



8th Meeting of the ITU Group on Capacity Building Initiatives (GCBI)

June 1st AND 2ND, 2020

Implications of COVID-19 for Capacity and Digital
Skills Development

Americas Region

COVID-19: a new scenario in emergency communications

Traditional Emergency Stages



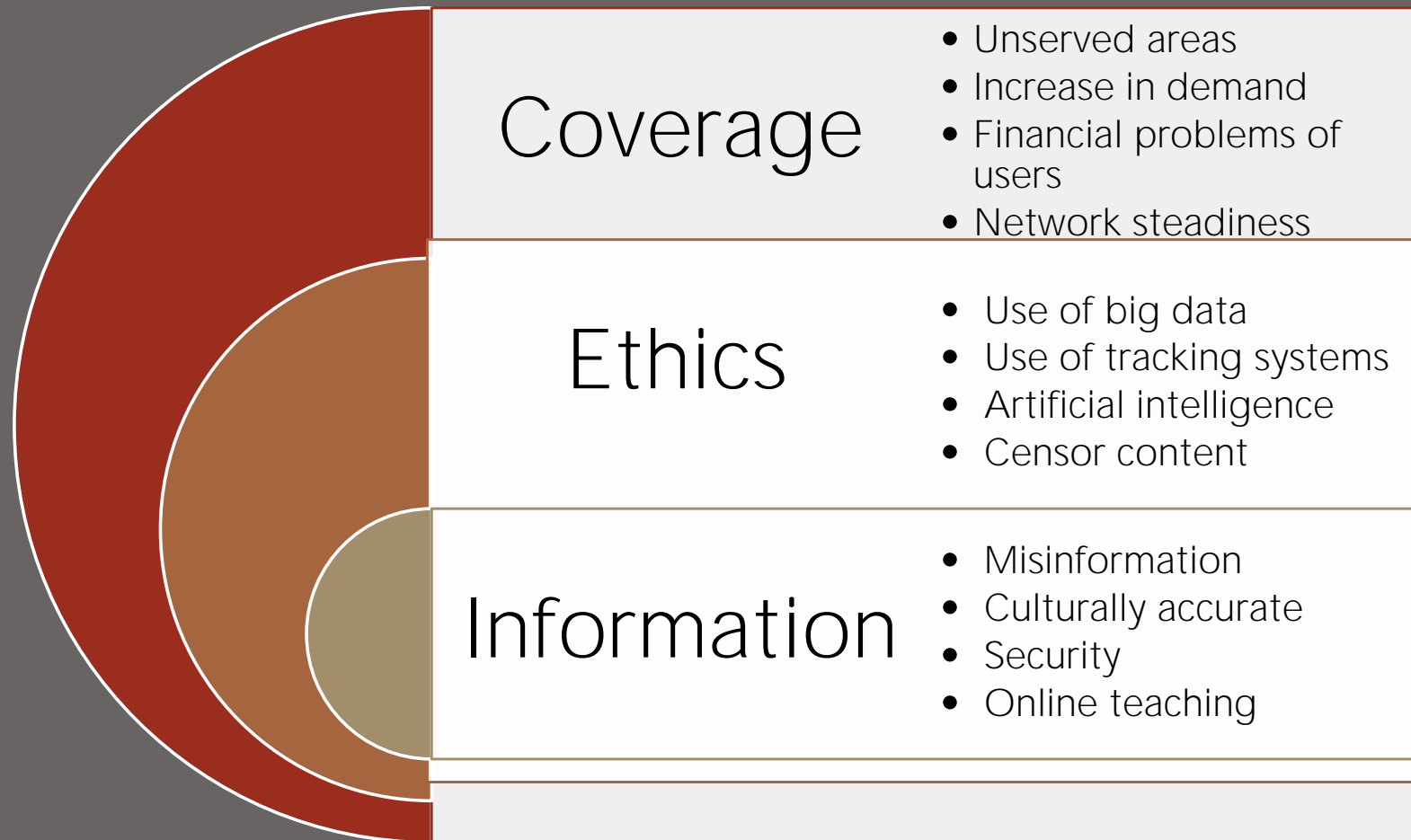
Covid-19 Emergency Stages



COVID-19: a new scenario in emergency communications

- Abundant literature from ICT in disaster relieves, but very few on health emergency situations like this pandemic.
- While usually the stage of response in an emergency situation is a short period, in the case of COVID-19 pandemic, response could last years.
- The emergency is not focalized but rather a general situation that affects most of the world.

Challenges for telecommunications in the stage of response during Covid-19 emergency



Coverage

- The need to focus resources on full coverage.
- The need to articulate with broadcasting media and increase their coverage.
- The importance of community networks.
- The importance of increasing the amount of free spectrum and access to spectrum for rural communication.
- How to better manage demand specially un poor served areas.
- The need of alternatives to deal with the economical effects of the pandemic.

Ethics

- Which data could be used in an emergency situation and whether or not consent should be given?
- How to cope with the risk of using those data or mechanism for different purposes once the emergency has passed?
- How ICT companies should collaborate with governments in the use of tracking systems?
- Which are the negative implications of disruptive technology uses in emergency?
- How should the spread of fake news be managed?

Information

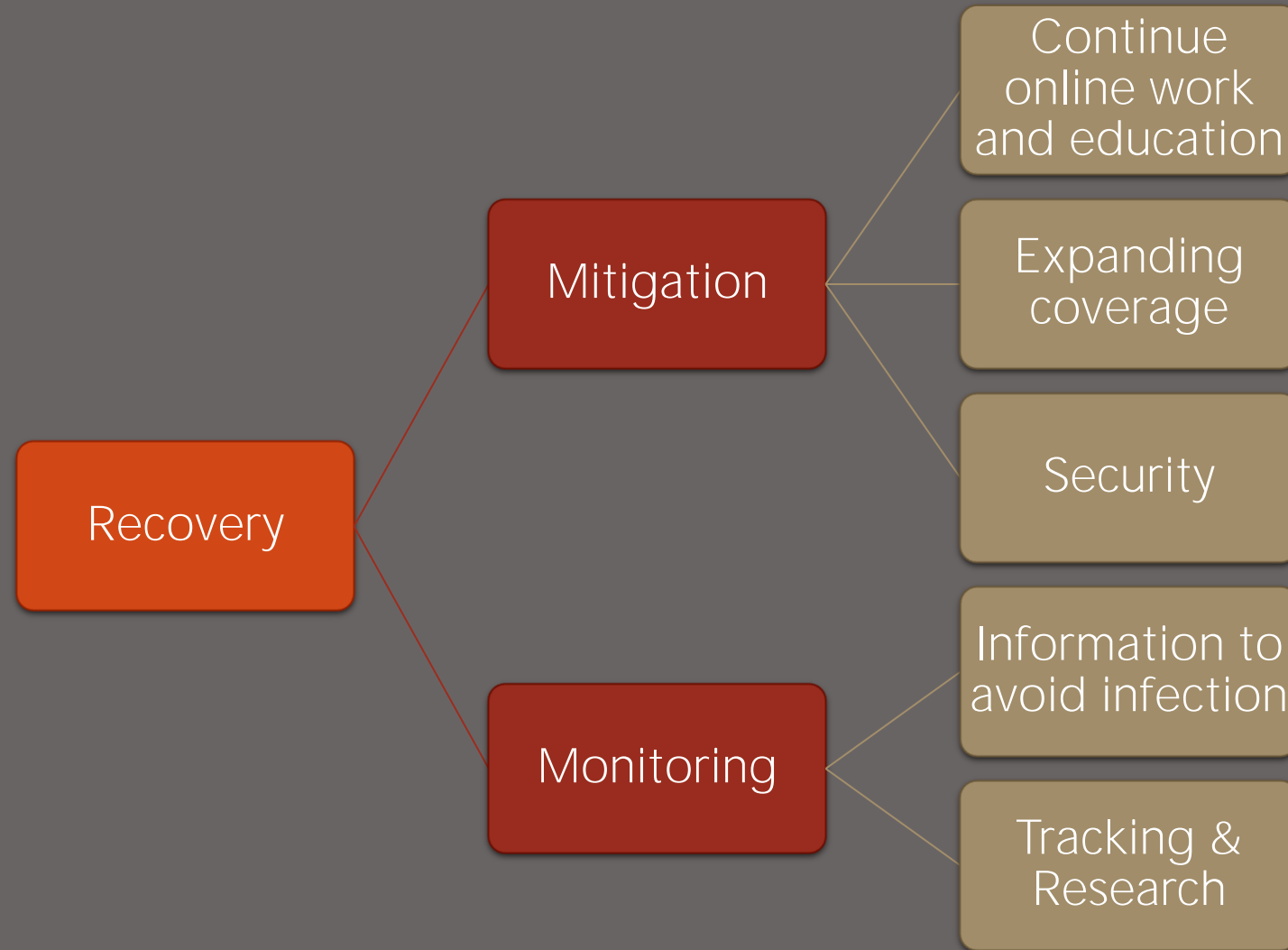
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- Which are the negative implications of disruptive technology uses in emergency?
- How should the spread of fake news be managed?
- How online distance learning for children should be assessed to address their development needs?
- How psychological attention should be given?
- Which measures should be taken to avoid domestic violence and violence against women?

The recovery stage is not actually so

What we are seeing as a stage of *recovery* is actually a continuation of the stage of *response*, where we are trying to avoid a bigger economical damage by allowing to reopen some activities while taking care of maintaining a tolerable rate in infection cases.

Recovery stage will start when a vaccine or a cure exist.

Challenges in recovery stages (STAGE OF RESPONSE)



Challenges in prevention and preparation stages

Finally, when we get past this crisis -- which we will -- we will face a choice.

We can go back to the world as it was before or deal decisively with those issues that make us all unnecessarily vulnerable to crises.

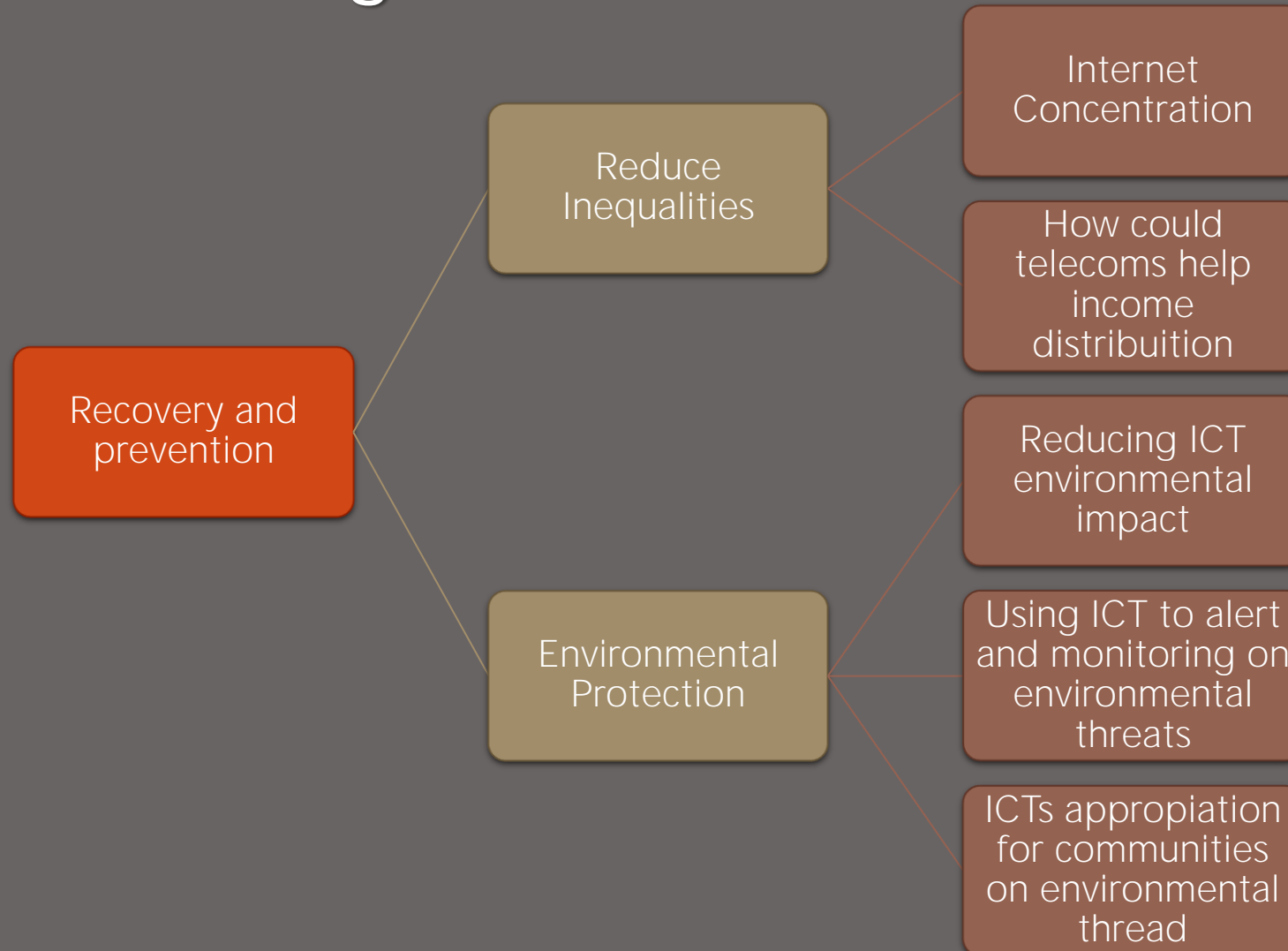
UN Secretary General

Challenges in the stages of prevention and preparation

COVID-19 is a reminder that human health is linked to the planet's health. Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted between animals and people. They account for seventy-five percent of all emerging infectious diseases. To prevent future outbreaks, we must address the threats to ecosystems and wildlife, including habitat loss, illegal trade, pollution and climate change.

UNEP's COVID-19 Response

Challenges in the recovery and prevention stages



After COVID-19 agenda on capacity building

Agenda

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Emergency communications in a pandemic

Towards full connectivity strategies for economic development

ICT and for the protection of the Environment