

COVID 19 & THE 'BIG PAUSE' - WHAT WE ARE LEARNING FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE

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CONTEXT & THE PAUSE

- Covid 19-greatest structural shock since WWII. –Unprecedented event shared by millions across the world.
- Adverse impact in global north and south, also sector wide, disrupting economy education, health, agricultural production etc.
- Compounded in many regions by natural disaster, conflict, displacement, financial crisis
- Deep concerns felt for regions with weak public health, emergency response and social protection systems. Specifically livelihood systems such as pastoralists.
- Re-ignited debates on social protection systems per se and their ability to respond to new contingencies and multi-faceted shocks. Also vis-a vis whether they are transformative or merely technical.
- Time also of great reflection on nature of global issues, vulnerabilities, fragilities, inequalities, social, economic political '*Futures*'...*business as usual or re-setting development/humanitarian paradigms?*

RESPONSE & IMPACT- ETHIOPIA

- Swift response- separate coordination structure under Deputy PM, implementation of WHO procedures, Effective in capital and urban areas. Modified travel restrictions, Ethiopian airlines expanding cargo flights and supply chain across Africa.
- Economic impact as economy i.e. industrial parks and business began to suffer. Education & basic services. Slow PSNP delivery, insufficient funds for increasing caseloads of needs, inflexible decision making processes.
- Impact & response acerbated by drought, floods, locusts, conflict (s), governance reforms, staff turnover, closure of markets/ borders/mobility to grazing areas; change of currency; complexities over international support.

LESSONS LEARNT & WAY FORWARD

- New Risks on old.... crises drivers....by country. By region- understanding /anticipating 'multi-hazard/multi shocks'
- Global Futures? Overarching risks...Climate Change; Emerging global/regional power blocks (corporate & state) with diverging governance and regulatory systems. Technology/AI. New Wars, New Pandemics....?
- Robust preparedness & response SYSTEMS based on communication, knowledge and trust.....Principles of **right to** protection/ **obligation to** protect. Implementing the social contract btw citizen & state.
- Re-calibrated aid practices...cash...fooddelivery? Appropriate accountable targeting methods? Early warning & action based on smart context scenarios & decisions. Risk & resilience informed development policies.

AFRICAN UNION COMMITMENTS

- AU endorsed AMHEWAS- Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action System- policy for countries to develop based on 4 main pillars:-
- A Comprehensive Risk Management System; Dissemination & Communication; Preparedness & Response; Governance & Communication.
- Hopefully also to resonate with AU Policy Framework for Pastoralists in Africa supporting rights, recognizing value & contributions, developing appropriate specific policies, protecting livelihood security & access to rangelands, ensuring participation of traditional institutions. ***Context specific community-based early warning/action processes.***