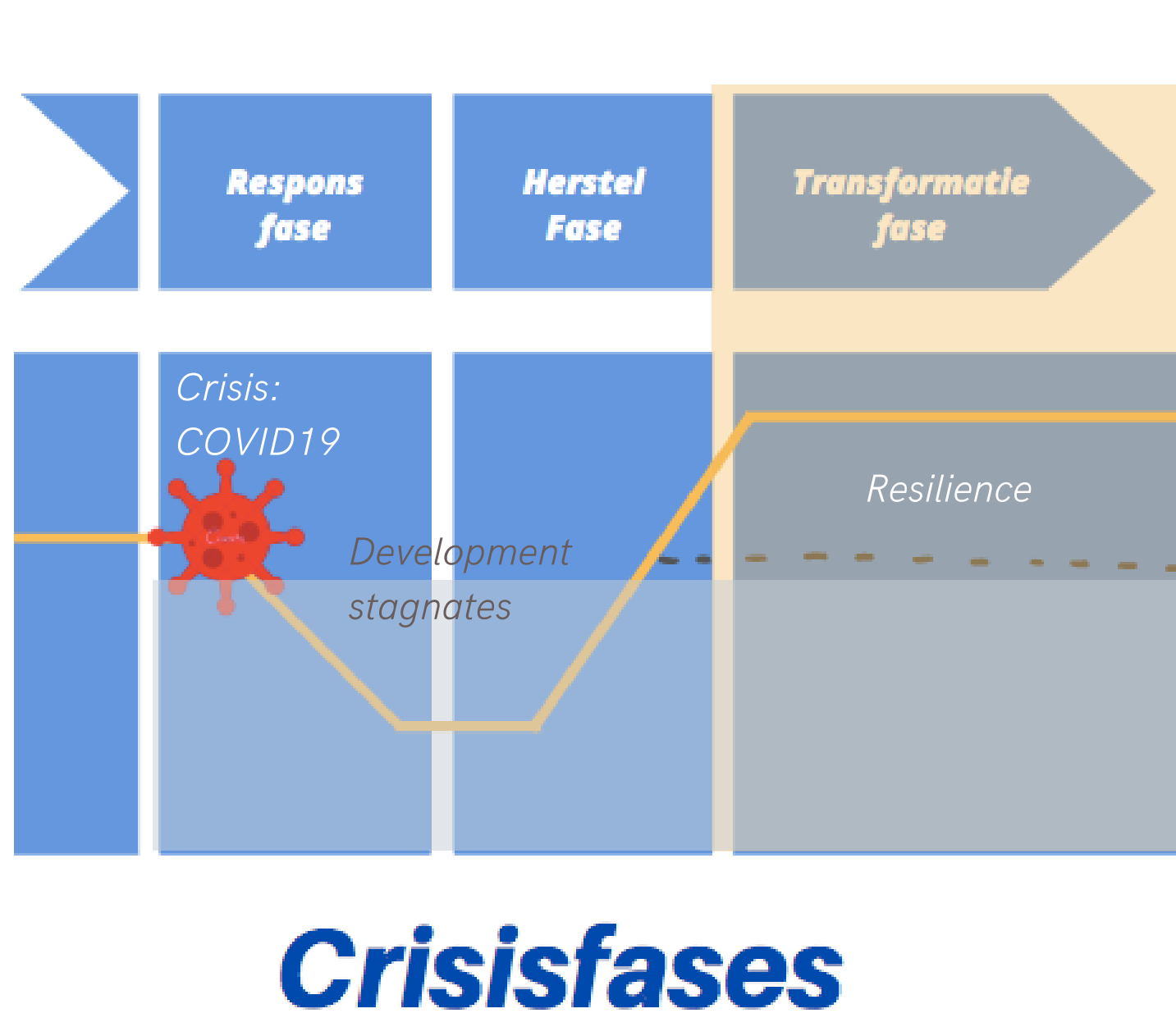
There are several main conclusions from the literature regarding the form and focus of Coping and Resiliency programs aimed at transforming societies. These specific recommendations come directly out of disaster context studies and create a strong framework in terms of guiding policy makers in both the choice of topics as well as the implementation of such initiatives.

Wat vind je nog meer in de policybrief

- **Essential building blocks for Coping and Resiliency**
- **The six key system capacity areas**
- **Examples of interventions on Coping and Resiliency**
- **Current Examples of Coping and Resiliency Projects in Rotterdam**

- There needs to be a sustained focus on the needs of children post-event. Often either societal or parental needs are assumed to be enough to ensure positive recovery.
- The post-event needs for children differ from other demographic groups and therefore post-event interventions should be developed taking this specifically into account.
- Besides loss of schooling and its potential negative effects on children's development, there are also many other socio-emotional developments that might suffer as a result of the event (i.e. social contact and social skills, emotional support, loss of self-efficacy, increased pessimism).
- There are three main "types" of vulnerabilities: Psychological Vulnerability, Physical Vulnerability, Educational Vulnerability
- In this framework there must be a focus on creating resiliency prior to any event, as well as, a focused response in restoring resiliency during and post-event (Peek, 2020).
- When working toward recovery following trauma or disasters there are three important foci for recovery: to provide external support, to develop inner strength, and to acquire interpersonal and problem-solving skills (Grotberg, 2001).
- 1. Provide external supports: this notion is akin to the concept of social connectedness (Prince-Embury & Saklofske, 2013) and the importance of emotional and instrumental social support (Anshel & Gregory, 1990)
- 2. Develop inner strengths: This notion is akin to self-esteem and emotional awareness.
- 3. Acquire interpersonal and problem-solving skills: this notion is akin to Bandura's concept of self-efficacy, coping efficacy and the development of a wide range of ready-to-use and employ coping skills (Chesney, Folkman & Chambers, 2003; Anshel & Gregory, 1990)
- "The prevalence of some of the most common specific disorders and syndromes and their associated risk and protective factors varies across culture", however...
- "Patterns of comorbidity and responses to treatment vary little across cultures."
- Focus on post-event initiatives should be on supporting families and providing psychoeducational opportunities for development and growth.
- A strong emphasis should also be placed in identifying long-term negative mental health issues (Williams, Alexander, Bolsover & Bakke, 2008)

Crisis phases



Response phase

Focus on limiting the impact of the pandemic as much as possible.

Recovery phase

Focus on restoring the functioning of the city within the shortest possible time.

Transformation phase

Focus on the "building back stronger"; a city that is stronger after the crisis than before (learning & growing).

Resilience

The ability of people, communities, organizations, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and grow, regardless of the nature and scale of long-term stresses and crises.

Knowledge Response



Learning from crisis & previous pandemics - infosheet | Corona National Operational Team [Klick for the infosheet.](#)



Corona crisis leads to enormous loss of work and human capital | Social Issues

On the one hand, the corona crisis stimulates the build-up of human capital: some people who would otherwise not have entered the digital world so quickly are now rapidly developing their digital skills. On the other hand, the measures taken to contain the spread of the virus are damaging the building up of human capital, especially among young people. In addition, the most vulnerable groups are likely to suffer the greatest damage. If the crisis lasts longer and deepens further, there is a risk that company-specific knowledge and skills will be eroded across a broad front among workers who lose their jobs because the company where they work falls.

LEREN VAN CRISES EN EERDERE PANDEMIEËN

LANDELIJK OPERATIONEEL TEAM CORONA

BENUT HISTORISCHE LESSEN

Eerdere historische ervaringen met pandemieën zoals de pest, pokkenepidemie en cholera helpen bij het bestuderen van grote crises, in het bijzonder de Coronacrisis. Een historische blik kan helpen om deze complexe crisis beter te doorgronden en begrijpen, is een bron voor 'sense- en meaning-making' en leert ons over 'failure paths' - wat ging er mis en wat kunnen we daar van leren. Bovendien is de geschiedenis een inspiratie- en informatiebron voor verhalen over veerkracht en aanpassingsvermogen binnen de samenleving.



HEB OOG VOOR 'FAILURE PATHS'

Eerdere pandemieën leren ons dat, hoewel de ziekte steeds anders is, de logica van sociale reacties hetzelfde blijft. Er zijn meerdere voorbeelden uit de geschiedenis bekend waarin goedbedoelde en in principe werkende maatregelen (zoals social distancing, hygiënische maatregelen, contactonderzoek en groepsimmunitie) op langere termijn niet altijd de gewenste resultaten hebben opgeleverd. Het instellen van maatregelen is makkelijk, het over langere tijd handhaven in de praktijk vrijwel onmogelijk. De belangrijkste oorzaken voor dergelijk beleidsfalen waren (1) onvoldoende aandacht voor sociaaleconomische verschillen tussen groepen en (2) de (langdurige) aantasting van burgerlijke vrijheden. Het is daarom van belang om te komen tot gedifferentieerde maatregelen die recht doen aan de verschillen tussen groepen. Voorkom een 'one size fits all' beleid.



INPERKING VRIJHEDEN EN ANGST ALS BRON VAN SOCIALE ONRUST

In zowel de late Middeleeuwen als de negentiende eeuw lagen sociaaleconomische verschillen tussen groepen en de inperking van vrijheden aan de basis van pest en cholera rellen in heel Europa. De epidemieën legden sociale, economische en juridische ongelijkheid (en daarmee ook gezondheids- ongelijkheid) genadeloos bloot. Dit leidde tot sociale onrust en rellen. Ook controles door 'gezondheidsinspecteurs', die toezagen op de naleving van gezondheidsvoorschriften, leidden tot groeiend verzet onder de bevolking. Het is niet verrassend dat de 'Black Lives Matter' demonstraties juist nu plaatsvinden. In latere golven van ziekte uitbraken zien we dat onrust vaak niet alleen wordt gedreven door angst voor nieuwe besmettingen, maar ook door een grotere gevoeligheid voor onrechtvaardigheid en verlangen naar zingeving. In de aanloop naar de tweede cholera-golf ging het minder om klassenverschillen, maar werden bijvoorbeeld patiënten die het ziekenhuis wilden verlaten door demonstranten tegengehouden. Solidariteit in de samenleving sloeg, mede door angst, om in eigenbelang. Met het oog op een mogelijke tweede coronagolf is het de vraag hoe solidariteit óf mogelijke onrust zich zal gaan ontwikkelen. Angst is hierbij geen goede raadgever.



LEREN VAN CRISES EN EERDERE PANDEMIEËN

LANDELIJK OPERATIONEEL TEAM CORONA

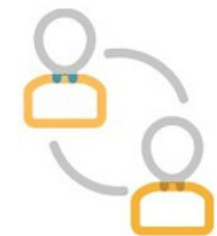
BELANG VAN RITUELEN

In tijden van crisis zijn mensen geneigd om solidariteit te tonen en nieuwe gemeenschappen te vormen. Gedurende (en na) een pandemie is er behoefte aan nieuwe 'mechanisms for unity' om de saamhorigheid in de samenleving te bevorderen en vast te houden, bijvoorbeeld door herinneringscultuur. Bij deze crisis is het opvallend dat veel Corona-slachtoffers anoniem blijven. Daarnaast is er niet alleen sprake van rouw om het verlies van dierbaren, maar ook rouw om economisch en sociaal verlies. Dat vergt aandacht voor (ander soort) verbindende rituelen, zoals een herdenkingsmonument of een nationale Coronadag.



VEERKRACHT, SAAMHORIGHEID EN VERNIEUWING

Crisis zijn ook altijd 'windows of opportunity'. Het verleden laat zien dat zij mogelijkheden bieden voor solidariteit en saamhorigheid en kunnen onder de juiste condities leiden tot maatschappelijke vernieuwing. Veerkracht kan worden bevorderd door het beperken van angst en onzekerheid, het daadwerkelijk helpen en tegelijkertijd stimuleren van eigen verantwoordelijkheid en minder regeldruk. Dit vraagt een actieve inspanning van burgemeesters en leiders. Daarbij hoort ook inspraak en participatie, het gezamenlijk in gesprek gaan over 'het nieuwe normaal'.



Met dank aan de sprekers (v.l.n.r.) Beatrice de Graaf (faculteitshoogleraar Universiteit Utrecht), Rina Knoeff (directeur Groningen CENTRE FOR HEALTH AND HUMANITIES) EN CATRIEN SANTING (HOGLERAAR AAN DE RIJKSUNIVERSITEIT GRONINGEN).

[MEER INFO: WEBINAR INFOSHEET](#)

Knowledge Recovery Phase

➤ Cities demands responsible use of corona apps| corona monitor Amsterdam

The corona crisis is forcing cities to think about digital civil rights in times of rapid technological development. Amsterdam and founders of the coalition of cities for digital rights New York, Barcelona, UN Habitat and EUROCITIES came up with 6 recommendations:

1. Technology is rarely the answer. A balanced approach between traditional and technology is desirable.
2. Respect the data rights of residents such as anonymity, transparency and control over data.
3. Avoid at any time the (unintentional) aggravation of inequality through the use of technology.
4. Make use of the knowledge present in society, through cooperation and openness.
5. Cities should work together to establish a social dialogue on the use of COVID19 related technology.
6. Human rights and public health go hand in hand

➤ High and severe violence in vulnerable families | Verwey - Jonker Institute

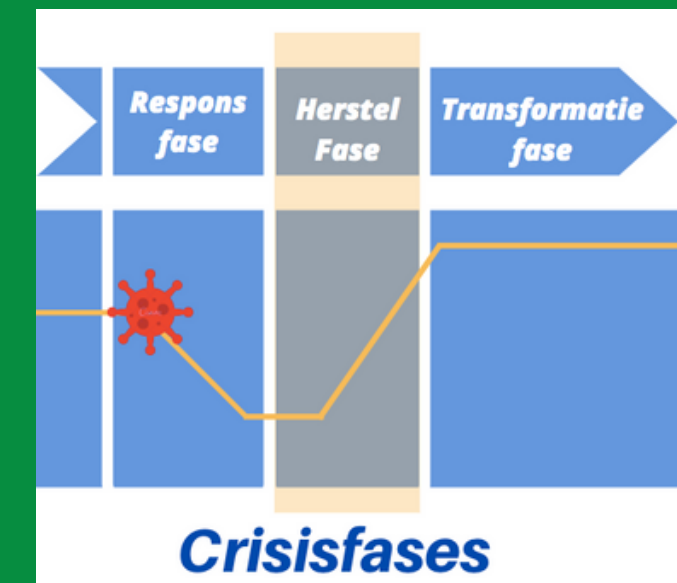
Initial figures show that the corona crisis has not increased the number of problems, but there is still much, and often serious, violence in the majority of families. [Read more here.](#)

➤ Vulnerability and resilience | Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR)

This memorandum of the WRR is dedicated to the consequences of the corona crisis and is intended to support the government and parliament in their search for solutions. The vulnerabilities that the crisis has made visible in our society require a specific approach to reduce them while at the same time making society more resilient. The WRR identifies 8 major policy challenges that have played, or will play, a prominent role as a result of the corona crisis:

1. The governing role of the government
2. The position of flexible labor
3. Differences in resilience and resilience of individuals
4. Resilience and the role of business in society
5. Digital opportunities and risks
6. The future of European cooperation
7. The future of globalisation
8. The cost of the crisis

The WRR links these challenges to policy principles, such as the strengthening of knowledge and capacity within the government, adjustments in the flexible labour market and social security, a better social embedding of the business community, the management of accelerated digitisation and greater shock resistance to international disruptions. The government's help is emphatically needed, but this is also a collective responsibility: citizens, businesses and civil society organisations must contribute to this. [Read more here](#)



Knowledge Transformation Phase

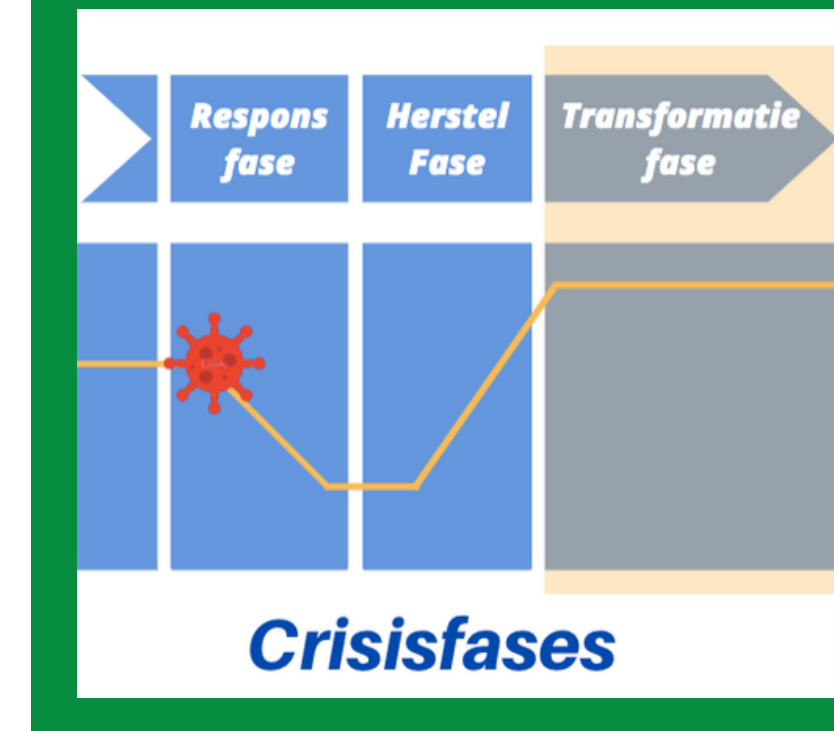
"We have a unique opportunity to design and implement more inclusive and accessible societies" | UN

Even under 'normal' circumstances, people with disabilities have less access to education, health care and income opportunities or do not participate fully in society. This is only exacerbated by the current corona crisis. According to the UN, it is the task of the government to guarantee equal rights for people with disabilities. The UN recently published a policy letter: [A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19](#) The policy letter comes with specific recommendations and focuses on 4 overarching areas:

1. Attention to disability in all COVID-19 response and recovery, together with targeted actions
2. Ensure access to information, facilities, services and programmes in the COVID-19 response and recovery.
3. Ensure meaningful and active participation of persons with disabilities and organisations representing them in the response and recovery of COVID-19.
4. Establish mechanisms to ensure that people with disabilities are included in the COVID-19 response.

Outcomes Thorbecke session on democratic renewal during Corona

In the fourth Thorbecke Inspiration session, presentations were given about democratic renewal in times of corona. The following points were highlighted: 1) Corona has created an explosion of social actions that contribute to the strengthening of the community. 2) There is an undercurrent characterized by the 'something must change' mentality. 3) Polarization can be a consequence of corona. Involve citizens in policy in order to create support for policy choices around controversial issues. 4) Haarlem has a financial pot for initiatives, where citizens assess the initiatives. Applications are processed within a week. It is a great success. 5) Nederland Zorgt voor Elkkaar develops a 'white paper' in which all citizens' initiatives are listed. Goal: this cooperative movement needs to be seen and recognised more. This should be a priority for government policy. 6) Municipality of Culemborg has a budget deficit for, among others, Youth and the WMO. Residents will be involved in the budget cuts. Lessons learned: look for other forms than meetings. In this way you achieve more diversity and give your residents a role. Be transparent about the revenues, avoid the 'we/spheres' and give 'online' a chance. 7) Berenschot will investigate the influence of corona on participation and the bottlenecks within participation processes. The focus is on digital participation processes. This should also provide an overview of locally experienced problems and appropriate solutions. 8) Every crisis shows hidden tensions in (other) parts of the social system, see incidents in the US and on Dam Square in Amsterdam. 9) Many changes that had been predicted for a long time and/or had already started slowly to gain momentum, including local democracy, such as the digital city councils. [Read more here](#)



Social justice as a prominent part of recovery strategies.

COVID-19 has drawn attention to wider socio-economic inequalities and health inequalities that require long-term systemic interventions. Social justice aims at creating fair and equitable relationships between individuals and society. According to the Global Resilient cities Network, social justice should be an explicit part of recovery strategies to tackle inequalities.

The Board of Human Rights conducts research into social inequality. These studies show that we are dealing with institutional racism in the Netherlands. There is racism in many social areas: in the labour market, the housing market, around internships and work and in sports. The Board formulates recommendations for ministries, employers and schools, among others. It indicates what they should do for a victim of discrimination and how they can prevent discrimination in the future. These are a number of examples:



**Make discrimination
visible**



**Prevent
unconscious
prejudice from
leading to
discrimination**



**Training and education
on ethnic stereotyping**

[For more information click on the links above](#)

Bron: *mensenrechten.nl* & *GRCN-briefing*

Corona Challenges



New Waste Challenges World Economic Forum



Sustainable Economy Challenges World Economic Forum



Inequality Challenges World Economic Forum



Other knowledge & inspiration

"How can this crisis provide openings for new ideas to move us into the future?"

Other sources that help us think about choices towards a resilient and resilient future:

- [Global Resilient Cities Network](#). Read and listen to the Corona Speaker Series, every week cities around the world share lessons in their fight against the coronavirus.
- VNG Webinar - Working on a resilient municipal organisation | 2 july [Login link](#)
- [DRIFT: man after corona](#)

Questions or ideas?



With this biweekly Knowledge & Inspiration document, we would like to respond to your needs. Mail your idea or ask for: impactoprotterdam@rotterdam.nl

*We need your
feedback:*

Help up by filling this [form](#). It will take only few minutes!

What can you expect in the next knowledge & inspiration update?

- Interview with o.a. Beitske Boonstra about the economic lesson of crisis from 2008.
- New International examples
- New Featured

Colophon



This document has been compiled by members of the Team Impact & Response + Resilient Rotterdam..

Summary & Analysis

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