Session 7: How official statistics and geospatial data can help to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, including supporting SDGs

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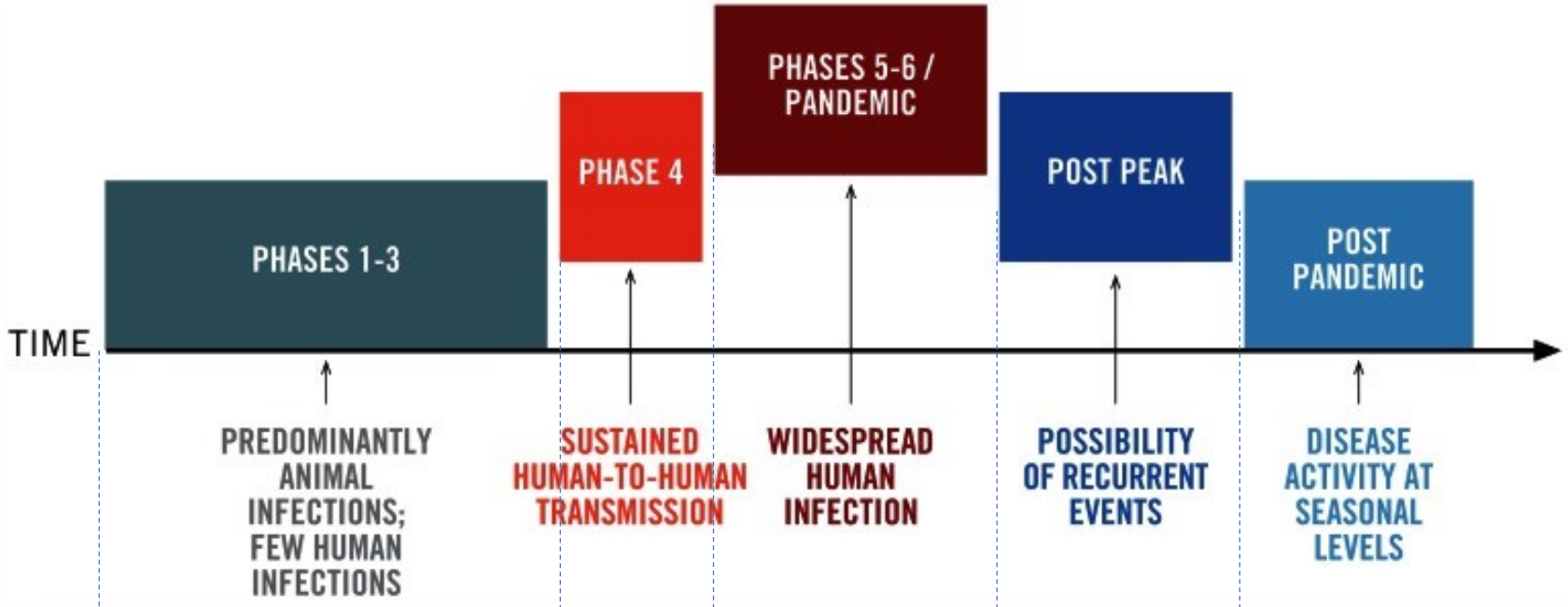
WHO Pandemic Phases

Data needs originate from planning, coordination an communication activities



Sources:
https://www.who.int/influenza/resources/documents/pandemic_phase_descriptions_and_actions.pdf and
https://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/phase/en/

Review lessons learned, replenish resources

Plan and coordinate for additional resources and capacities

Leadership and coordination to mitigate the societal and economic impacts

Rapid pandemic containment activities

Develop, exercise and revise national pandemic response plans

Continuous communication: Real and potential risks, promote interventions, provide updates to general public and all stakeholders, etc.

Case examples: NSOs providing support to managing the different pandemic phases

See https://statswiki.unece.org/display/COV/Support+for+managing+the+crisis

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1. Immediate NSO responses before and during peak of pandemic
   - Providing economic, social, territorial data
   - Accelerating release of statistics
   - Geoportals, interactive maps, dashboards, websites:
     - Health situation
     - Key economic trends and social challenges
     - Emissions and quality of the environment
   - Special reports, press releases
   - Special surveys
   - Analytical work, modelling and surveillance support
2. Planned for post-peak period:
   - Surveys: economic impacts, people involved in emergency response, impacts on family life, etc.
   - Analysis of institutional capabilities of government to cope with the pandemic and its aftermath (possible second wave)
   - Production of indicators for SDG and Sendai Framework reporting

Case examples: Official statistics for supporting managing the COVID-19 disaster

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Social and Demographic	Economic	Environment
▪ Estimates of deaths from COVID19 ▪ Infection rates ▪ Physical and mental health ▪ Capacity of hospitals and clinics ▪ Population at risk ▪ Type of households ▪ Age structure ▪ Persons responsible for day care of children	• Businesses: rates of furloughing, impacts on business turnover, etc. • Consumer spending • Weekly price index • Stock availability for high demand items • Trends in movement (e.g. with cellphone data) • Employment and earnings trends • Characteristics of workers and impacts on the labour market	• Reduction in road transport emissions • Air quality

Lessons learned regarding quality of data:

- ❑ Already in March/April many NSOs had dedicated websites and portals online
- ❑ Production of the needed data, analysis and communication became quickly a priority
- ❑ Rebalance timeliness and accuracy without losing trust in official statistics
- ❑ Geo-referenced data is key for quick integration of information, analysis and communication
- ❑ More efforts towards digitalization are needed
- ❑ Nowcasts and flash estimates help to become quicker
- ❑ Some data gaps were identified, e.g. needed for identification and localization of population at risk
- ❑ Difficult to access and make use of new data sources (e.g. mobile phone data)

Summary and what's next?

- Currently we have 50 examples from 19 NSOs available at UNECE portal COVID-19 and official statistics, continuously updated
- We are considering the organization of a second online discussion on role of official statistics
- *CES Task Force on Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters* is using the recent NSOs experiences for its outputs
- Other CES activities are taking into account these experiences, including :
  - Population and Housing Censuses
  - Gender Statistics
  - National Accounts
  - Consumer Price Index
  - Modernisation of Official Statistics
  - Climate Change-related Statistics
  - Environmental Statistics and Indicators