

# Hospitals experience in managing risks from all hazards including climate change impact during COVID-19 pandemic: a French perspective

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COVID-19 Safe Hospital Webinar Series  
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## Covid-19 pandemic in France : Key figures

- + 5 000 000 people tested positive for Covid 19
- + 300 000 people hospitalised
- + 8 000 people in intensive care at the same time
- + 100 000 deaths

## Risk management

- What kind of risks were we prepared to?
  - Short crisis with a great amount of victims on a small scale (terrorist attack,...)
    - « Plan blanc » (« white plan »)
  - Long crisis with a small amount of victims
  
- The healthcare system was not ready for such a crisis
  
- Limited resilience to climate change risks

# Strengths of the healthcare system that allowed resilience

- National vision on the crisis
  - A centralised system that seemed efficient to avoid total saturation in the most targeted regions
    - + 600 people moved from one region to another
- Network and care spectrum
  - 3 lines of hospitals ; strong coordination
- Adaptation and solidarity
  - x 2 beds intensive care beds capacity (5 000 to 10 000)
  - + 60 000 healthcare professionals came to help in hospitals
- Strong inclusion into the economic fabric
  - Fab labs in hospitals to product personal protective equipments
  - Cooperation with big industries to product respirators

## Weaknesses highlighted by the crisis

- The system relies too much on healthcare
  - No prevention culture
  - Not enough health education
  
- Budget cuts in the healthcare system
  - 12 billions euros of budget cuts in the last 10 years
  
- Bad articulation between the science fields and the political field
  - Lack of alignment
  - Loss of confidence for the population

## Lessons and perspectives

- Emerging infectious diseases are likely to multiply, due to the climate change
  - New animal vectors (tiger mosquito,...)
- Two duties: mitigation and resilience

## Mitigation

- More environmentally responsible hospitals:
  - 12% of all services energetic consumptions
  - 700 000 tons of waste every year (1 ton per bed) ;
  - 3% of the national waste production
  
- Include environmental duties into the strategic management of the healthcare system
  - July 2021: « refoundation » of the healthcare system on a responsible basis

## Resilience

- Stop budget cuts in the healthcare system
  - Budget based on the population's needs
  
- Invest on prevention and health education
  - Prevention: 1,8% of the health expenses
  
- Work on environmental health
  - Work on the climate change challenges



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