Pandemics

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, many meetings & reports have focused on centralized planning, modelling & prediction capacity, surveillance systems, big data technologies, epidemiological models, & connectedness.

...rapid response teams, data & vaccine research & development, stockpiling & purchase preparations, health system strengthening...

...rather than specified events that can be controlled...

The appreciation of multiple knowledge, including local, grounded knowledge of disease & contexts.

Yes, myths will circulate, but also people share & build up knowledge that's specific to their circumstances. Learning from those who know most about people-disease interactions...

Embracing uncertainties—realizing that probabilities can't always be calculated.

The long-term impacts of diseases like COVID-19 on societies & people's bodies are not fully known.

Understanding how diseases interact with other vulnerabilities, how different people & cultures respond to diseases, & how trust affects interactions with healthcare workers & governments.

Adapting flexibly over space & time.

We shouldn't look back on the pandemic as a flat event, but learn & respond over time.

Understanding how outbreaks happen differently in local context.

And that people often don't behave how you expect them to.