

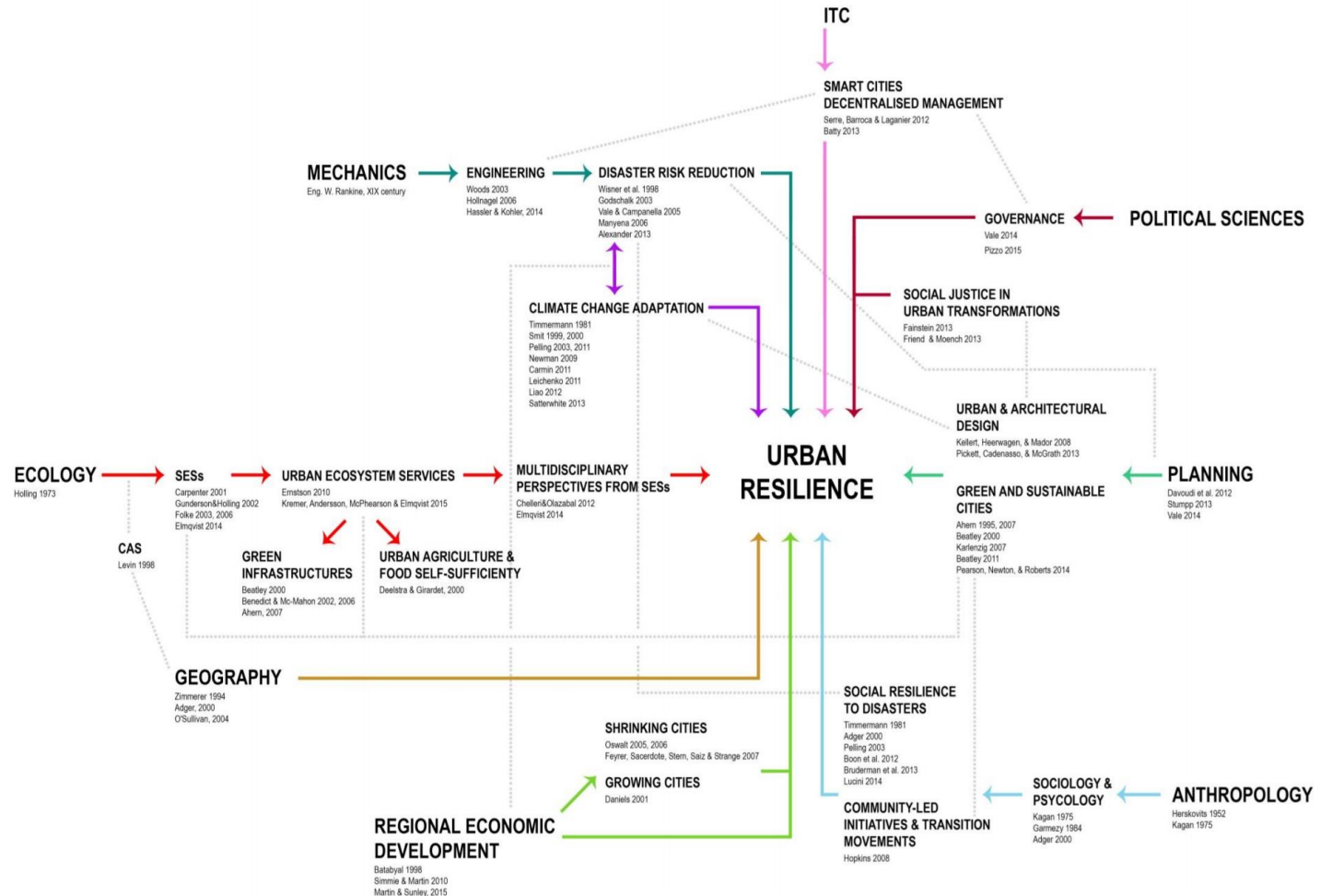
The Importance of Research on Disaster Social Services

Enhancing Connections, and Building Resilience

January 22, 2021

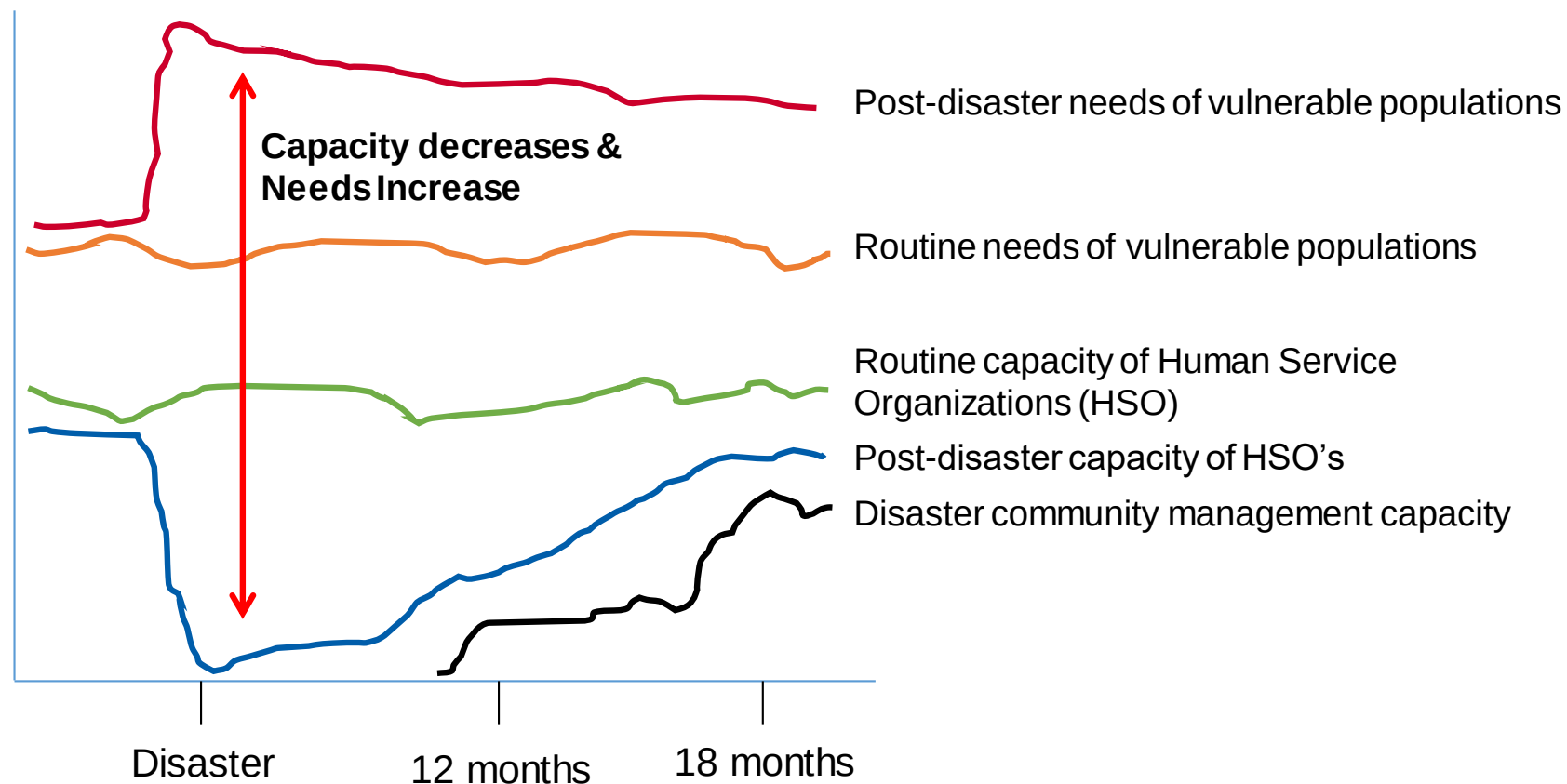
Jeff Schlegelmilch, MPH, MBA
Director, National Center for Disaster Preparedness
The Earth Institute, Columbia University

Resilience is an Ecosystem



Graphic presented by Lorenzo Chelleri, Ph.D. Urban Resilience Research Network (UR-Net), International University of Catalunya(UIC) at the *Co-constructing knowledge for urban resilience implementation - Workshop Montreal, Canada 10/2/17*

Vulnerable Population Needs after a Disaster



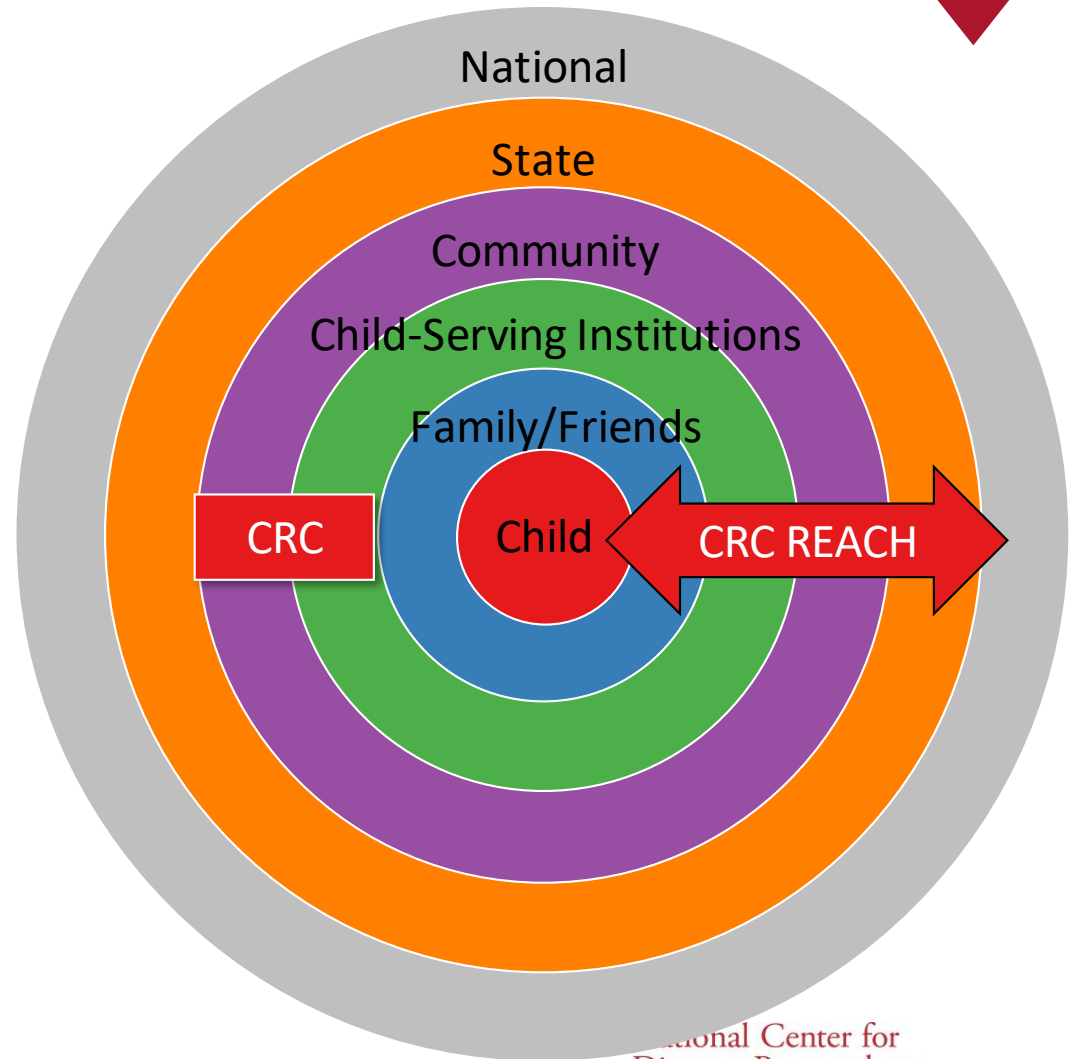
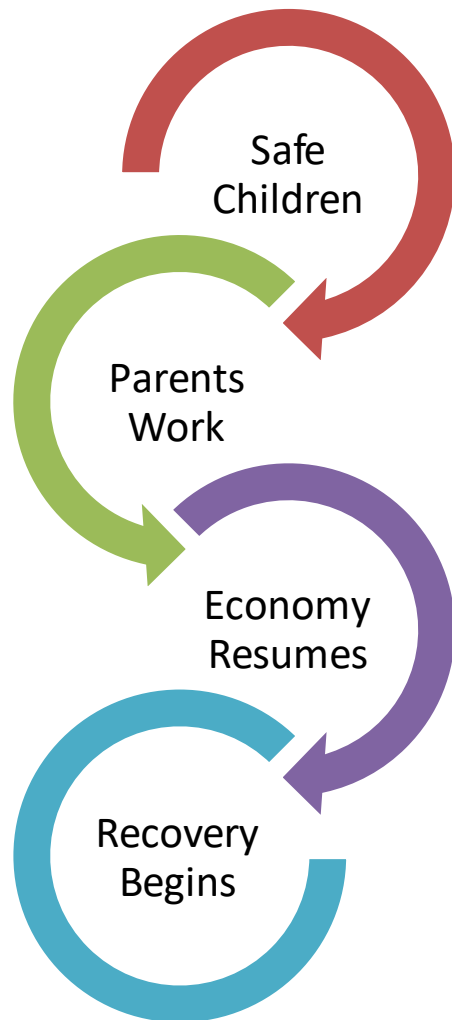
Disruptions to Lifelines will Harm the Most Vulnerable



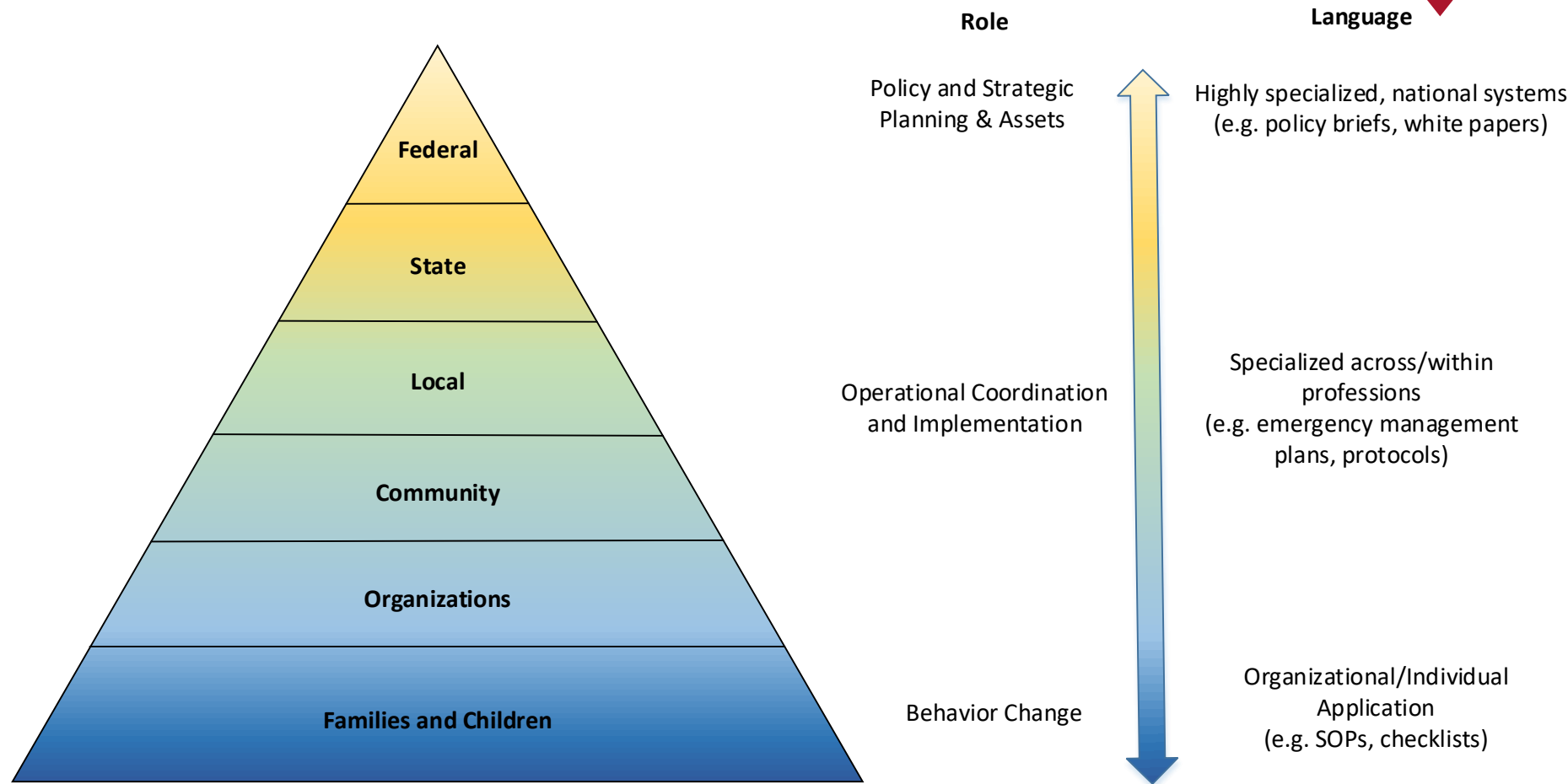
A lifeline enables the continuous operation of critical government and business functions and is essential to human health and safety or economic security.

Lifelines are the most fundamental services in the community that, when stabilized, enable all other aspects of society to function.

Child-Focused Community Resilience



The Structural Challenge...

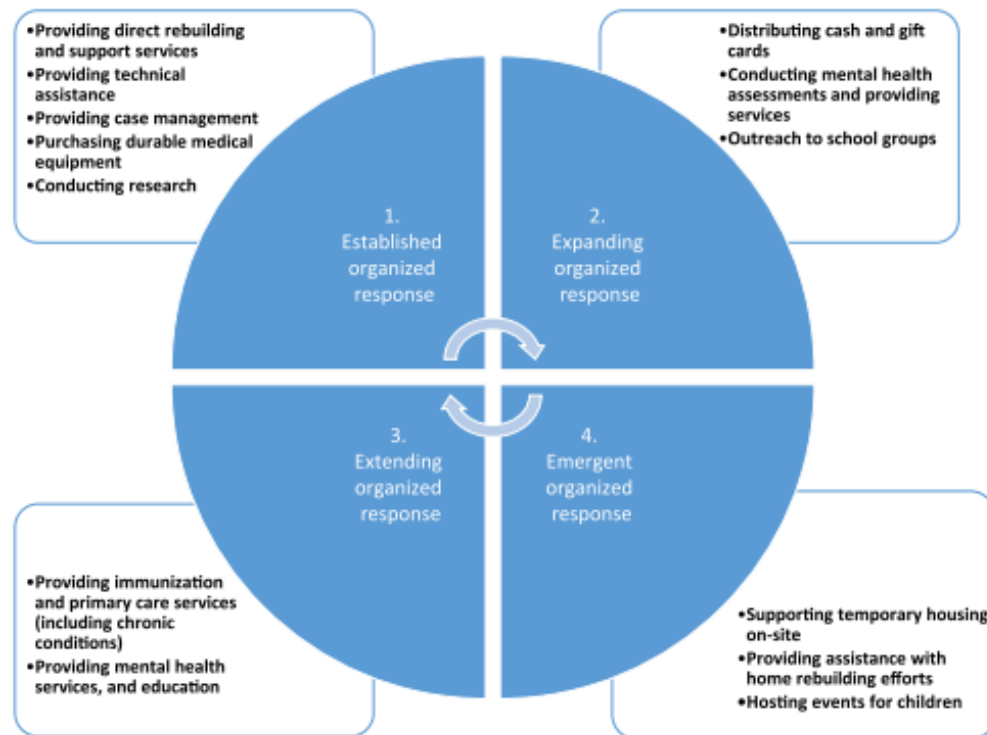


Source: Schlegelmilch, Jeffrey and Jonathan Sury. 2019. "From the Ground Up: Building Child-Focused Community Resilience." Research Counts, Special Collection on Children and Disasters. 3(SC18). <https://hazards.colorado.edu/news/research-counts/from-the-ground-up-building-child-focused-community-resilience>.

Emergent Actors Will Be Critical

FIGURE 1

Organizational Disaster Response Behavior of Several Different Actors Within the Health System.



Source: Schlegelmilch, J., Sury, J., Brooks, J., & Chandler, T. (2019). A philanthropic approach to supporting emergent disaster response and recovery. Disaster medicine and public health preparedness, 1-3. <https://academiccommons.columbia.edu/doi/10.7916/d8-bkbq-g780>

Key Research Questions

- What are predictors of social vulnerability on outcomes?
 - How is this successfully mitigated by social services?
- What kinds of assistance can expand the reach of existing infrastructure post disaster?
- What kinds of policies hinder or hurt disaster response and recovery related to social services?
- What are the structural issues hindering response?
- What is the relationship with other resilience domains?
- ***How do we get past describing inequities, and actually start resolving them***

First, Do No Harm

- **Communities are partners, not data sources**
 - It costs them a LOT to have you there, what value are you providing to their response and their recovery?
 - You owe them more than they owe you
 - Community value is not an abstract concept
- **Do not overpromise**
 - The legacies of well-intentioned researchers, NGOs and government agencies has eroded trust
 - Community partners lose capital for advocating for external partners
 - External relationships are hindered with skepticism of outsiders

Thank You