Building Health Systems Resilience in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

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WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
Presentation highlights

- Definition and elements of health systems resilience
- Importance of health systems resilience in the Eastern Mediterranean Region
- Eastern Mediterranean regional framework for building resilient health systems
- Measurement of health systems resilience
- EMRO initiatives on building health systems resilience
- Opportunities, challenges and way forward
Health Systems Resilience

Definition
The ability of a health system exposed to a shock to resist, absorb, accommodate and recover from the effects of the shock in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.”
Do we need resilience for the health systems of the Eastern Mediterranean Region?

Health emergencies in the EMR

• At risk of natural and man-made emergencies as well as epidemic prone diseases

• Unprecedented scale of violent conflicts

• 11 graded events and 8 graded countries

• 58 million people in need of emergency healthcare

• 30 million displaced people, i.e., half of all displaced persons globally
Examples of Hazards in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Severe weather storm Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon
The World Bank, Dec, 2015

Chlorine release, Iraq

Cholera epidemic fears in Hiran as severe flooding forces families to flee their homes
Horseed Staff, May, 2018

Earthquake and floods in Iran


Conflict in Yemen, International Crises Group, Nov, 2017

Cyclone in Oman, British Expats, May, 2018
Risk Distribution in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, 2018

- Almost Certain: Armed Conflict, Forced movement, CBRN
- Likely: Cholera, measles, dust storms, Diphtheria & Pertussis, MERS-CoV
- Very Likely: Polio
- Unlikely: Earthquake, Flood, drought, Dengue, RVF, CCHF, XDR TB
- Very Unlikely: Tsunami, industrial accident, Heat waves, cold waves, noel influenza virus, yellow fever
- Mass movements including landslides

Risk level: Very low, Low, Moderate, High, Very high
Impact: Severe, Moderate, Minor
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Hazards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>Natural disasters, disease outbreak, armed conflict, displaced population</td>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>Disease outbreak, natural disasters, hosting displaced population, labor migration</td>
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<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>Disease outbreak, labor migration</td>
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<td>Natural disasters, disease outbreak, displaced population, mass gatherings</td>
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Risk varied between countries and between hazards for each country.
EMR Regional Framework for Building Resilient Health Systems

Global Frameworks

WHA 64.10: Strengthening national health emergency and disaster management capacities and resilience of health systems

Adopted in 2015, to scale up implementation of DRR strategies as means to improve resilience to disasters

Priority 1. Understanding disaster risk
Priority 2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
Priority 3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
Priority 4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction
“UHC and health emergencies are cousins – two sides of the same coin. Strengthening health systems is the best way to safeguard against health crises”

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director General

Achieve Universal Health Coverage
All people and communities receive the quality health services they need, without financial hardship

Health system strengthening
along with preparedness for emergency response and recovery

Regional Framework: Elements of Building Resilient Health Systems

**Governance**
- National Legislation
- Polices and plans for health emergency preparedness and response
- Disaster and other risk reduction strategies
- Coordination structure and mechanisms
- Organizational structure

**Universal Health Coverage**
- Access to comprehensive quality, health services
- Strengthening stewardship and governance
- Improving financing
- Intersectoral action to address the social determinants of health

**Essential Public Health Functions**
- Surveillance
- Essential package of health services
- Risk communication
- Health facility safety
- Risk assessment

**Health Information System**
- Integrated multi-hazard early warning function
- Collection and analysis of data form official and unofficial sources.
- Reporting of data/information to support risk assessment
- Forecasting and modelling
- System and operational research

**Resources**
- Workforce Development
- Support financing system
- Logistics and supply system
Measuring Resilience of Health Systems in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, 2016-2018

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (MEF)
1. Annual reporting
2. After Action Review (AAR)
3. Simulation Exercise (SimEx)
4. Joint External Evaluation (JEE)

Preparedness
- R.1.1: Multi-hazard national public health emergency plan
- R.1.2: Priority public health risks mapped

Response
- R.2.1: Activate emergency operations
- R.2.2: Emergency operations center
- R.2.3: Emergency operations Program
- R.2.4: Case management procedures

Coordination
- P.1.1: Functional Mechanisms for coordination

Community
- R.5.4: Functional Mechanisms for coordination
JEE and Annual Reporting data of the EMR countries, 2016–2018

<table>
<thead>
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**Capacity score**
- No
- Limited
- Developed
- Demonstrated
- Sustainable
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Capacity score:
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EMRO Initiatives for Building Health Systems Resilience
### International Health Regulations (IHR) monitoring framework: implementation status of IHR core capacities, 2010–2017

**Legislation:** 2017

#### Table

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Implementation status (%)</th>
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<td>Sudan</td>
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#### Map

- **Map disclaimer:** The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. The borders of the map provided reflect the current political geographic status as of the date of publication (2018). However, the technical health information is based on date accurate with respect to the year indicated (2017). The disconnect in this arrangement should be noted but no implications regarding political or terminological status should be drawn from this arrangement as it is purely a function of technical and graphical limitations.

#### % of countries, by implementation status

- **Pie chart**

#### Distribution by country (%)

- **Bar chart**

#### Time animation


#### Implementation status (%)

- **Legend:**
  - 0–24
  - 25–49
  - 50–74
  - 75–100
  - Not applicable
Vision

Health for all, by all so that everyone in the Eastern Mediterranean Region can enjoy a better quality of life.

Mission

To collectively strive and accelerate progress towards the health and well-being of the people of the Eastern Mediterranean Region by leveraging all opportunities and mobilizing all regional assets in line with WHO’s global mission outlined in GPW 13: promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable.

New EMRO Vision 2019-23

Regional Strategic Priorities

1. Expanding universal health coverage
2. Addressing health emergencies
3. Promoting healthier populations
4. Making fundamental transformative changes in the WHO
Advancing Universal Health Coverage in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

- Developing a vision and strategy for UHC
- Improving health financing system performance and enhancing financial risk protection
- Expanding the coverage of needed health services
- Ensuring expansion and monitoring of population coverage
UHC service coverage index

- Reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health
  - Family planning
  - Pregnancy and delivery
  - Immunization
  - Child treatment

- Infectious diseases
  - Tuberculosis
  - HIV
  - Malaria
  - Water and sanitation

- Noncommunicable diseases
  - Cardiovascular disease
  - Diabetes
  - Cancer
  - Tobacco control

Service capacity and access
- Hospital access
- Health worker density
- Essential medicines
- Health security
Advancing Universal Health Coverage in the Easter Mediterranean Region

Salalah Declaration on UHC, 2018

EMR contribution to 1 billion more benefitting from UHC by 2023

Parliamentary forum on Health & Well Being

Health System Governance Collaborative

108 million

World Health Organization
Launch of the first EMR Health Financing Atlas

Strengthening health financing systems in the Eastern Mediterranean Region towards universal health coverage
## Health Systems in Emergencies Lab

A shared space for new thinking on health system resilience at EMRO

### Overall Aim

To support the Member States to improve their health system resilience by integrating health system strengthening and health emergency preparedness, response and recovery works.

### General Objectives

| Resilient national and local health systems with strong emergency risk management capacity | Improved integrated way of working between health system, health emergency and other departments | Applied the “Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus as one of the “new way of working” | Established a knowledge management system that informs the work of the HSEL as a Lab for All |
Areas of WHO support to I.R.Iran on building health systems resilience

• Implementation of IHR (2005) and planning for JEE
• Disaster risk assessment using STAR and VRAM
• Establishment of Emergency Medical Teams (EMT)
• Development of Disaster Health Risk Management (DHRM) training course in collaboration with Tehran University
• Integration of Hospital Safety Index into hospitals accreditation
• Integration of emergency risk management into national PHC system
• Response to large scale emergencies: Bam and Kermanshah earthquakes as well as recent floods
Examples of EMRO cross-programmatic initiatives on building health system resilience in emergency affected countries

**Regional level activities:**
- Development of a regional framework for action on health system recovery in emergencies
- Development of a country guide on implementation of humanitarian-development-peace nexus

**Country level activities:**
- Support health system recovery and resilience building programs: Syria, Iraq and Iran
- Support health security plans with strengthening health system related elements: Afghanistan, Sudan and Somalia
- Support revision of the Minimum Service Package of health services: Yemen
- Health as a bridge for peace: the Health Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus
Thanks for your attention,
And Salam, Peace