Course material

Course:

Ethics in Emergencies

Video:

5c Challenges in emergencies

Concepts (extracted from automatically generated subtitles):

Face meetings. Face-to-face engagement activities. Stakeholder engagement. Ethical implementation research practice. Logistics of the community. Face. Unprecedented emergency setting. Alternative means of communications. Perceived need. Specific circumstances. Engagement meetings. Important individuals. Appropriate personal protective equipment. Importance of community. Further risk.

to video sequence search
(within Ethics in Emergencies.)

to video

CHAPTER 2C

Ethical considerations in community and stakeholder engagement in implementation research in emergencies

Challenges in emergencies

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UNICEF · UNDP · World Bank · WHO

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notes

summary

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It is not hard to imagine that in emergencies, the logistics of the community and

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0m 3s



stakeholder engagement may be more challenging. Face-to-face meetings may not be safe, fear may keep some important individuals or groups away, others may not be able to

notes

summary

0m 13s



participate if engagement meetings are held virtually or not held in their native language. Given the importance of community and stakeholder engagement for ethical implementation research practice, especially in unprecedented emergency

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0m 26s



setting, this should occur as early as possible.

notes

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0m 46s

Community & stakeholder engagement



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As we have just discussed, determining who to involve is a critical goal of community and stakeholder engagement in implementation research in emergencies. This will be highly contextual, specific and may change during a study. Where and how to conduct this engagement can also be more challenging in an emergency. Some face-to-face engagement activities like small outdoor gatherings with appropriate personal protective equipment may have been possible during the pandemic, but overall, the risks for communities and researchers were

notes

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prohibitive. Health literacy, remoteness, internet connectivity and other factors may all impact on how communities can be engaged.

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Alternative means of communications, tailored to specific circumstances and communities, must be sought, for example, radio, television, social

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2m 1s



media, or house-to-house visits. One must not forget that multiple means of

notes

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2m 13s



communication may be needed in a single study. Communication must

notes

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2m 16s

Community & stakeholder engagement



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With whom?

- Fear of speaking up
- Disadvantaged groups

⇒ **Separate groups to ensure all are heard**

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be transparent and clear. In emergencies, people may be afraid to speak up, or some groups may

notes

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be more disadvantaged than others. In some settings, it may be necessary to hold separate engagement activities with different groups to ensure all voices are heard. As

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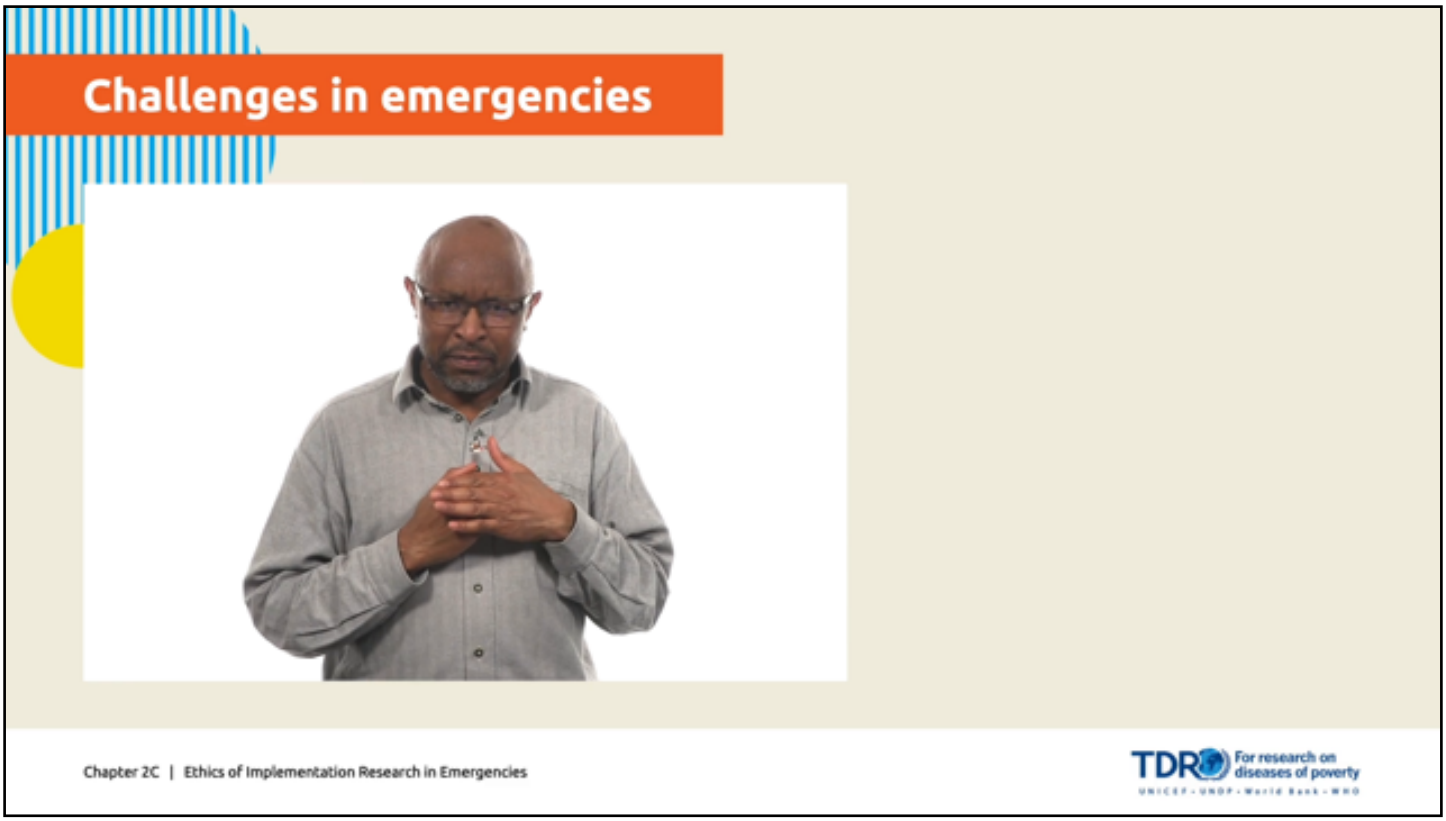


an example, domestic violence increases during emergencies. Engagement with women may therefore need to be separate. If this is deemed necessary, however, researchers must be careful that such engagement does not place women at further risk. Such a risk could only be assessed in upfront

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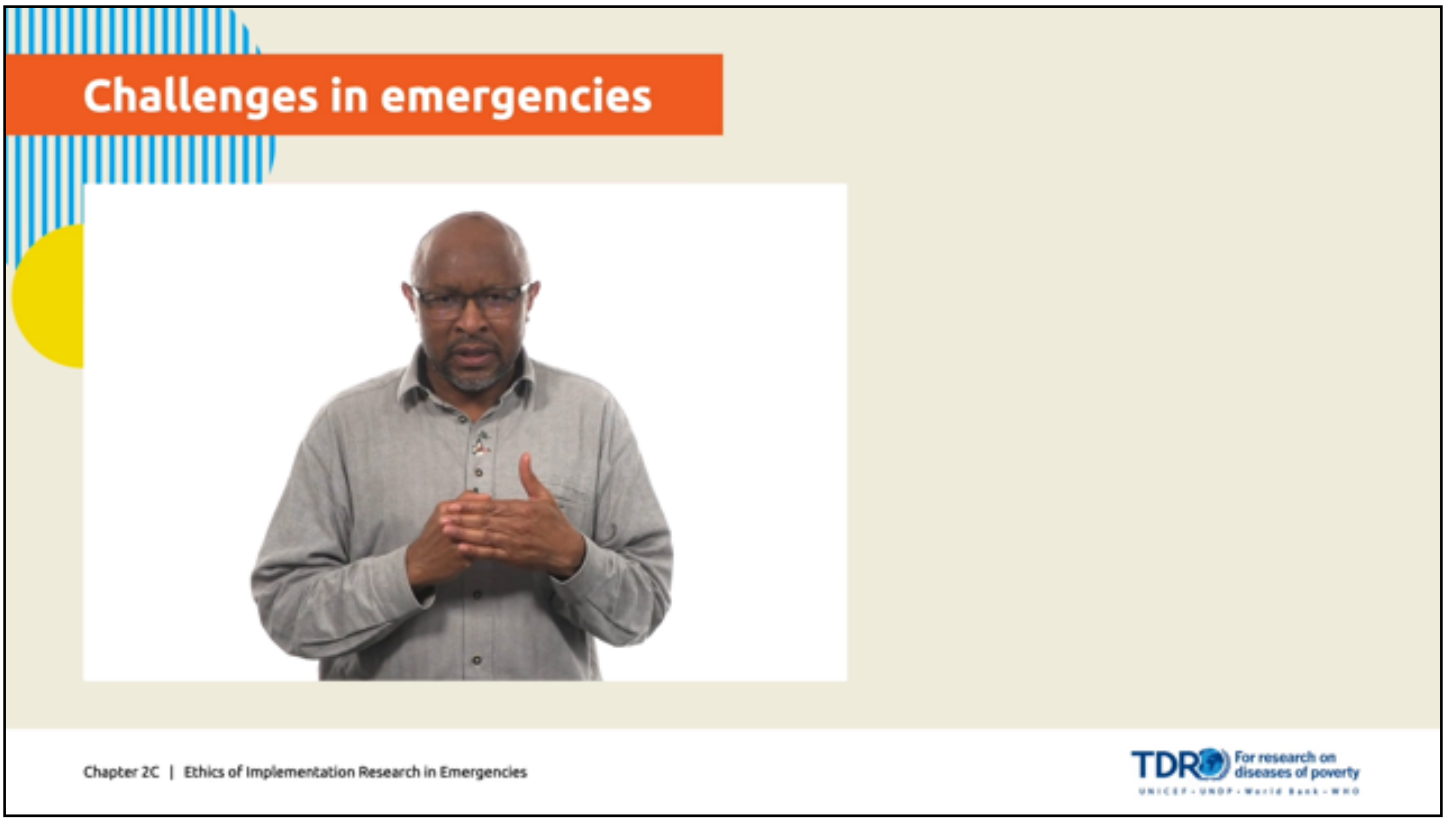


communication with the women involved. As we all know, emergencies are by definition a period of instability. Circumstances may change daily. Close communication between researchers and

notes

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3m 13s



communities must be maintained to ensure appropriate accountability and responsiveness, and to maximise success and minimise harms, researchers need to be open to reset

notes

summary

3m 36s



priorities or adapt processes throughout a study. After setting the stage, community engagement may sound relatively obvious

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3m 58s

Challenges in emergencies



Ground-up processes to identify priorities in the community

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and straightforward, but the process should not be underestimated. As

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4m 11s

Challenges in emergencies



Ground-up processes to identify priorities in the community

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we have already discussed multiple times in this course, for implementation research to be

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4m 14s

Challenges in emergencies



- Ground-up processes to identify priorities in the community
- Risk of imposition of research "agenda" from outside

justifiable in an emergency, the research question must be relevant and address a priority for the community. Ground-up processes

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4m 25s



would be best to achieve this. In reality, in an emergency, agendas may be set from outside and they may not be time or opportunity for in-depth community engagement. There is therefore a risk that communities may resist research that is being imposed on them. These risks could

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4m 37s

Challenges in emergencies



- Ground-up processes to identify priorities in the community
- Risk of imposition of research "agenda" from outside
- Communicate the need, means and goals of research

be mitigated by clear and transparent communication about the perceived

notes

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4m 59s

Challenges in emergencies



- Ground-up processes to identify priorities in the community
- Risk of imposition of research "agenda" from outside
- Communicate the need, means and goals of research

need for the research, how it will be conducted, and what the goals are before beginning a study in any setting, and ideally transmitted

notes

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5m 4s

Challenges in emergencies



- Ground-up processes to identify priorities in the community
- Risk of imposition of research "agenda" from outside
- Communicate the need, means and goals of research

through a trusted local representative. Even in emergencies, it is

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Challenges in emergencies



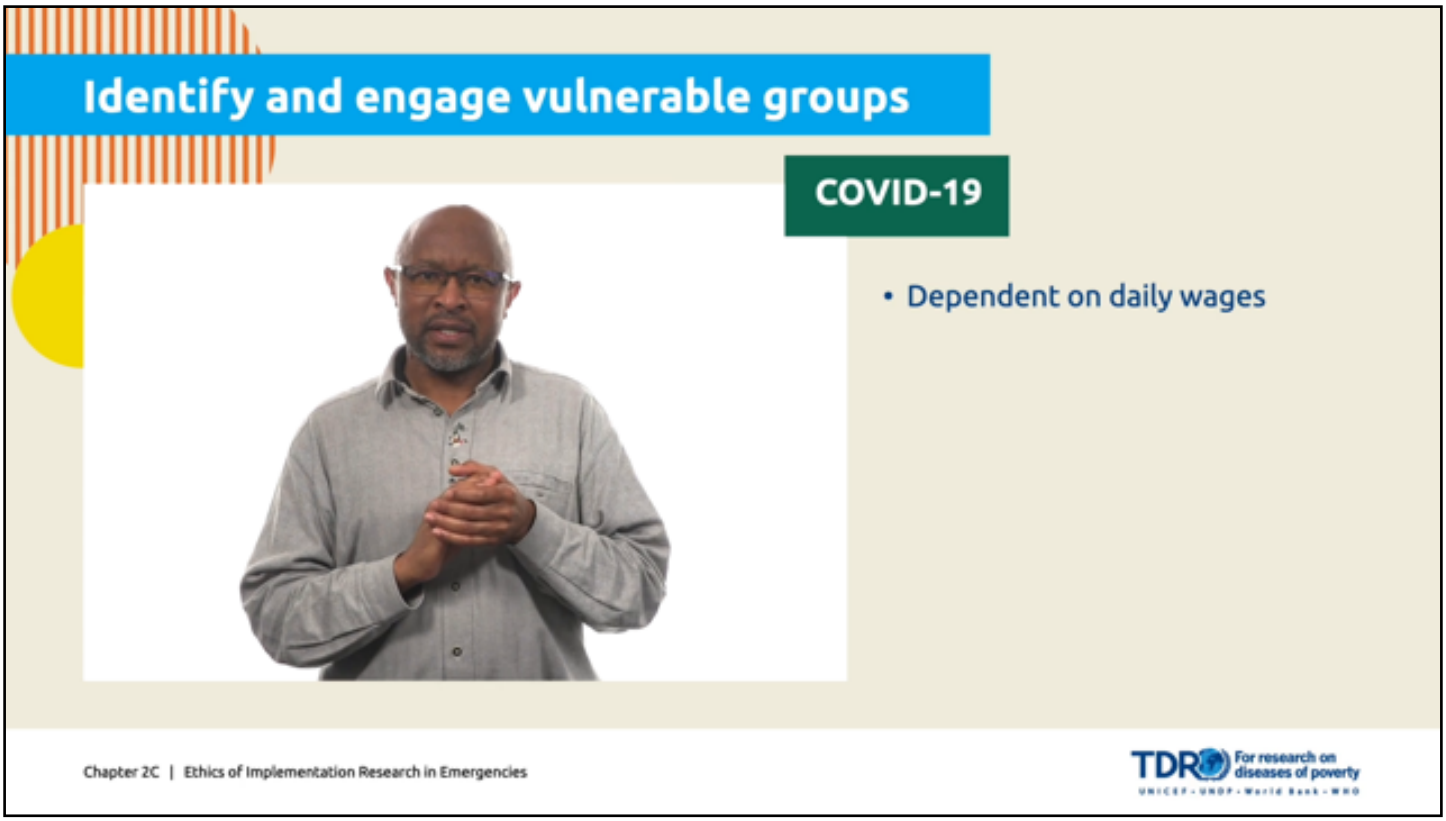
- Ground-up processes to identify priorities in the community
- Risk of imposition of research "agenda" from outside
- Communicate the need, means and goals of research
- Identify vulnerable groups

important not to cut corners with community engagement. Regardless of how careful external researchers may be in the engagement process, some groups within the community may be overlooked or marginalised. This risk may increase in an emergency, especially if there is competition for resources or stigma within the community. Despite the challenging circumstances in emergencies, implementation researchers must try to identify all vulnerable groups as they may be

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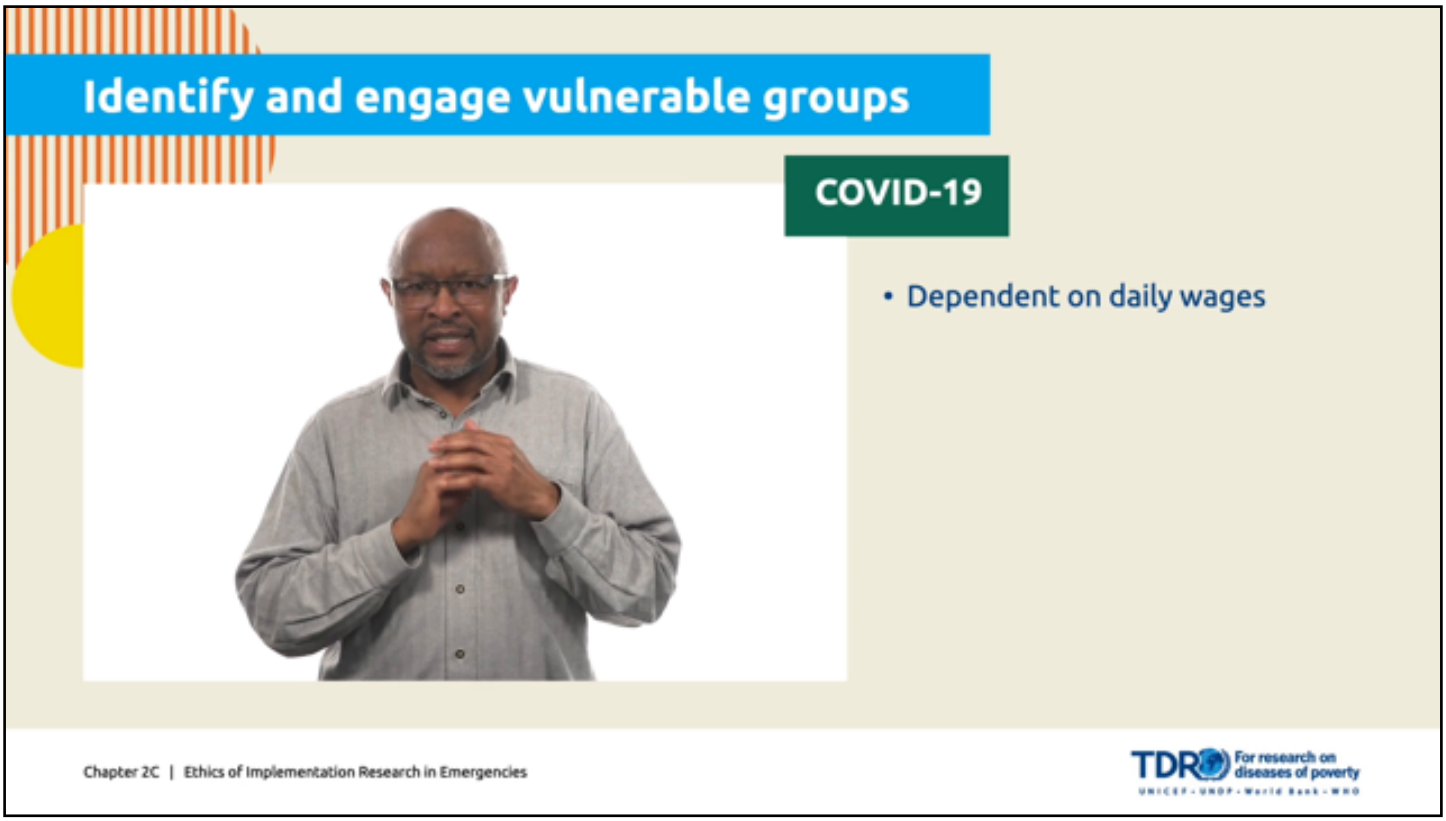


at greater risk of harm. To illustrate this, using the Covid-19 example again, people dependent on daily wages may not

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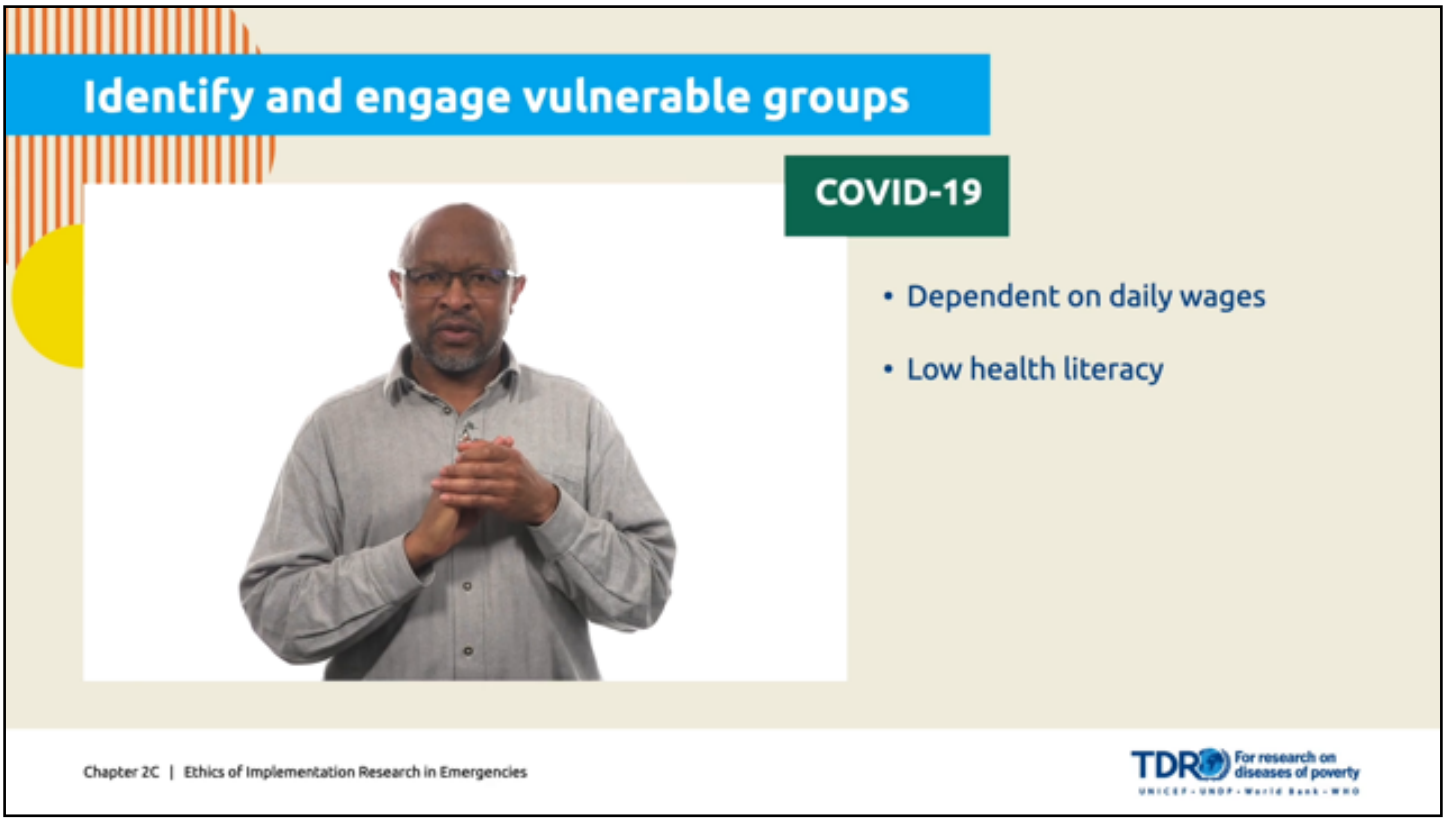


have been able to join meetings or attend vaccination camps. Their

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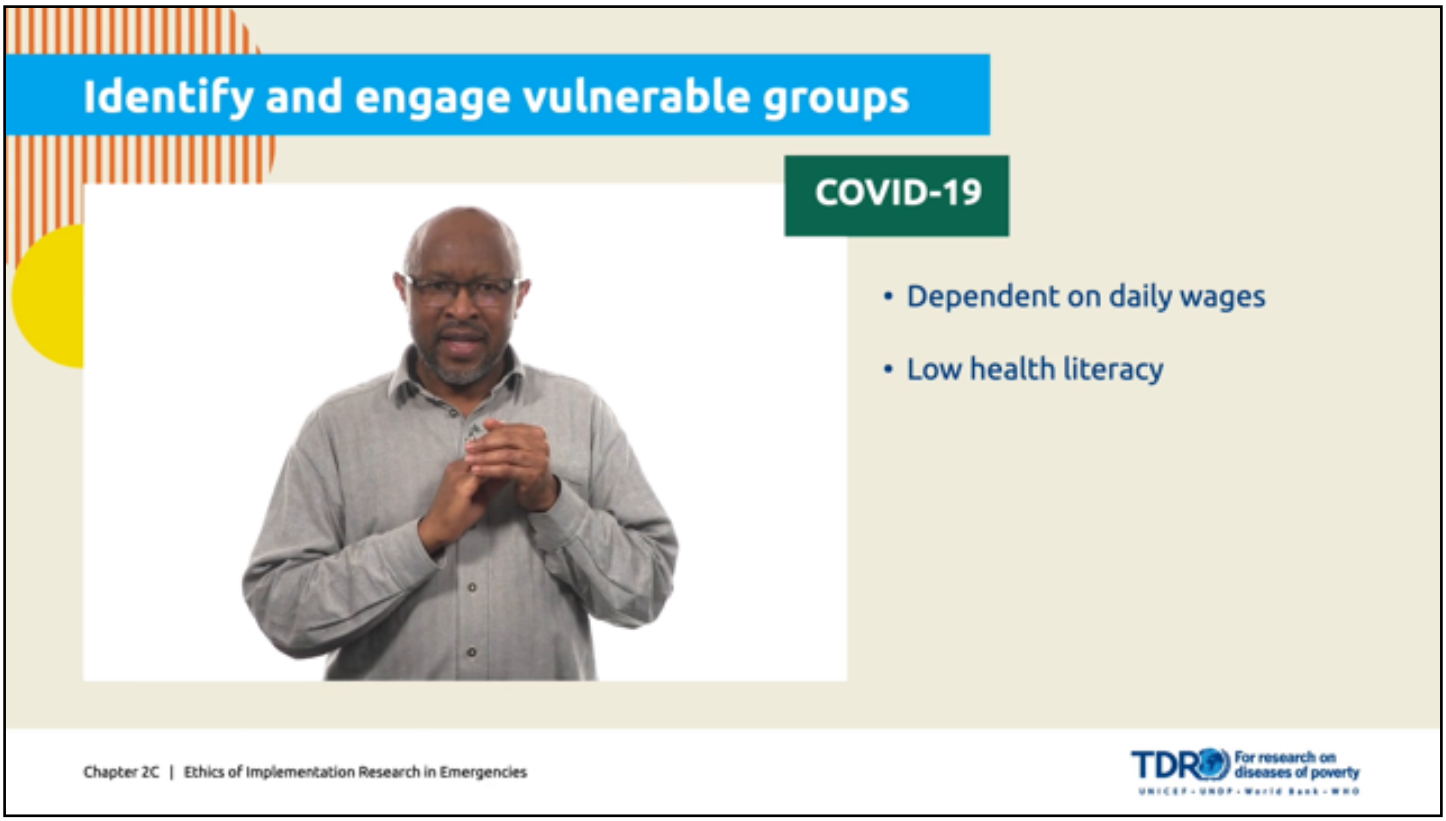


commuting for work likely subjected them to important personal risk as well as risk of transmitting infection to others. The health literacy of

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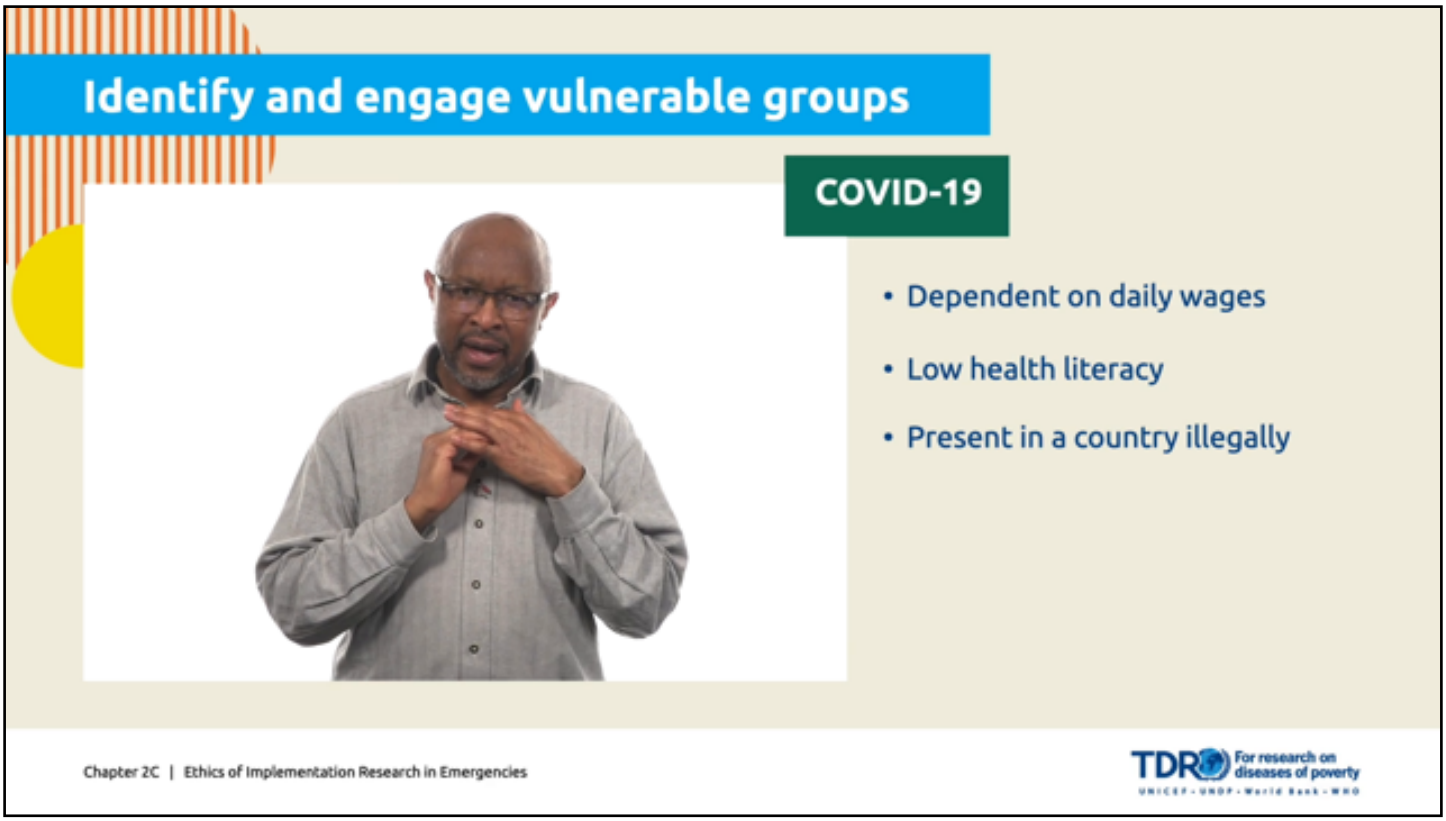


this group may not be very high. They may feel stigmatised. Some

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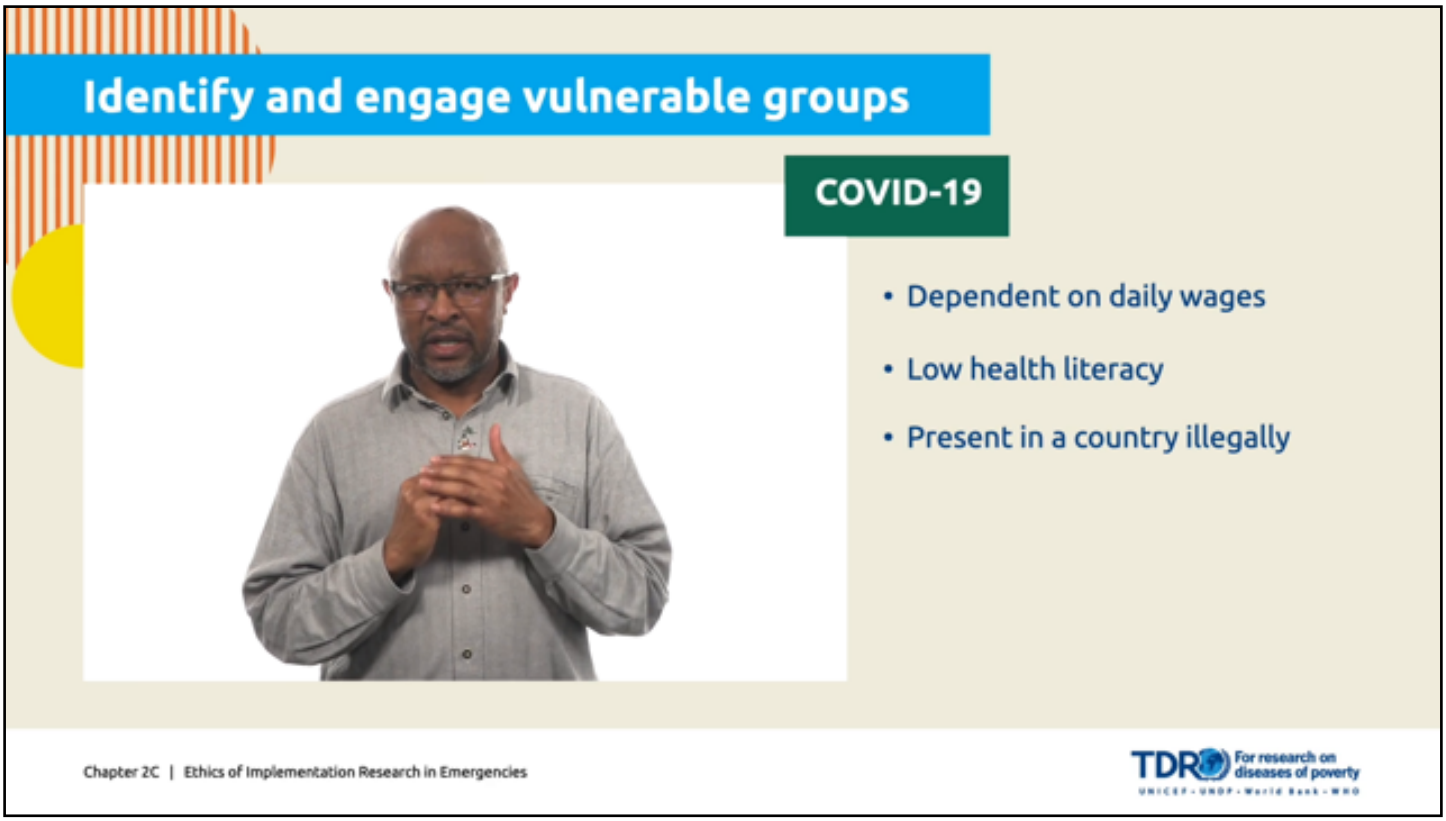


individuals may even be in a country illegally and fear deportation if identified during a study. Meeting the needs of these vulnerable individuals would therefore

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be ethically and physically important, but how to engage them effectively

notes

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7m 10s



could be a challenge. We now understand that ethical stakeholder engagement entails seeking appropriate means for meaningful community

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representation. This can only be effective if the right people are in the room, so to speak. To achieve the fundamental goal of building trust between implementation

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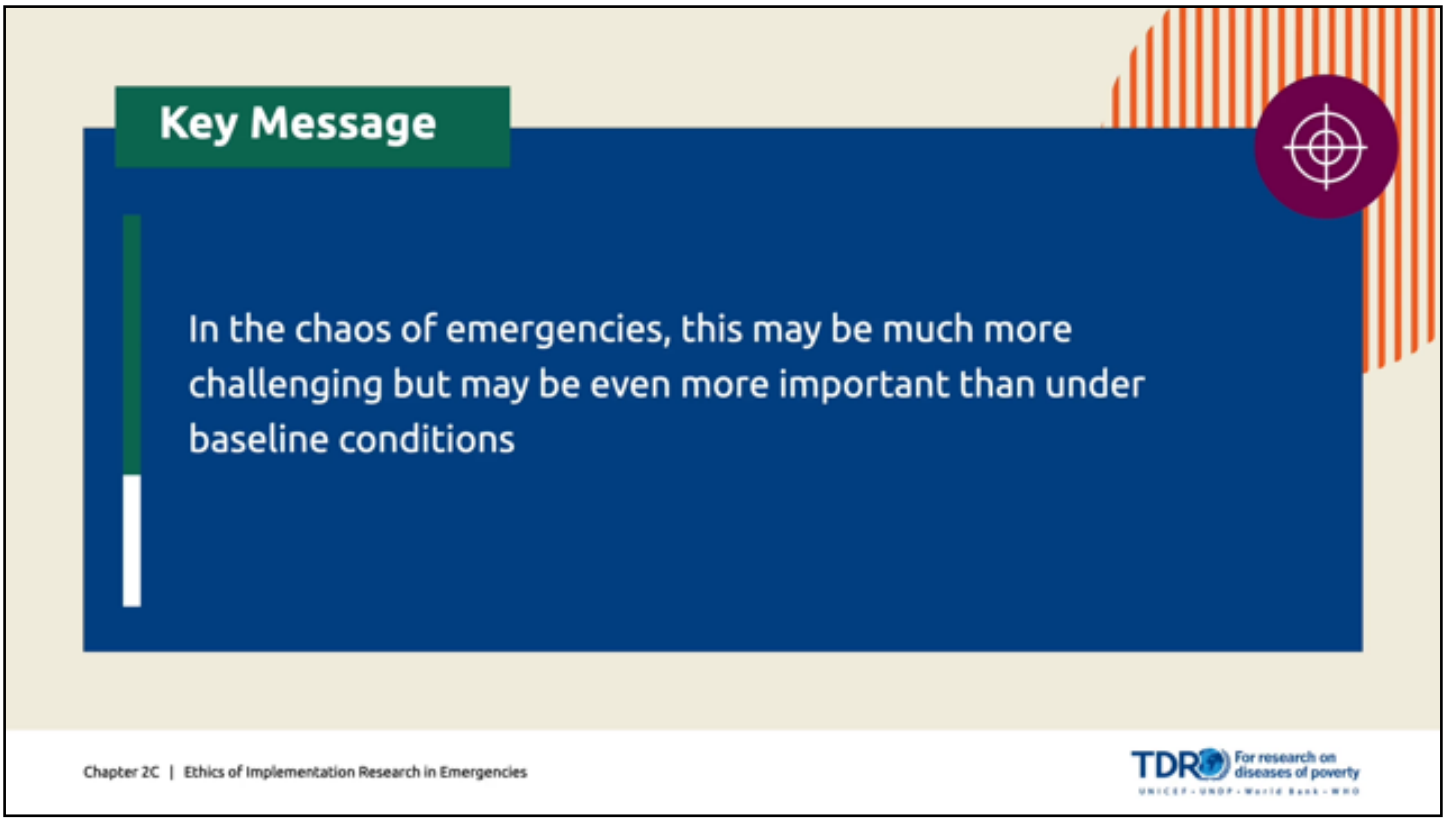


research team and the community in an emergency, a respectful community and

notes

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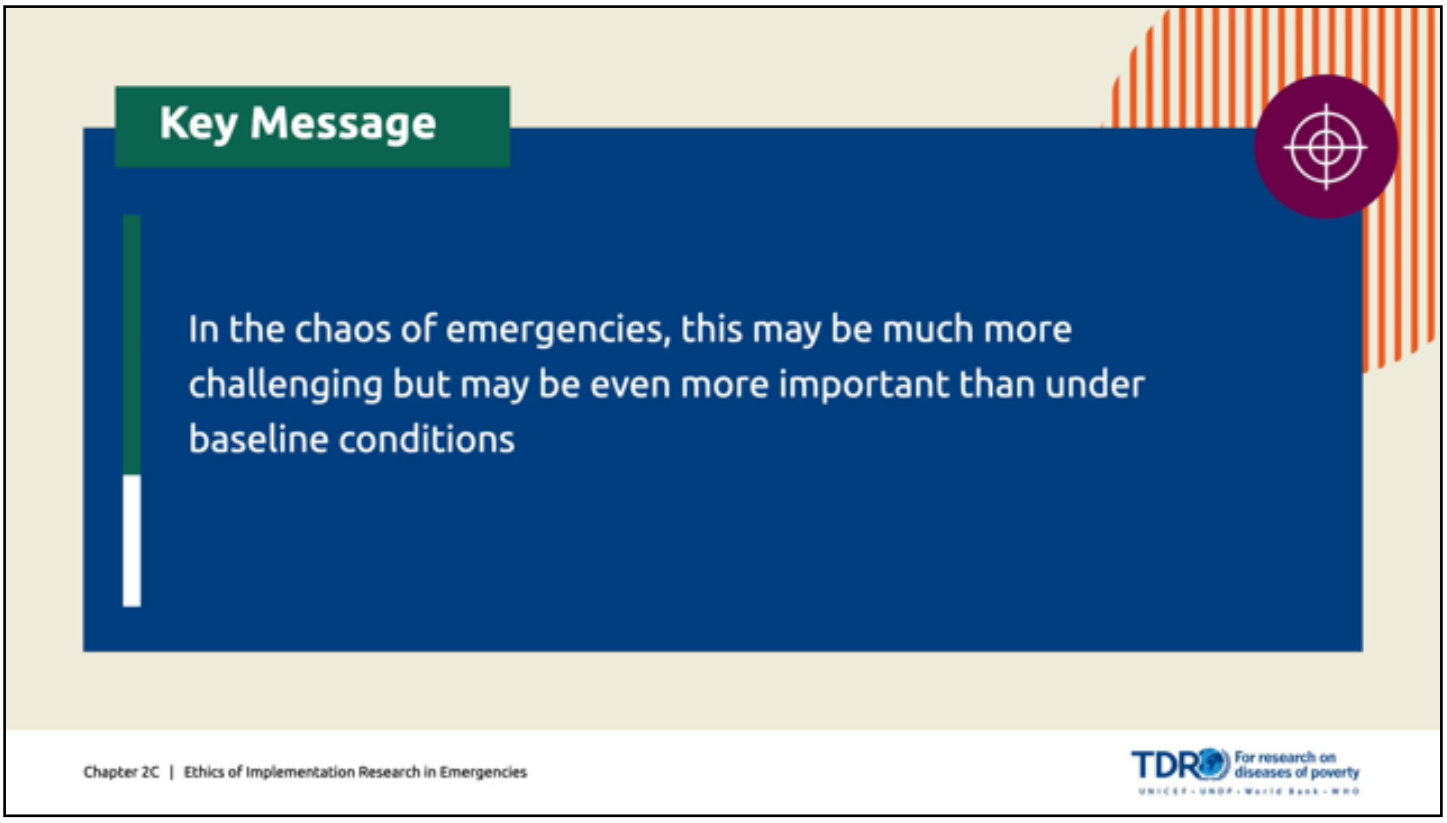


stakeholder engagement is key. In the chaos of emergencies, such

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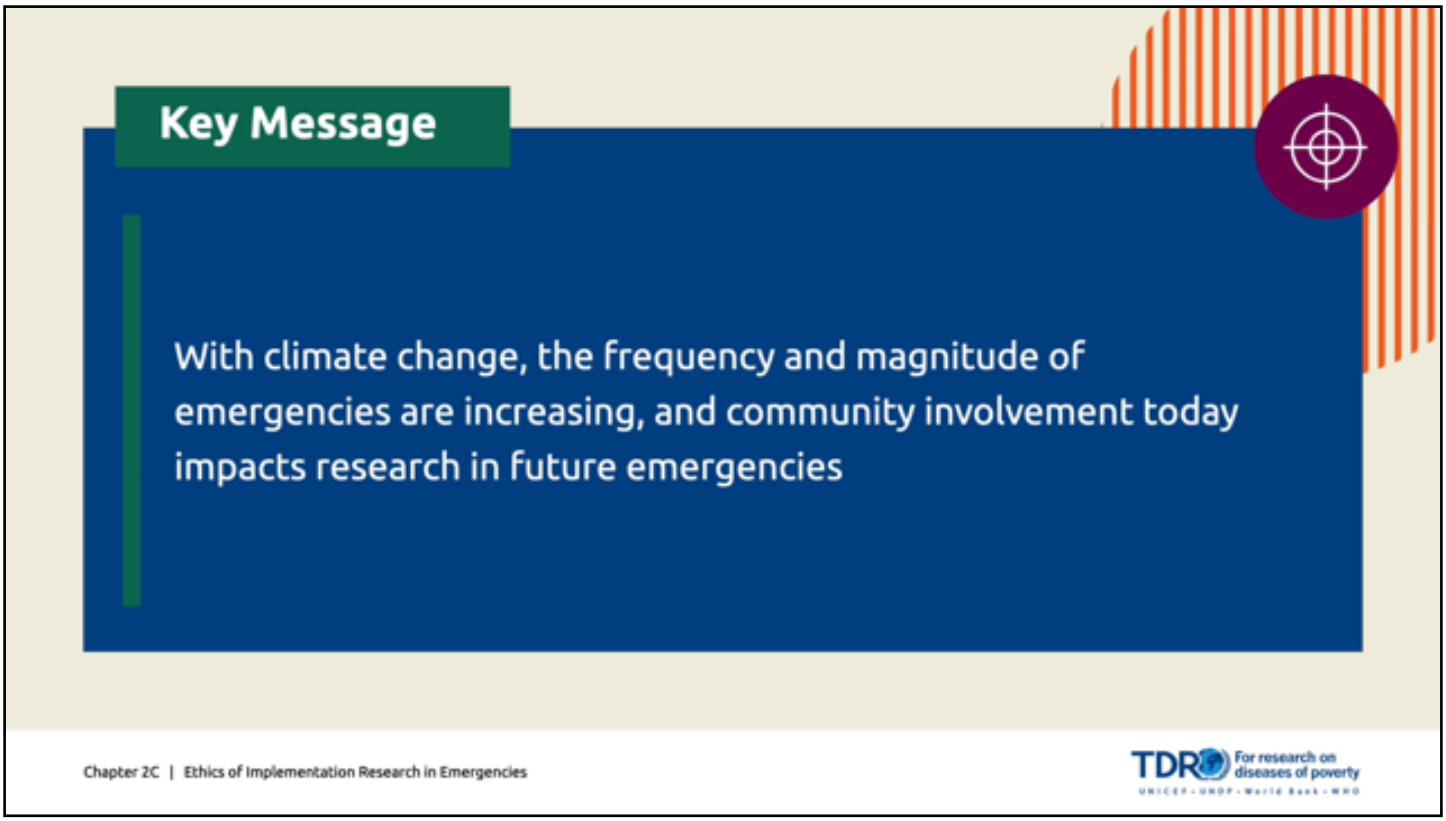


engagement may be much more challenging than under usual conditions. But

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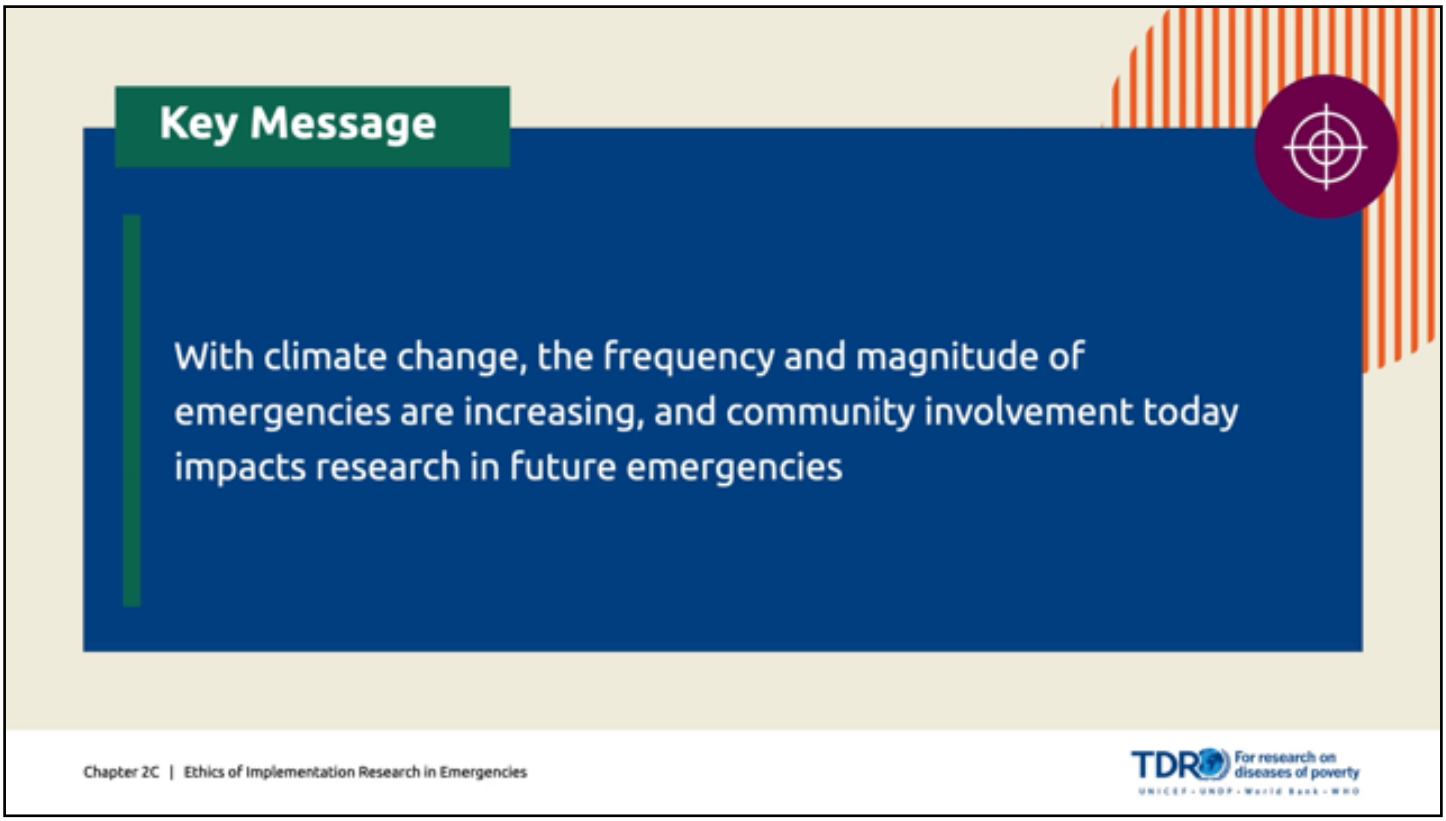


exactly because of these challenges, it is even more critical. With the rising spectra of climate change, implementation researchers must be aware that the

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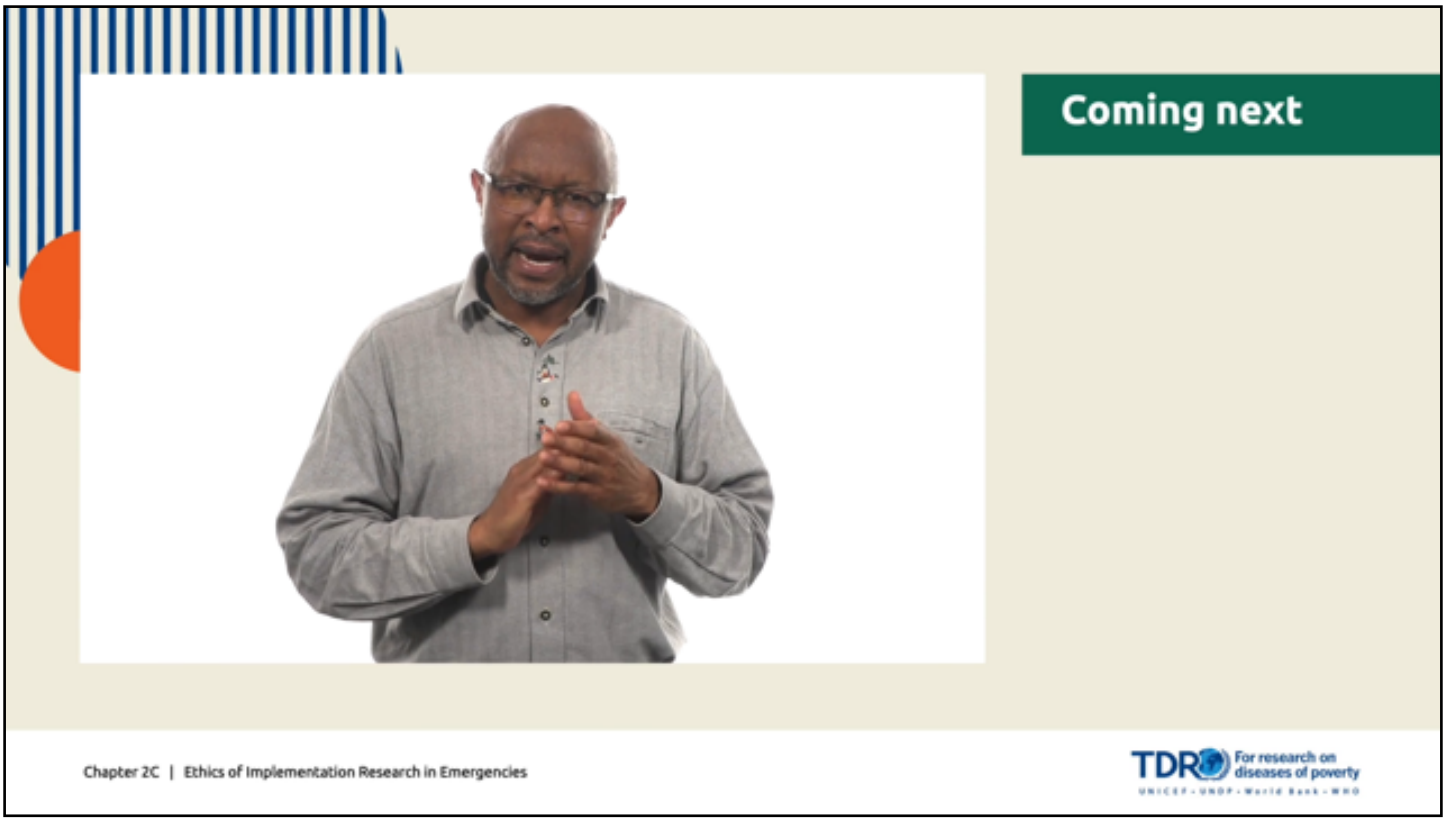


frequency and magnitude of emergencies are increasing, therefore, how communities are engaged in an emergency today may impact the success of research in the future and emergencies. This now

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summary

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brings us to the end of the chapter on ethical issues that must be considered during the

notes

summary

8m 36s



planning phase of implementation research in emergencies. In the next chapters, we will turn our attention to ethical issues that are relevant during the day-to-day conduct of implementation research in emergencies.

notes

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