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# STRONG COORDINATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR HEALTH SYSTEM RESILIENCE AND SHOCK RESPONSE

Fight Against COVID-19 at Jangamakote Village, India – Trinity Care Foundation via Flickr  
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## Background

- Guidelines and frameworks on health system resilience and emergency management often highlight the importance of coordination and partnership
- This synthesis identified lessons about effective systems for coordination and partnership. It draws on experience with a range of shocks, including floods, drought and COVID-19, from 11 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia
- We asked ‘how can we strengthen stakeholder partnership and coordination for health system resilience?’

## Methods

- 26 reports produced during 2019-21 were studies including formal research studies, rapid situation analyses, evaluations and other assessments
- All reports were part of research, evaluation and technical assistance projects conducted or managed by Oxford Policy Management



## What we found

**Across countries and types of shock, effective coordination and partnership were important for shock preparedness and response**

**We identified 5 key issues for effective coordination and partnership:**

### Structural issues

- Availability of coordination structures and regular meeting fora
- Clear roles, mandates and sufficient authority for coordination bodies
- Ongoing functioning of coordination structures before and after shocks
- Streamlined information systems

### Inclusivity

- Engagement and input from all relevant government sectors
- Openness to other stakeholders including development, research, private sector and civil society organisations
- Adequate gender representation

### Adequate capacity

- Capacity of organisations responsible for coordination and across relevant government sectors and levels
- Including political and technical expertise, sufficient staff, infrastructure and funding
- Supported by effective learning from previous shocks

### Political considerations and incentives

- Political leadership, balanced with technical input from government and other stakeholders
- Incentives to support coordination
- Systems to promote accountability

### Effective development agency support for coordination

- Including collaborative approaches among agencies, early consultation with national and subnational government, and use of coordination structures

## Key takeaway

**Strong coordination is essential for health system resilience and shock response. This needs inclusivity, effective structures, sufficient capacity, and an enabling political environment.**



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Further information on this study and outputs

[rebuildconsortium.com](https://rebuildconsortium.com)

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Authors: Kate Gooding<sup>1</sup>, Maria Paola Bertone<sup>2</sup>, Giulia Loffreda<sup>2</sup>, Sophie Witter<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Oxford Policy Management and ReBUILD for Resilience

<sup>2</sup> Queen Margaret University, UK and ReBUILD for Resilience

The view expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect UK government policy