Course material

Course:

Ethics in Emergencies

Video:

3a Responsiveness to the community's needs

Concepts (extracted from automatically generated subtitles):

Health research. Implementation research. Ethical imperative. Research phases of implementation research. Front line. Successful implementation. Relevant ethical issues. Emergency settings. Busy front line clinicians. Following chapters. Critical requirements. Important ethical issues. Emergency services. Juntra laothavorn. Community's needs.

to video sequence search
(within Ethics in Emergencies.)

to video

CHAPTER 2A

Ethical considerations in planning implementation research in emergencies

Responsiveness to the community's needs

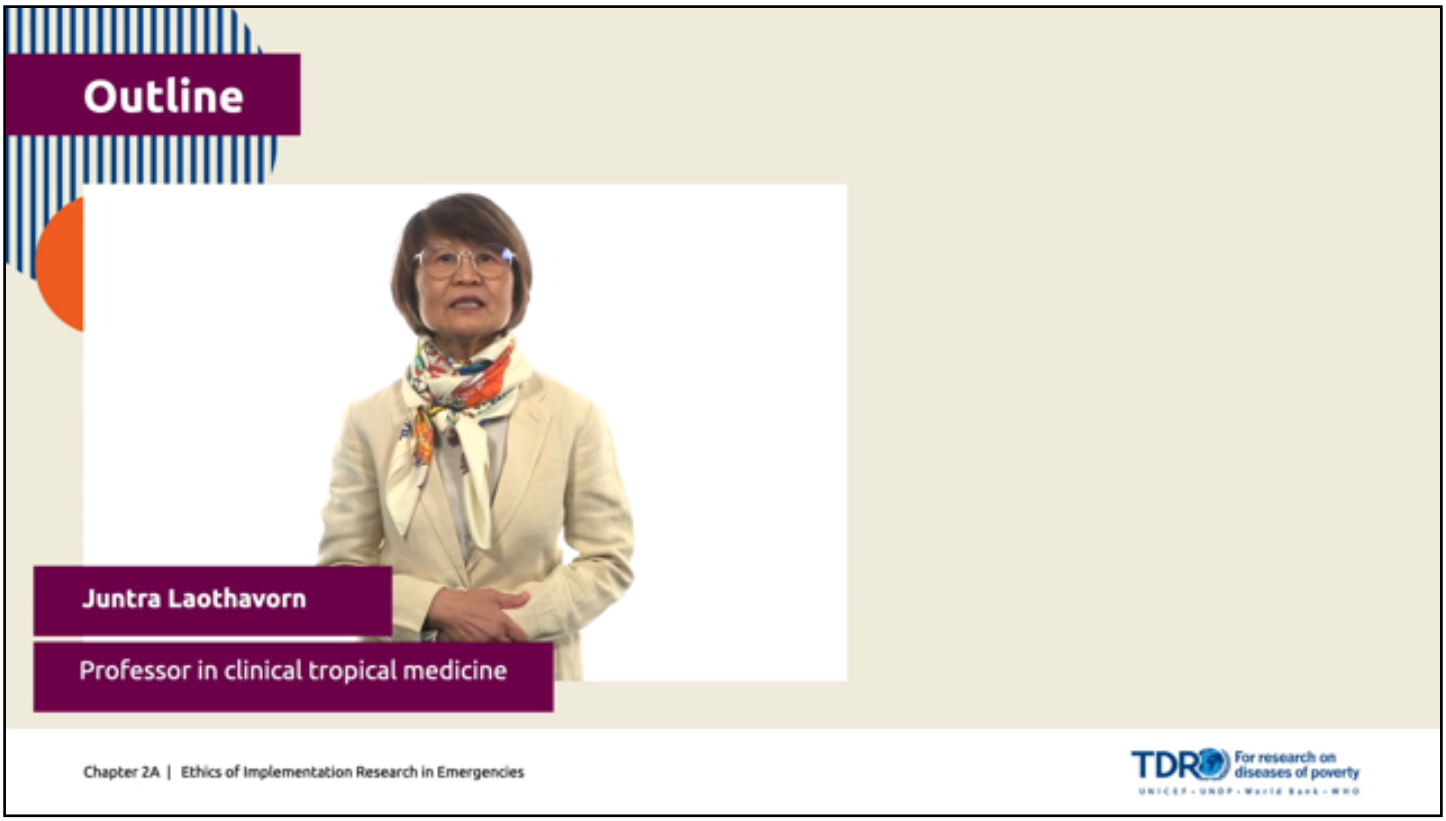
TDR For research on diseases of poverty
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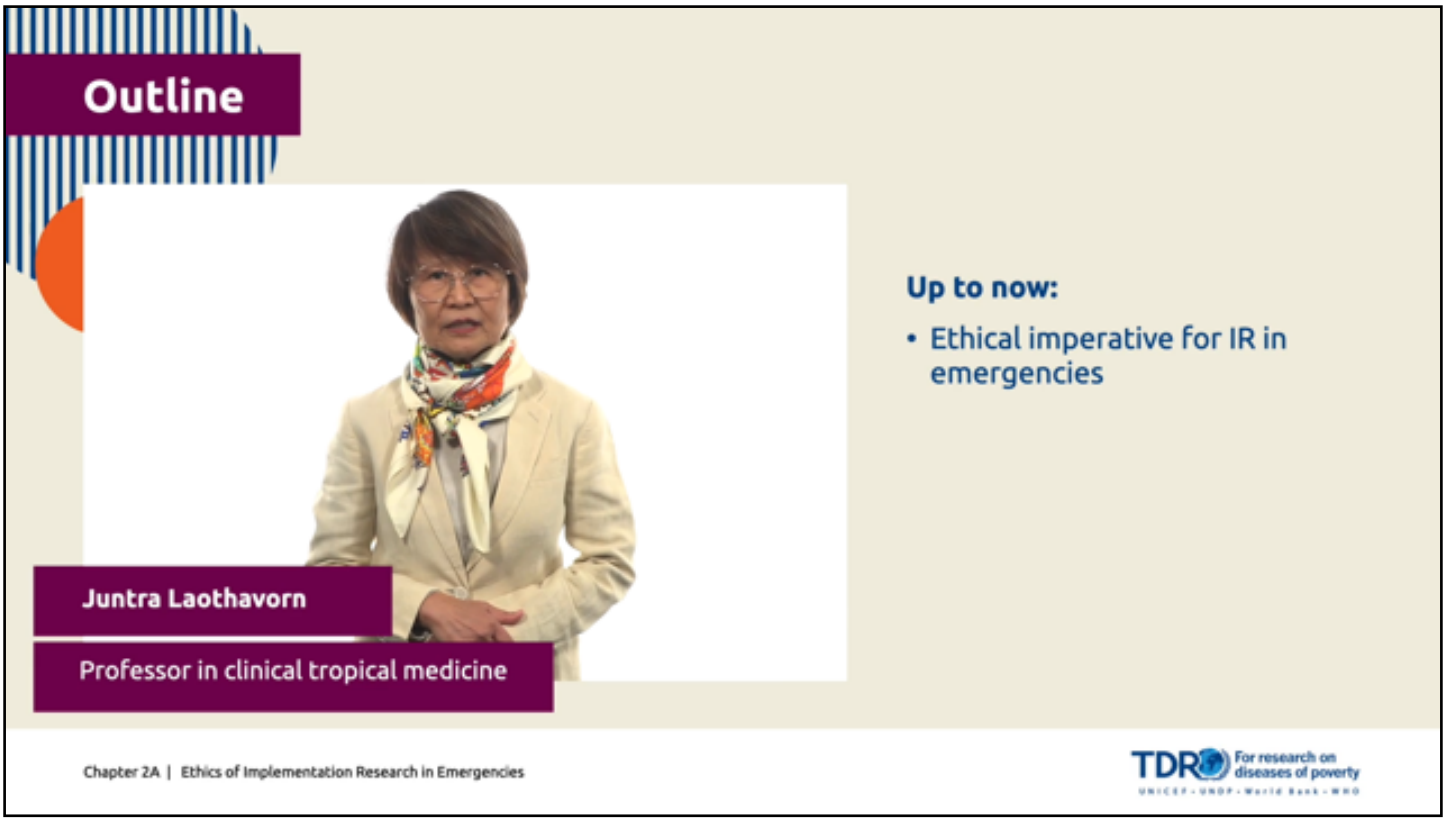


Hello and welcome back to our course. I am Juntra Laothavorn, professor in Clinical Tropical Medicine

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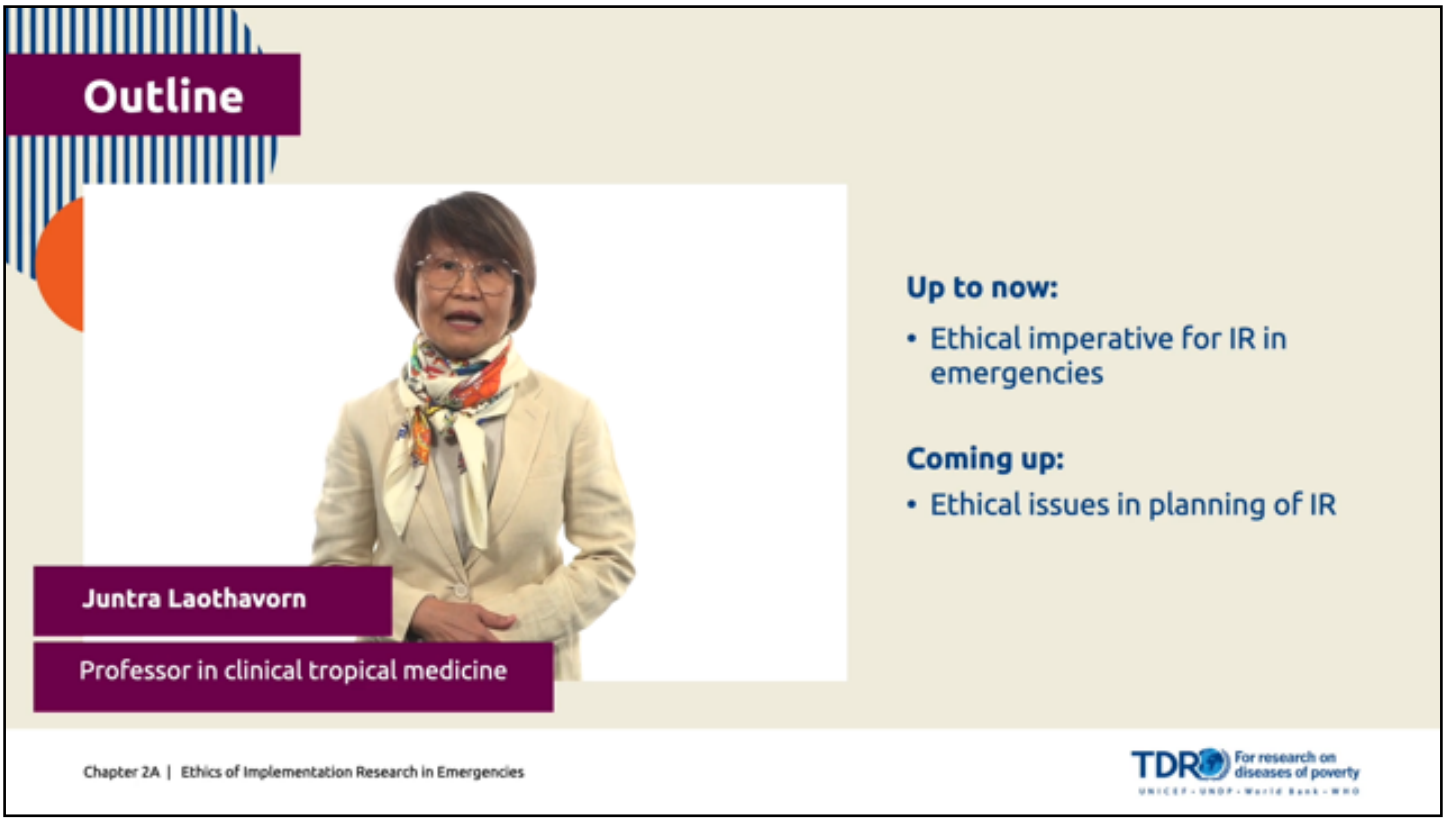


and the president of SIDCER-FERCAP Foundation for promoting the development of ethics in health research, based in Thailand. Now that we have understood the ethical imperative for implementation research in emergency, which is to narrow the gap between what we may know about the effectiveness of an intervention and what

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we can do to enhance its successful implementation and uptake in a community, we will consider the relevant ethical issues in the planning, conducting and post research phases of implementation research. In this chapter, we will start at the

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beginning and think about the ethical considerations in the planning phase of

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Considerations in planning IR in emergencies



Scientific aspect:

implementation research. Good planning of implementation research is crucial to fulfil the two critical requirements that we discussed in chapter one. Firstly, that the research

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Considerations in planning IR in emergencies



Scientific aspect:

- Scientific rigor
- Equipoise

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is scientifically sound in terms of scientific rigor and equipoise.

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Considerations in planning IR in emergencies



Scientific aspect:

- Scientific rigor
- Equipoise

Social aspect:

- Rationale
- Responsiveness to community's needs

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And secondly, that there is a social justification in terms of rationale and responsiveness to the community's needs. The ethical imperative of

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Considerations in planning IR in emergencies



Scientific aspect:

- Scientific rigor
- Equipoise

Social aspect:

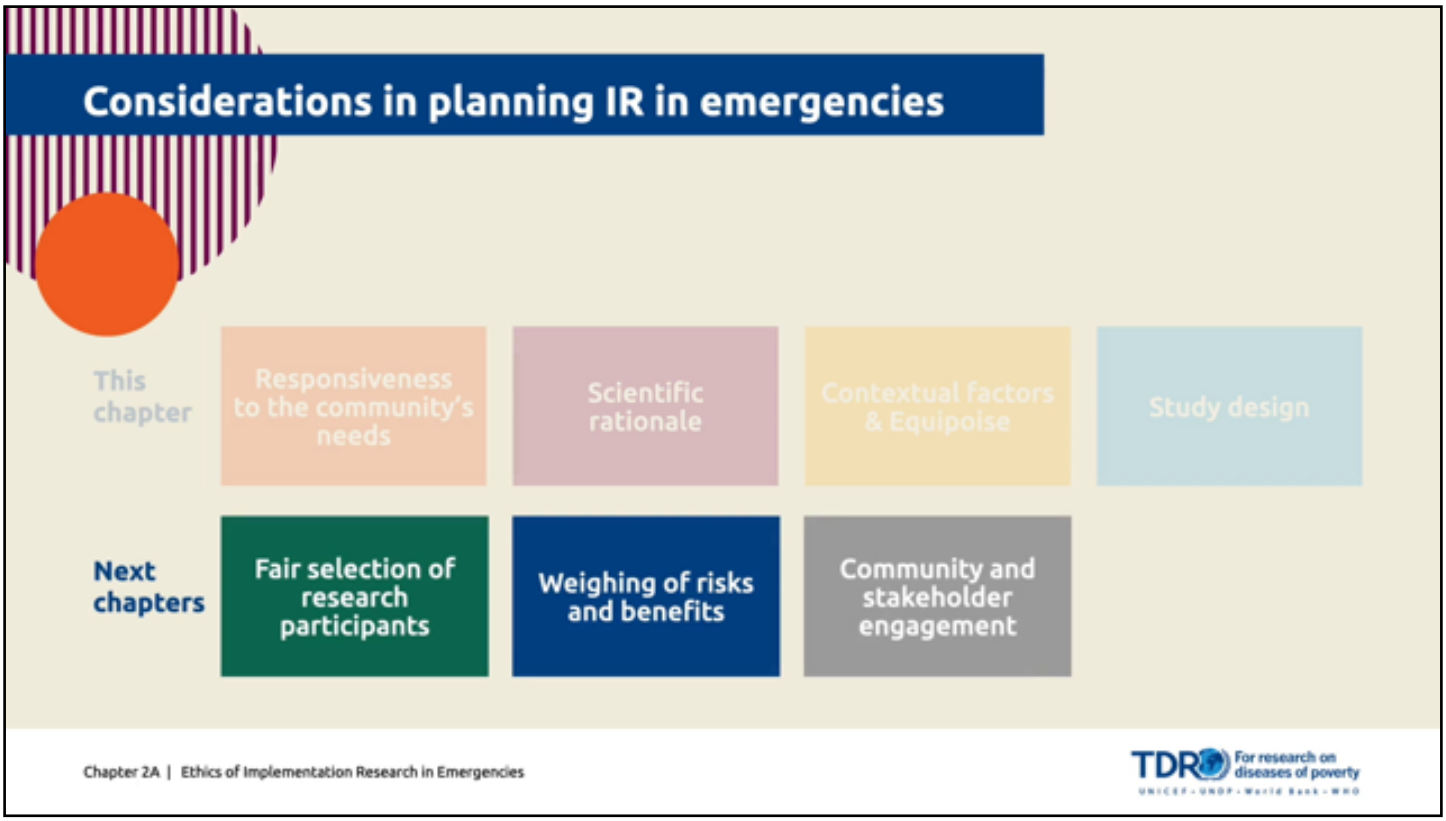
- Rationale
- Responsiveness to community's needs

these requirements becomes even more critical in emergency settings, where time is of the essence. Resources may be limited, opportunities, costs may be

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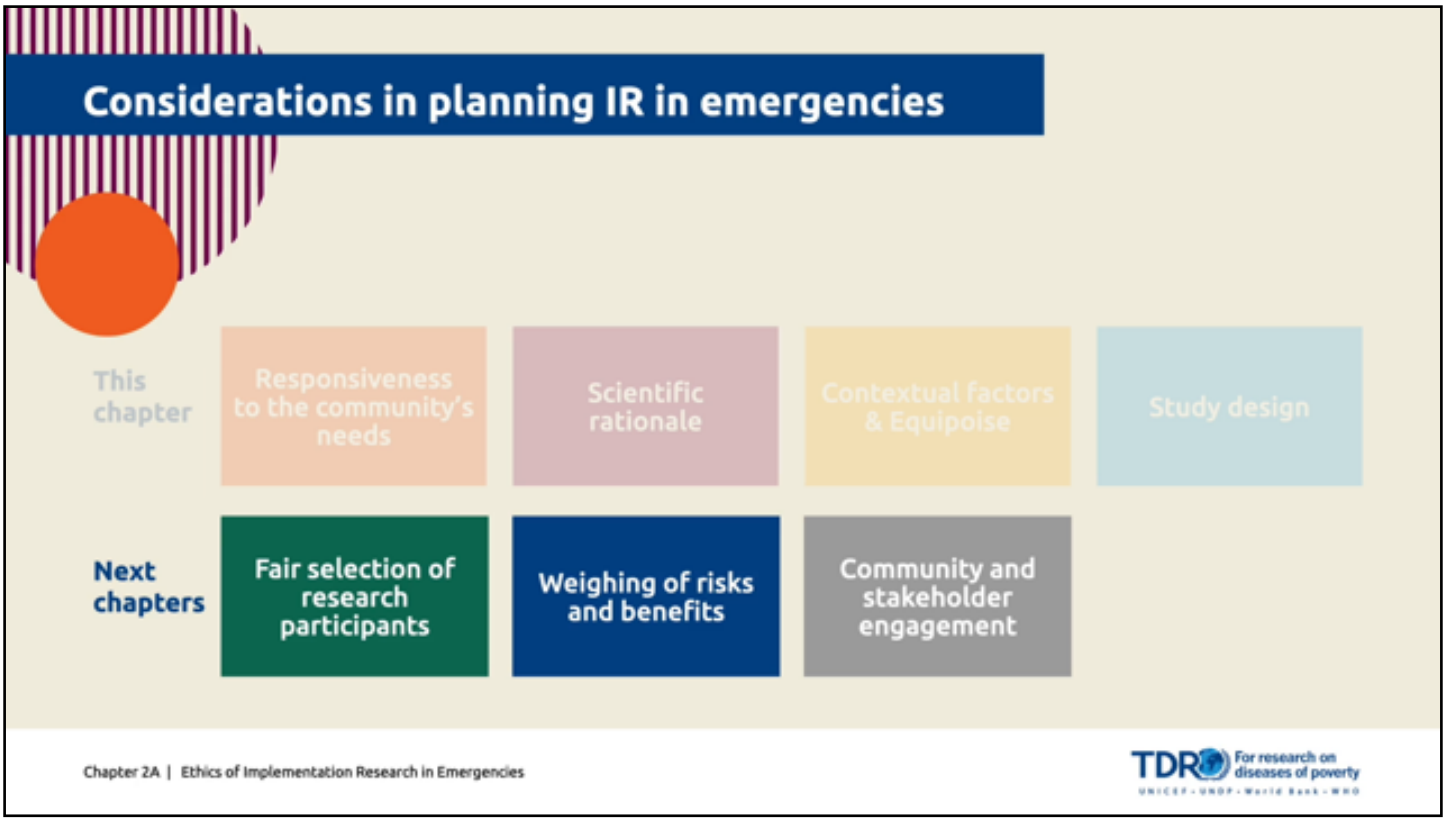


high, and the research environment may be challenging. Here we will begin by focusing on the ethical issues relating to the scientific aspects of implementation research

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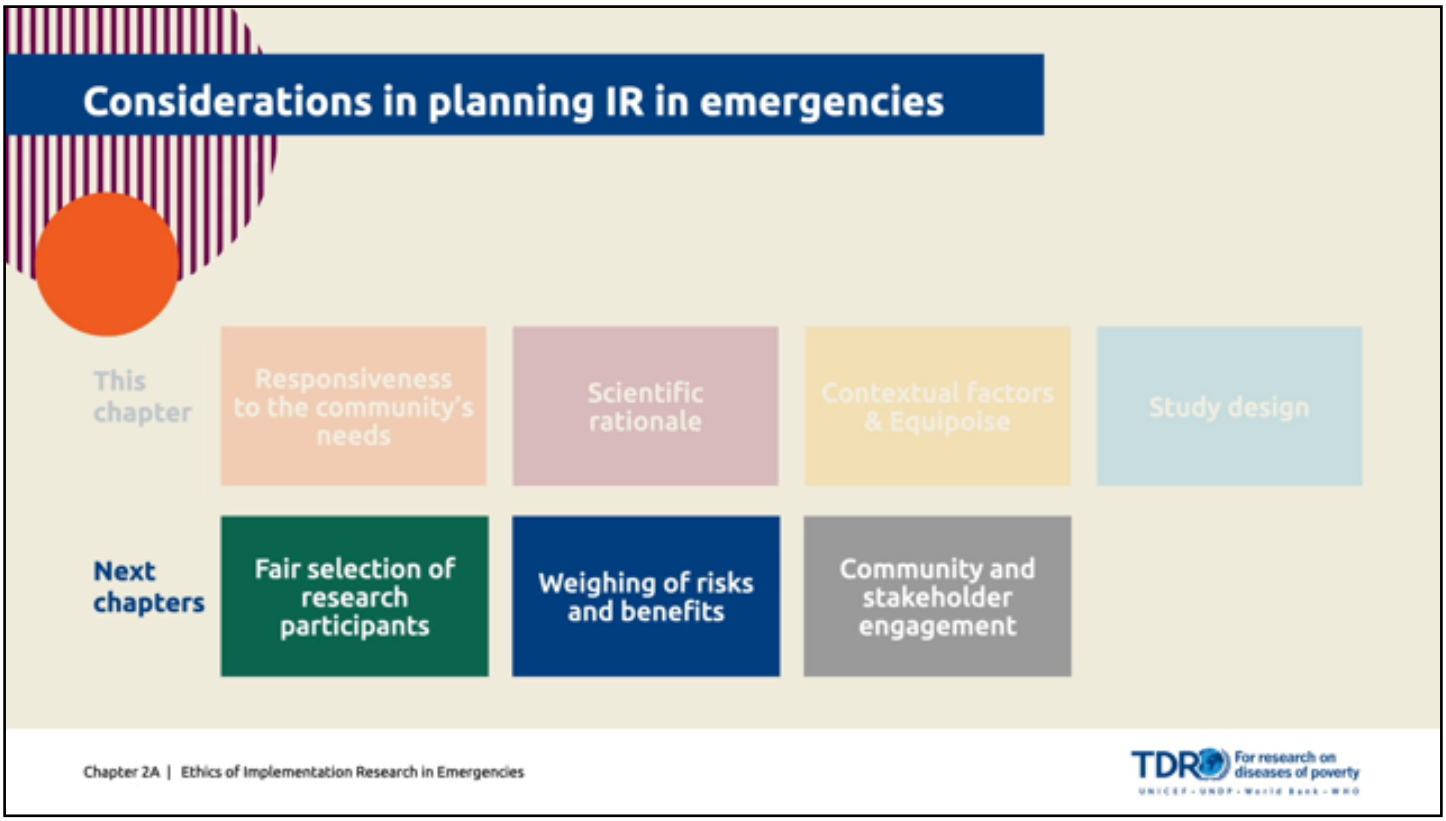


in emergencies. In the following chapters we will discuss all the important ethical

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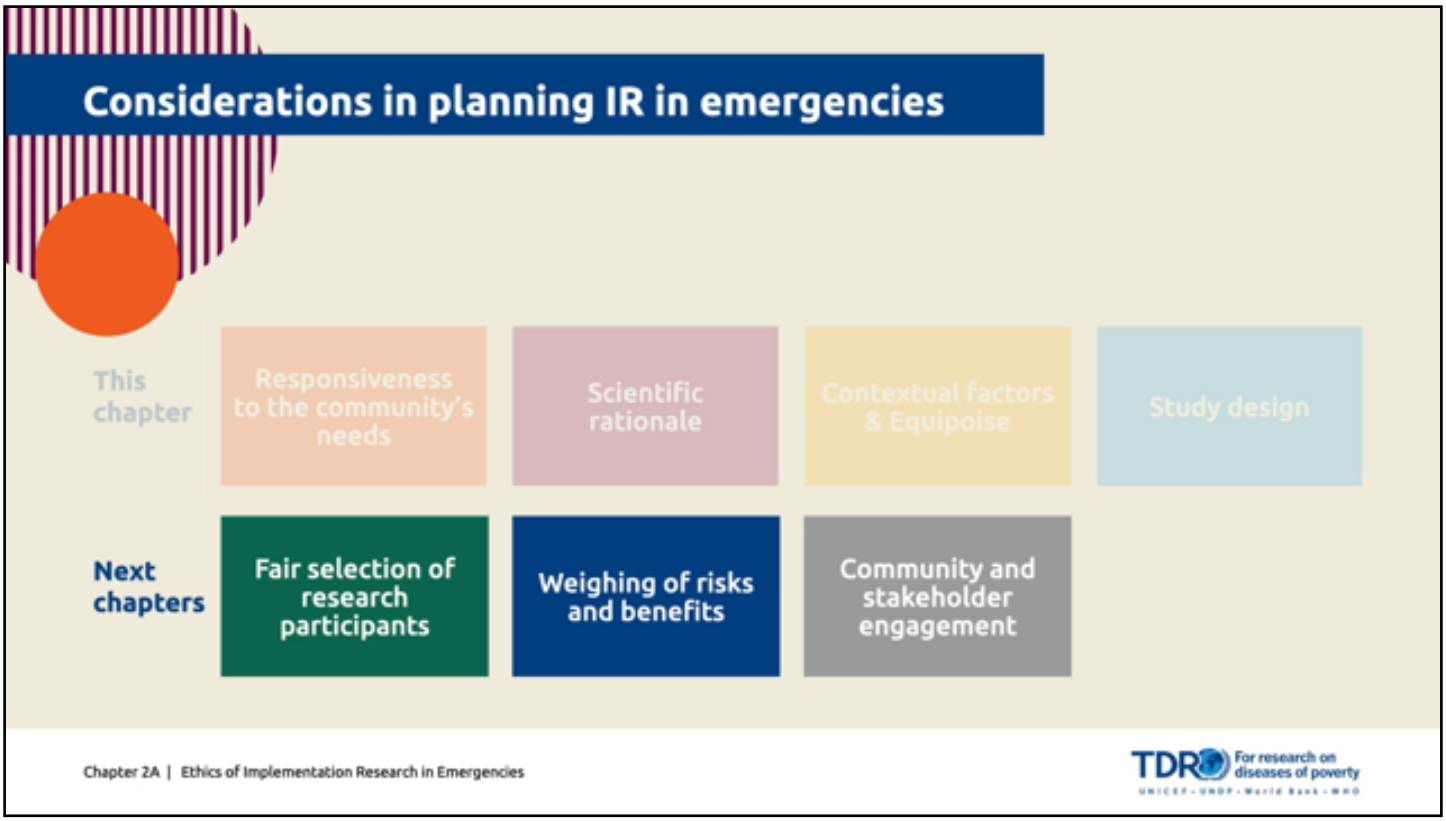


issues relevant in the planning of implementation research in emergencies, which include a clear definition of the research question or problem to be solved, fair

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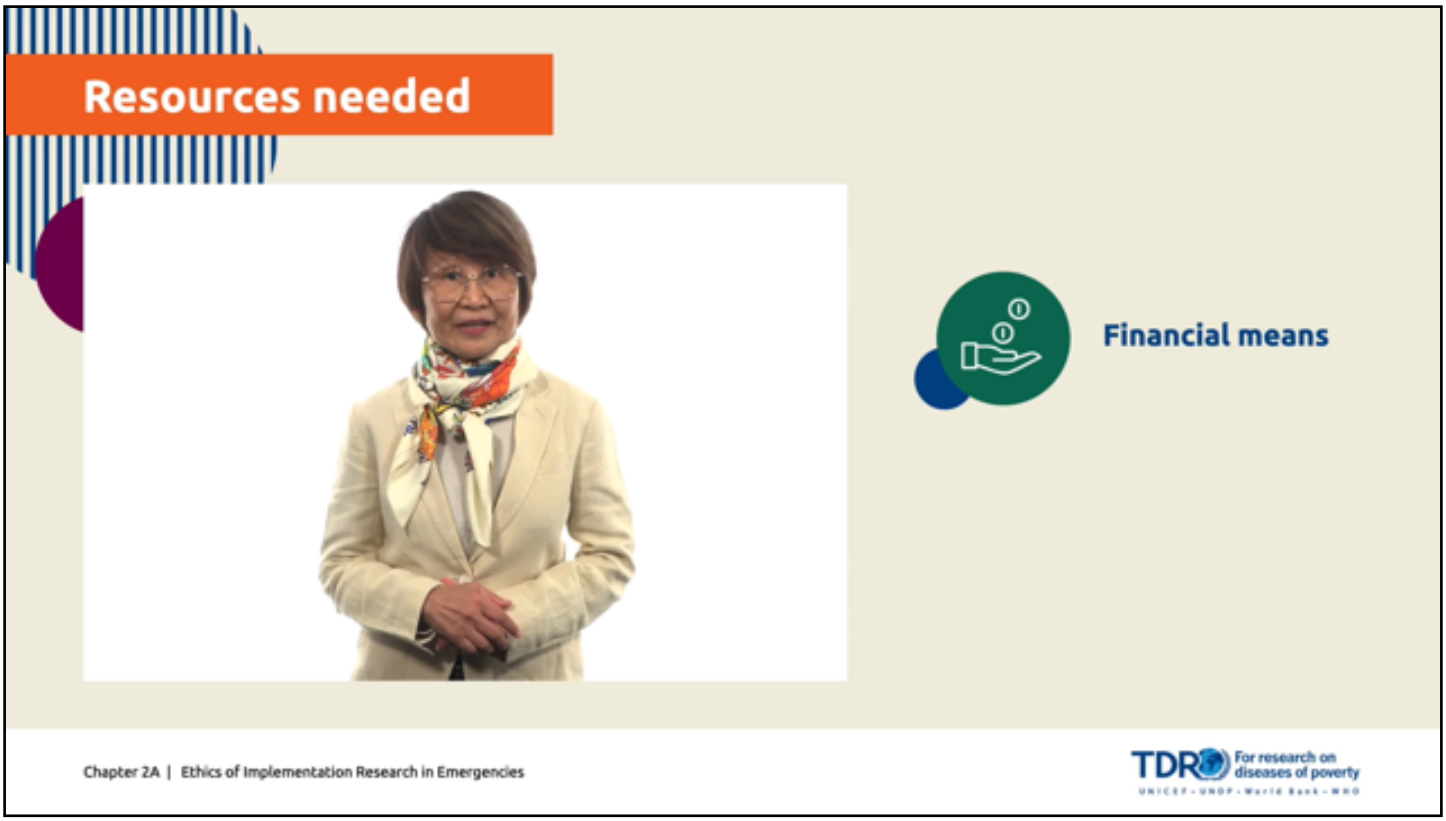


research participant selection, careful consideration of benefits and harms, and the

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overarching importance of community and stakeholder engagement. Given the urgency of needs on the ground in an emergency, it is crucially important that resources allocated to implementation research are utilised as effectively as possible.

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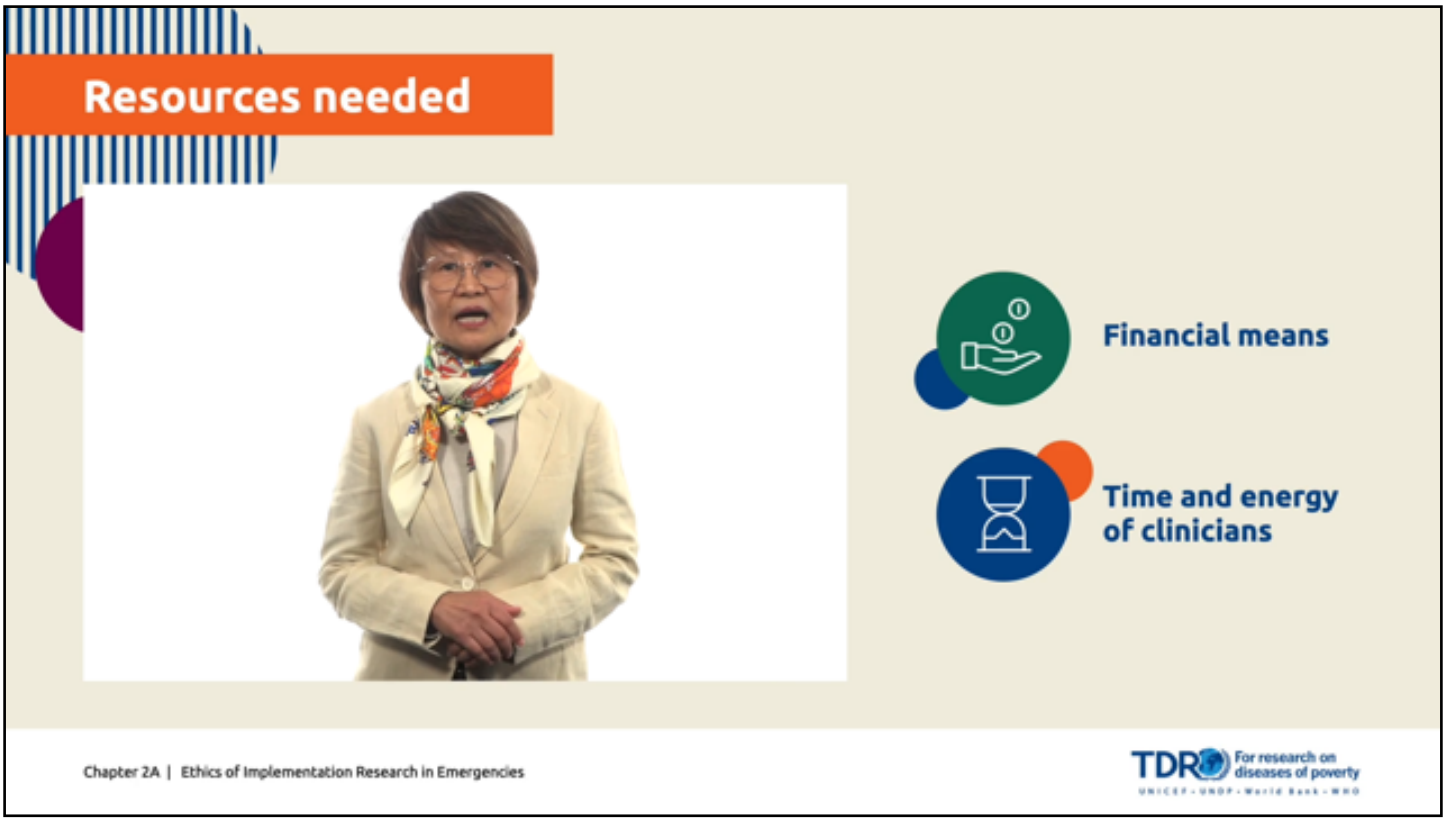


These resources are not only financial. In an emergency, clinicians at the front line may be roped in to participate,

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either as a researchers or research participants. The time and energy of these clinicians

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are valuable resources not to be wasted on studies that do not have direct relevance to the community or the local health system.

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Responsiveness to the community's needs

Barriers to rabies vaccination of dogs



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Let's consider an example. An implementation research study is being planned by an

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external rabies non-governmental organization to investigate why refugees who have fled with their animals from conflict in a neighboring country are not willing to have their

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dogs vaccinated against rabies. The first question should be whether rabies is actually a priority for this particular refugee community. This

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might not be the case. For example, emergency services are overwhelmed with children

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suffering from diarrhea and malnutrition. Additionally, asking busy front line clinicians to conduct lengthy interviews about rabies vaccine hesitancy in individuals presenting to the already strained emergency service with a dog bite will divert

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their time and attention away from more urgent activities. As a prerequisite for implementation research to be truly responsive to the community's needs, it is important that the needs of a community are well understood. Under

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Responsiveness to the community's needs



- Prioritize research needs
- Understand the community's needs – use data if available

ideal circumstances, there would be data available about the relevant problems and who is

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most affected in the community. This information would help the prioritisation of the important research questions. However, in emergency

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settings, data may be very limited or unavailable. Therefore, identification of the community's needs and priorities may be challenging.

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Researchers, especially if they are from outside, must avoid prioritising research questions based

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on external agendas or research focused on questions that may be easier to answer.

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In both of these cases, it is likely that the priorities of those most in need will be overlooked. Accountability and transparency are key ethical values that are

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important here, especially during emergencies, when community trust may be low, fear and vulnerability are high and needs are great. Researchers must be open and

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honest about all aspects of the research, including the underlying motivations, responsibilities, who is funding the research and being clear about potential conflicts of interest.

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In a subsequent chapter, we will discuss how appropriate community and stakeholder engagement are critical to support the responsiveness of implementation research, especially in emergencies.

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