Webinar Series 2022
Crisis to Resilience

UCL

Coproducing inclusive early warning and response systems in Honduras

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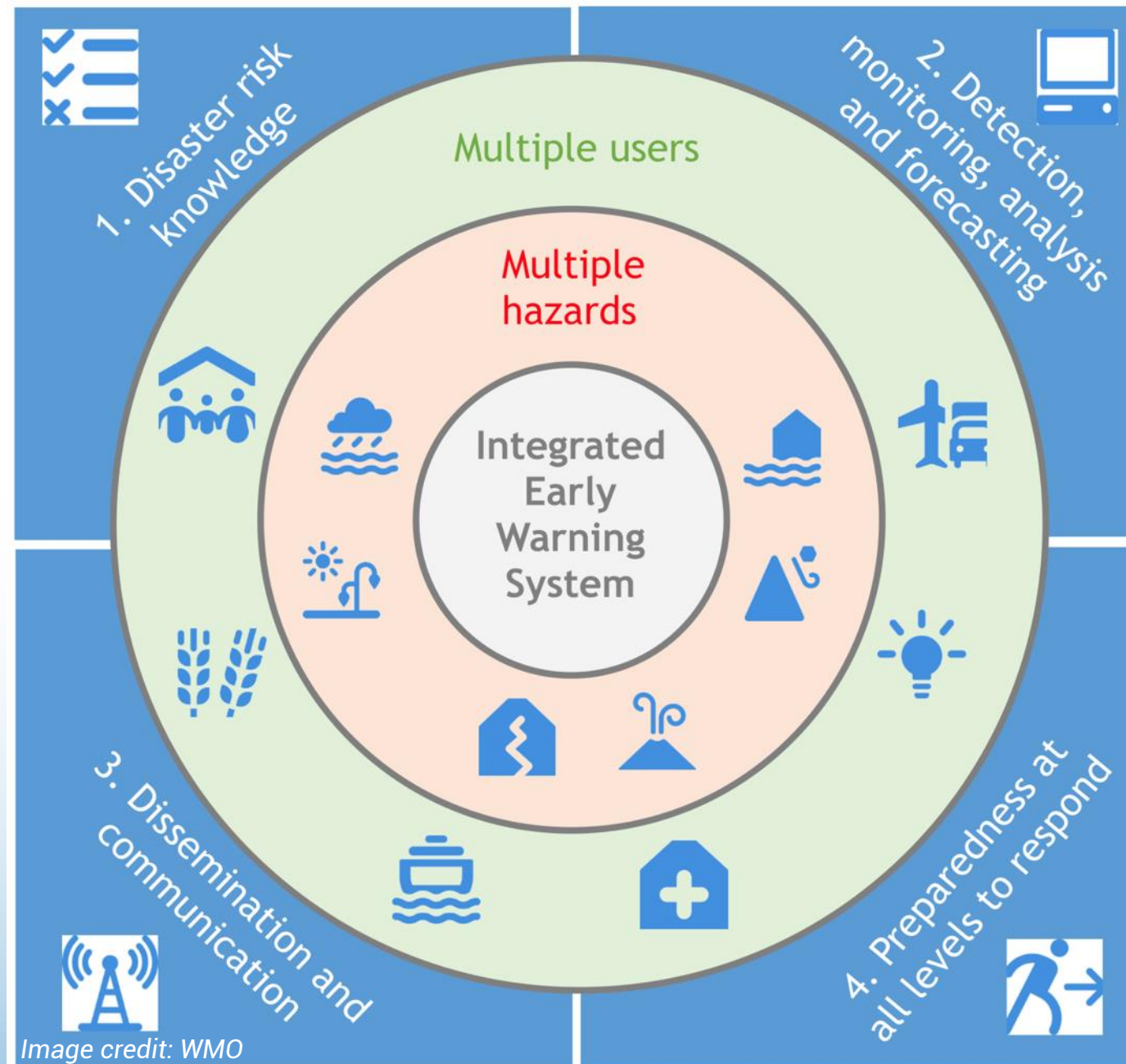
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Conflict-affected populations face disproportionately high disaster risks, but they are left without adequate early warnings and actions

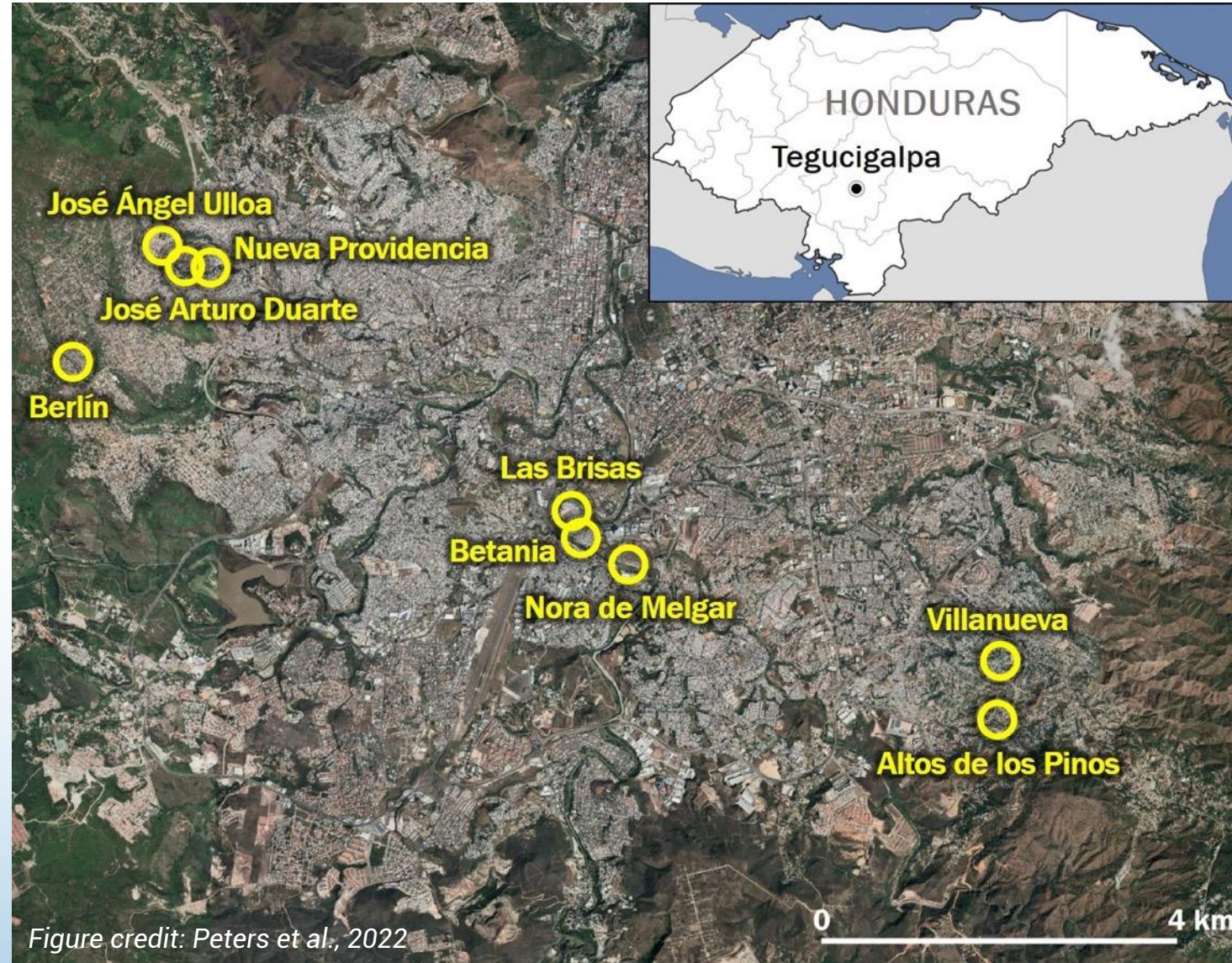*Photo credit: UN Photo/Marco Dormino*

"First mile" approaches to early warning and response systems must be tailored to fragile and conflict-affected contexts

- Formal governance may be unwilling or unable to meet the basic needs of conflict-affected populations

- Conflict-affected populations may be socially and politically excluded, as well as excluded in official monitoring

- Stakeholders may be in direct conflict with each other, perpetrate and be affected by violence, and/or benefit from the fragile status quo

- Some risk-reducing actions may come at the expense of others or carry (un)intended consequences

Image credit: WMO

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GOAL's 10+ years coproducing warnings in informal settlements controlled by territorial gangs in Tegucigalpa

- City-wide initiatives + initiatives focused on high-risk informal settlements

- Local systems approach that centers people through engaging with the core local systems they contribute to and depend on before, during, and after disasters

- Key outcomes on effectiveness and sustainability: people (including children) know their risks, local zones of safety, and what to do in an emergency, and they are willing to work together on community improvement efforts

Figure credit: Peters et al., 2022

Identifying and empowering key local systems actors

- People are more than their vulnerability and victimization

- Programming should support the actual and potential roles of diverse actors in core local systems

- Women and youth play pivotal roles in developing risk knowledge, interpreting and communicating risk information, and galvanizing action

Photo credit: GOAL

Supporting and leveraging local assets

- Even communities with low resources have assets necessary for a self-sustaining early warning and response system

- Some community assets need to be protected, other assets need to be developed, and yet other assets can be leveraged

- Vulnerability reduction may prevent disasters and even improve outcomes in the absence of hazard events

Photo credit: GOAL

Building cooperative systems of governance

- Linking across formal and informal governance is essential for an effective early warning and response system

- Institutions can connect community-based organizations and leaders with formal authorities

- Capacity building can include training in effective communication, conflict resolution, and collaborative planning in complex governance contexts.
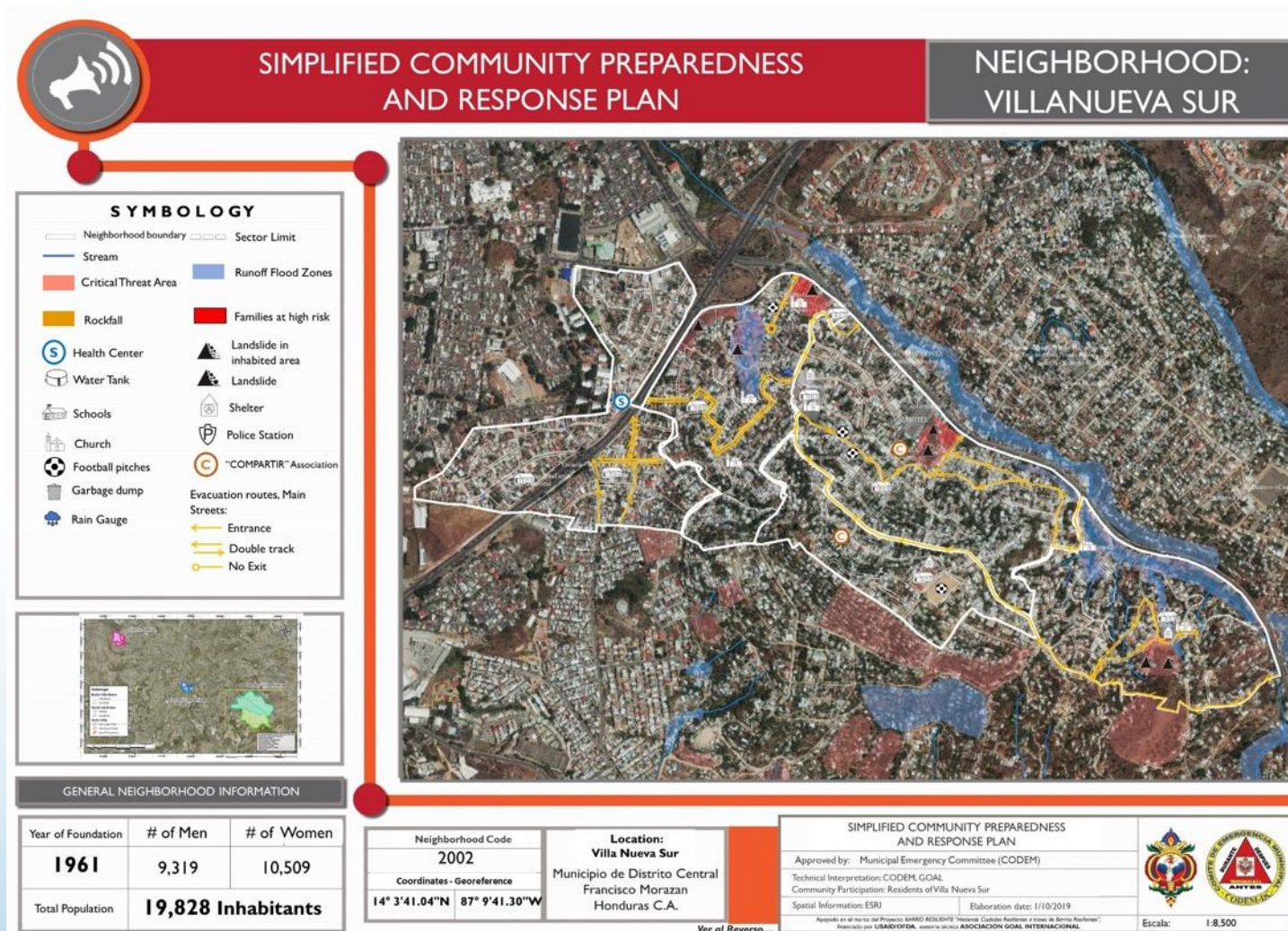

Image credit: GOAL

Engaging with dynamic local systems

- Informality and violence drive instability and accelerate the rate of change in communities

- Early warning and response systems must keep pace with changes through long-term programming that continuously revisits assumptions

- Programming can decentralize stability to enhance self-sustainability

Photo credit: GOAL

Key strategies to address conflict and fragility

- Securing trust and good will with all key stakeholders

- Creating consortia for the collective good

- Promoting partnerships in governance

- Reducing vulnerability and building capacity

- Cultivating positive public spaces

- Managing and adapting to security risks

- Building local capacities in conflict resolution

Photo credit: GOAL