

## **The International Consortium To Promote the Formation of Local Resilience Networks Worldwide To Address the Health Impacts of the Global Climate Crisis**

Humanity is in the midst of a rapidly accelerating atmospheric climate crisis that is interlinked with a global ecosystem and biodiversity crisis. The climate-ecosystem-biodiversity (C-E-B) crisis is generating many types of known, and numerous other new and surprising chronic severe stresses and emergencies, and more frequent, prolonged, and extreme acute weather disasters.

The impacts include rising injuries and loss of life, food and water shortages, damage and loss of housing and other critical physical and social infrastructure, loss of livelihoods and financial struggles, involuntary migration, new illnesses and diseases, and more. These adversities are producing emotional distress, increasing social isolation, disrupting social connections, reducing social trust, decreasing prosocial behaviors, and amplifying social and political conflicts worldwide.

One outcome is a global epidemic of adverse social, psychological, emotional, behavioral, spiritual and related physical health problems. Coupled with this is the reduced ability to adapt to the impacts of the C-E-B crisis, and take meaningful action to reduce it to manageable levels.

As it accelerates, in different times, ways, and magnitudes the C-E-B crisis will affect the entire global population. In response we must think and act through a population lens, not a siloed individual or fragmented single-group-only approach. This is one reason why, although they will remain important, professional mental health, human services, and disaster mental health programs alone have no chance of preventing or healing the pervasive mental health, psychosocial, and associated physical health issues generated by the C-E-B crisis.

Instead, people must be actively engaged where they live, work, and recreate in activities that help buffer them from, and enable them to push back against the impacts of the C-E-B crisis, and build healthy, safe, just and equitable, climate-resilient, zero-emission, regenerative communities.

Poor social connections and lack of trust and community cohesion increase vulnerability to the impacts of the C-E-B crisis. However, building strong social connections, engaging residents in mutual aid, teaching them simple emotional self-regulation and adversity-based growth resilience skills, and involving them in prosocial activities have been found to enhance civic cooperation and trust, promote equitable resource sharing, and in other ways foster resilience that can prevent and heal the mental health, psychosocial, and many related physical health impacts of the C-E-B crisis.

Forming Community-led Resilience Networks (CRNs) in all urban neighborhoods, mid- and small communities, and rural areas worldwide is the most effective way to achieve these ends. CRNs are wide and diverse multi-sectoral groups that use locally-tailored versions of a public health approach to engage their entire population in activities that strengthen their capacity for wellness and resilience for all types of adversities, and mobilize support for climate mitigation and adaptation.

The International Consortium composed of over 100 organizations from many countries was formed to promote the establishment of CRNs worldwide.