

Building Capacity for Overlapping Disasters in Puerto Rico

Using Best Practices to Sustain Training Programs
During COVID-19 and Other Disasters

NIEHS WTP Workshop
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MIGRANT CLINICIANS NETWORK



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Our Programs

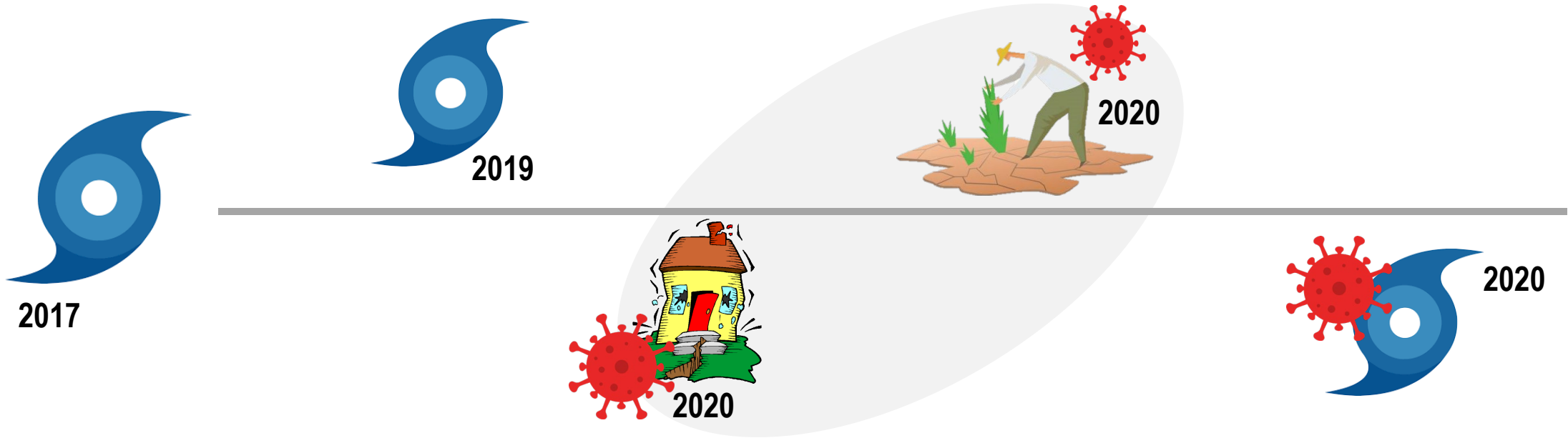
NIEHS FUNDED

- Training Community Health Center Staff and Health Department Staff
- COVID-19 Supplementals
 - Educational Environments (teachers and support staff)
 - Health Department Staff (contact tracing and monitoring staff)

OTHER FUNDING

- Community Mobilization for Emergency Preparedness
- Environmental Education
- Agricultural Workers Health and Climate Crisis

Puerto Rico's Vulnerability to Climate and Other Disasters



Impact on population:

- Food, housing and job security
- Health

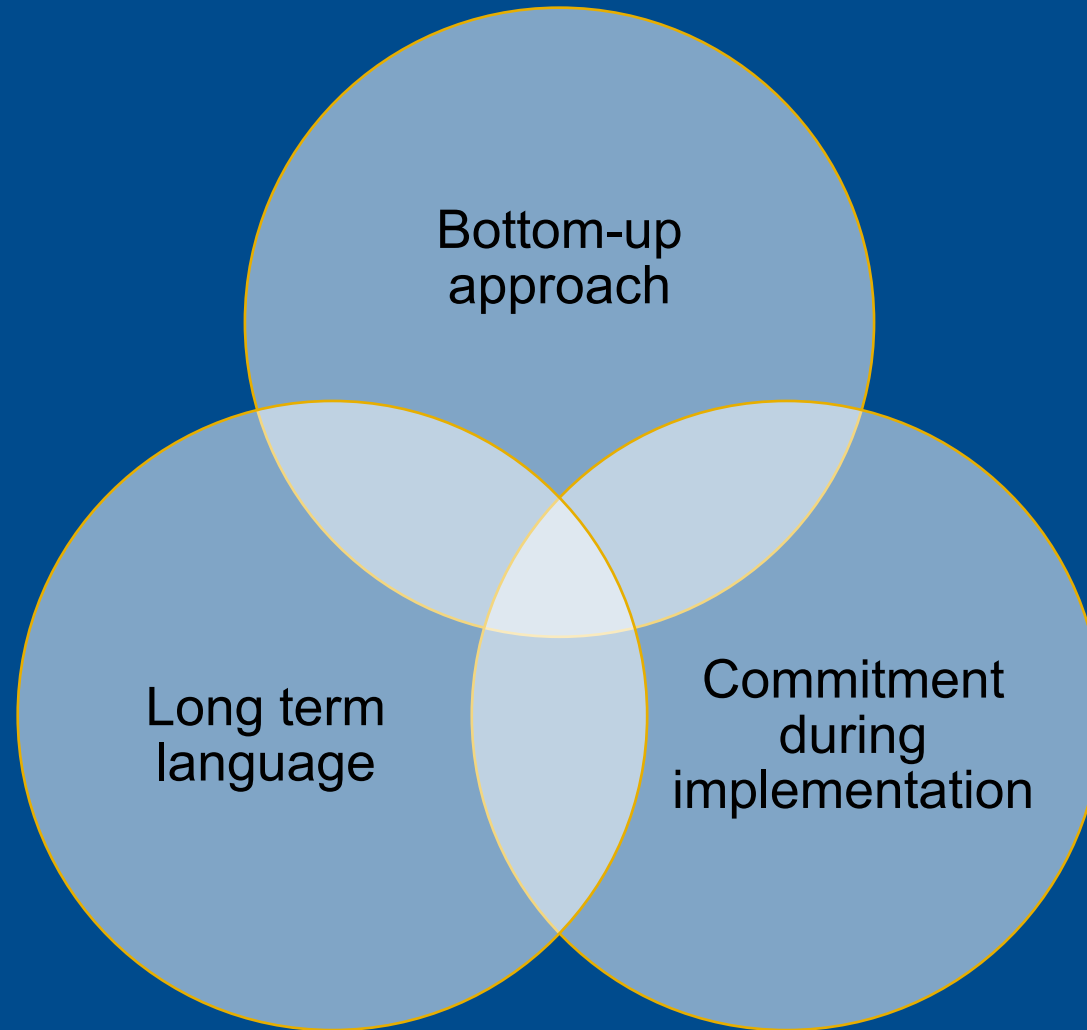
Other considerations:

- Socioeconomic conditions
- Political conditions

Other environmental considerations:

- Heat
- Coastal impact of increase in sea level

Our approach to sustainability



Bottom-Up Approaches

Before we create or adapt resources...

- Recognize the challenges and successes of communities.
- Understand permanent and temporary resources.
- Understand the wants and perceptions.
- Identify the stakeholders.

SWOT
Analysis

Resource
Mapping

Risk
Assessments

Language matters!

- Using long term concepts while using the current situation as an example
 - Public health emergencies
 - Infectious diseases
 - Respiratory diseases
- Using non-disaster related concepts and situations
 - Occupational exposure
 - Healthy work environments
 - Other situations that are applicable



Commitment for Implementation

- Technical assistance
 - Development
 - Implementation
- Continuing Education for Emerging Issues
 - Refreshers
 - New adaptations
- Advocacy and Public Policy

Teacher's training:

- Calls regarding advocacy and compliance
- Request for retraining
- Consults regarding new information

Health Department Needs:

- Support for in re-opening protocol development
- Support in the development and implementation of new protocols for staff
- Consults on specific cases

Public Policy Requests

- New regulations and standards needs
- Current regulations gaps
- Consults on current worker safety measures

Future Opportunities

What we learned...

- Need for basic occupational health and safety topics and how it relates to emergency management for workers who are not classified as first responders

Involvement of CHCs and Health Department Staff

- Training in occupational health and safety
- Support in occupational health and safety program implementation (examples: Respiratory Protection Standard and Hazards Communication Standard)
- Community mobilization as a model to protect workers during emergencies and disasters

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