

Conclusion

Civil-military cooperation led to valuable contributions to societal resilience—probably at a high cost—world-wide and in Heidelberg/Rhine-Neckar. The mitigation potential for any agent may be limited if the health-care system is already overstretched in routine operations. To prevent abuse, the awareness of military’s potential of threat and intimidation is important. Better holistic, sustainable prevention for future disasters is imperative to break the “panic-then-forget” cycle. We identified 16 themes within 37 action items to enhance community resilience for future catastrophes in the areas of local knowledge, community networks and relationships, communication, health, governance and leadership, resources, economic investment, preparedness, and mental outlook. Future research could focus on better inclusion of vulnerable populations including children.