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### Discussion of Trends in Disasters and Disaster Fatalities

Natural disasters are increasing worldwide due to global warming. The hottest day today may be the coolest day in a typical summer before the end of this century.<sup>i</sup> The number of fatalities from natural disasters is decreasing even though the absolute number of natural disasters is increasing.

This is in part because of risk mitigation strategies enabled by artificial intelligence and emerging technology, public service campaigns, early warning systems when leveraged properly with consistent and timely communication, prioritization of resource allocation, emergency preparedness, human capacity increases and professionalism of emergency response, and whole community resourcing and participation for recovery efforts.

Natural disasters are having an even greater impact on populations and the built environment due to migration, urbanization, the vulnerability of a greater percentage of populations across the globe being “at risk” and population explosion. During the 1918 Spanish flu, when hospitals were overwhelmed, teams of nurses were deployed to treat patients.<sup>ii</sup> That strategy has become unsustainable.

In some parts of the world, there are fewer terrorist events now compared to the past. Globalization has in many ways promulgated the power of individual in-group members of terrorist organizations in strengthening their ability to endorse and consensually validate shared interpretations of events and experiences and spreading terrorists' “collective worldviews”<sup>iii</sup>. Terrorist events have also been staved off due to the broader impact of significant investment and improvements in intelligence gathering and sharing amongst allies.

While religious fanaticism hasn't waned, and as we know to be true, terrorist planning training and execution is a long game, there's been a shift in terrorists' strategy with a focus for example on resourcing cyberattacks that bring financial harm to economies rather than causing human fatalities.

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<sup>i</sup>Linda Young Landesman, DrPH, MSW, Robyn R. Gershon, DrPH, MT, MHS, Eric N. Gebbie, DrPH, MIA, MA, and Alexis A. Merdjanoff, PhD, MA. *Public Health Management of Disasters: The Practice Guide*. 5th Edition. American Public Health Association. 2021.

<sup>ii</sup>Wilson, Michael. What New York Looked Like During the 1918 Flu Pandemic. *The New York Times*. April 6, 2020.

<sup>iii</sup>Eidelson, Roy J. and Eidelson, Judy I. Dangerous Ideas. *American Psychologist*. March 2003: p182-192.