Baseline survey of all-hazard preparedness in health clusters operations

Online questionnaire for national and sub-national Health Cluster Coordinators
Conducted from March 7 to April 4, 2024
Survey objectives

Assess the level of preparedness planning and operational readiness to multiple hazards, including high-impact epidemics and pandemics.

- Map preparedness priority areas
- Identify needs for improved preparedness planning
- Identify gaps and priorities for capacity building

Create a baseline of the state of preparedness planning and readiness on which to build targeted support interventions.

The survey was administered through an online questionnaire (Microsoft Forms). National Health Cluster Coordinators were requested to share the link with relevant national and subnational colleagues. Each respondent was asked to fill the questionnaire only once.
Survey response

Responses received
• 42 respondents
• 22 of 31 Cluster operations (71%)
• 1 Regional Cluster
Survey response cont.

National / sub-national respondents

Cluster countries with multiple respondents

- Ethiopia: 4 national, 2 sub-national (total: 6)
- Afghanistan: 1 national, 1 sub-national (total: 2)
- Burkina Faso: 1 national, 3 sub-national (total: 4)
- Yemen: 1 national, 1 sub-national (total: 2)
- Nigeria: 1 national, 1 sub-national (total: 2)
- oPt: 1 national, 1 sub-national (total: 2)
### Scenarios

Which scenarios are you preparing for?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster</th>
<th>Number of scenarios</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>occupied Palestinian territory</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- Natural disaster (earthquake, floods, drought) 38
- Displacement 35
- Attacks on health care 25
- Pandemics 16
- Civil unrest 12
- Natural disasters 38
- Displacement 35
- Attacks on health care 25
- Pandemics 16
- Civil unrest 12

**Cluster Numbers:**
- Afghanistan: 9
- Burkina Faso: 7
- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 7
- Ethiopia: 7
- Syria: 7
- Haiti: 6
- occupied Palestinian territory: 6
- Chad: 5
- Mali: 5
- Myanmar: 5
- Niger: 5
- Nigeria: 5
- Sudan: 5
- Pacific: 4
- South Sudan: 4
- Yemen: 4
- Mozambique: 3
- Lebanon: 2
- Ukraine: 2
- Burundi: 1
Contingency planning

Is or will the Health Cluster be developing contingency plans for specific scenarios?

- Yes: 17 (77%)
- No: 4 (18%)
- Not sure: 1 (5%)

Components included in contingency plans by cluster operation:

- Coordination and information management: 15
- Resource availability/mobilisation: 13
- Emergency response procedures: 13
- Human resources capacity: 11
- Roles and responsibilities: 10

n = 22 cluster operations
Have you recently assessed risks, hazards, vulnerabilities, particularly since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Yes: 30 (71%)
- No: 12 (29%)

If yes, please specify assessment method:

- JIAF: 12
- PHSA: 11
- STAR: 7
- MIRA: 6
- RRA: 6
- RHA: 6

Are you aware of recent risk assessments from...

- WHO: 33
- the government: 17
- Other: 9

n = 42 responses

Clusters using only one assessment: 4

Clusters using multiple methods/assessments: 14

n = 18 responses
Assessments cont.

Are affected populations included in national risk registers?

- Don't know: 6 (26%)
- Yes: 15 (65%)
- No: 2 (9%)

$n = 23$ responses

Is there a current landscaping of health system capacities, including health facility, service availability and provider/partner mapping?

- 3/4W: 39
- HeRams: 31
- Other: 5

$n = \text{multiple responses from 42 respondents}$
Humanitarian Coordination

Is there a coordinated multisectoral preparedness planning approach, or are clusters/sectors working in parallel?

- Coordinated approach: 33 (79%)
- Fragmented, parallel: 9 (21%)

Are there defined work streams?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workstreams by hazard</th>
<th>Workstreams by EPR components</th>
<th>Workstreams by coordination mechanism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population displacement</td>
<td>Multisectoral assessment</td>
<td>Multisectoral preparedness guided by PHEOC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease outbreaks</td>
<td>Needs analysis</td>
<td>Needs assessment and contingency planning through ICCG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floods</td>
<td>Disease Surveillance and Early Warning</td>
<td>Preparedness and response plan included in HRP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food insecurity</td>
<td>Emergency Medical Care</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict</td>
<td>Health Systems Strengthening</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insecurity</td>
<td>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter (Ukraine)</td>
<td>Coordination and Partnerships</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earthquake contingency plan (northwest Syria)</td>
<td>Access and accountability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n = 42 responses

n = 24 responses
Health Cluster Coordination

Do you have a preparedness specific WG, TF or other work stream within the health cluster coordination?

- Yes: 22 (52%)
- No: 20 (48%)

Were you able to plan for and cost specific preparedness actions into the HRP 2024?

- Yes: 21 (50%)
- No: 11 (26%)
- Partially: 10 (24%)

Is there a specific focus on strengthening continuous delivery of essential health services?

- Yes: 27 (87%)
- No: 4 (13%)

n = 42 responses
Health Cluster Coordination cont.

Please rate the capacity of your cluster partners, as a collective, to be ready, at this point in time, to respond to an emergency in these following response components.

Explanatory note on rating scale:
- **Not ready** (a response would not be possible at this moment)
- **Limited ready** (even a limited response would require extensive resources and time)
- **Moderately ready** (a response is possible but with limitations and delays)
- **Ready** (a response can be mounted with available resources and within an appropriate time)
- **Very ready** (an effective response can be mounted, and additional resources acquired without delay)
Coordination with governments

**Does the government have or is in the process of developing preparedness plans?**

- Yes: 15 (68%)
- No: 5 (23%)
- Don't know: 2 (9%)

*n = 22 cluster operations*

**If yes, is the health cluster actively engaged?**

- Yes: 28
- No: 1

*n = 29 responses*

**Is there a dedicated coordination platform for national preparedness, including information management?**

- Yes: 33 (78%)
- No: 7 (17%)
- Don't know: 2 (5%)

*n = 42 responses*
Public Health Emergency Operations Centres

**Does a functioning [public health] emergency operations centre exist?**

- Yes: 14 (64%)
- No: 7 (32%)
- Don't know: 1 (4%)

**Does the PHEOC extend to the sub-national level?**

- Yes: 3 (21%)
- No: 6 (43%)
- conflicting responses: 5 (36%)

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*n = 22 cluster operations*

*n = 14 cluster operations who replied Yes to 'Does a functioning PHEOC exist'.
Pandemic Fund

Has your country applied to the Pandemic Fund?

- Yes
- No
- Don’t know

Note on Syria: Only Syria Damascus has answered ‘Yes’ to this question.
Note on Pacific: the regional HC has applied for PF but is not depicted here.

Are there specific programmes or projects that explicitly target or include affected populations?

- Yes
- No
- Don’t know

3 20%
1 7%
11 73%

n = 15 cluster operations

Other donors mentioned by respondents:
World Bank, USAID, BHA, ECHO, Germany, Japan, Global Fund, NHF, Afghanistan Trust Fund
Tools and Resources

Which of the following tools do you use for...

**Assessments**

- RRA, MIRA
- PHSA
- JAF
- HeReams

**Preparedness and Response Planning**

- Health Cluster Guide
- OCHA Anticipatory Action Toolkit
- IASC Interagency Tools for Preparedness
- WHO Framework for a PHEOC
- WHO Multisectoral preparedness coordination framework
- Ready Initiative Infectious Disease Outbreak Response Coordination Guide
- Ready Initiative RCCE Readiness Guide
- WHO Emergency Response Framework
- Disease-specific EPR guidance (COVID-19, measles, cholera, Ebola)
### Tools and Resources (contextualization)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not yet, 6</th>
<th>HeRAMS, 3</th>
<th>PHSA, 2</th>
<th>RHA, 1</th>
<th>Checklists, 1</th>
<th>Health Cluster Guide, 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MIRA, 2</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>JIAF, 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>IASC tools, 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO multi hazard PRP guidance, 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cholera-specific guidance, 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCHA Anticipat... Action Tool Kit, 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4Ws, 1</td>
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</table>

Have you been able to adapt and contextualise specific guidance and tools to your operational needs?
### Capacity Building

#### Are you already providing training on preparedness, hazard-specific or generic, to your partners?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease-specific</th>
<th>Cholera, 2</th>
<th>Lassa Fever, 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not yet, 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No funding available for this type of activity, 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Which capacity building approaches/learning methods do you use?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Method</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Webinars</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops (online, hybrid or in-person)</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trainings (online, hybrid or in-person)</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online self-learning</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Training needs

Top [Five] priorities for capacity building

- Disease surveillance and public health data management
- Coordination
- Info management
- Health services capacity
- Continuation of essential services
- Supply and management of essential supplies
- Infection Prevention and Control
- Community engagement
- Community surveillance, contact tracing and quarantine
- Risk communication/infodemic management
- Staffing and workforce development
- Scale up of clinical management
- Access and delivery of vaccines and other therapeutics
- Diagnostics
- Other

Which support do you need?

- Funding for training
- Training on funding (resource allocation, flexibility)
- Establishment of a mentoring system to support subnational coordinators
- Online preparedness training
- On-site training
- Technical capacity for providing trainings
- Support to local NGOs (project development)
- Training on Health Cluster Coordination for partners
- Contextualising of guidance and tools
- Support to improve quality
- **Training on all-hazard preparedness planning at the Health Cluster Forum**
For discussion

- Existing tools
  - READY Initiative Infectious Disease Outbreak Response Coordination Guide
  - READY Initiative RCCE Readiness Guide

- Capacity building priorities
Recommendations

• Support health clusters to sustain and expand on
  • preparedness planning,
  • integration into national plans and funding proposals

• Support Health Cluster Coordinators with
  • targeted and contextualised support to partners
  • develop workplans and priorities for capacity building
  • in collaboration with technical units in WHO develop tailored training modules, and
  • Integrate humanitarian aspects in broader preparedness and readiness tools, including in hazard-specific tools as they are being updated or developed

• Develop specific tools, such as checklists that focus on coordination, multisectoral collaboration and integration of needs in national plans and policies for all hazards.
Work in Progress

• Development of tools
  • All-hazard preparedness checklists
  • Repository of key resources (policy and technical guidance, training resources)

• Collaboration with technical units in WHE
  • WHO Country Office ERF Readiness Checklist
  • Health Emergency Readiness Operation Capacity Checklist

• Mapping of health cluster activities against the HEPR 5Cs
Work in Progress

- Development of tools
  - All-hazard preparedness checklists
  - Repository of key resources (policy and technical guidance, training resources)

- Collaboration with technical units in WHE
- WHO Country Office ERF Readiness Checklist
- Health Emergency Readiness Operation Capacity Checklist

Modular Checklists

- Preparedness Framework
- Situation Analysis
- Preparedness Planning
- Health System Capacity
- Coordination
- Multisectoral Collaboration
- Community Protection
- Funding Strategies
- [Capacity Building]

Key Resources

Targeted questions

Preparedness Actions

Follow up Actions
Work in Progress

- Development of tools
  - All-hazard preparedness checklists
  - Repository of key resources (policy and technical guidance, training resources)

- Collaboration with technical units in WHE
  - WHO Country Office ERF Readiness Checklist
  - Health Emergency Readiness Operation Capacity Checklist

- Mapping of health cluster activities against the HEPR 5Cs
Work in Progress

- Development of tools
  - All-hazard preparedness checklists
  - Repository of key resources (policy guidance, training resources)

- Collaboration with technical units
  - WHO Country Office ERF Readiness Checklist
  - Health Emergency Readiness Operation Capacity Checklist

- Mapping of health cluster activities against the HEPR 5Cs

Alignment of Health Cluster activities with the 5Cs of the HEPR framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEPR 5Cs</th>
<th>Key Objectives</th>
<th>Health Cluster Engagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collaborative surveillance</td>
<td>Strong national integrated disease, threat, and vulnerability surveillance</td>
<td>• Integrated situation analysis, including public health surveillance (PHIS, EWARS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Collaborative approaches to event detection, risk assessment, and response monitoring</td>
<td>• Systematic multisectoral needs assessments (MIRA, JIAF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Systematic mapping of activities to crisis-affected population: Who does What Where (3Ws), When (4Ws) and to Whom (5Ws)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Systematic mapping of health services availability (HeRAMS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community protection</td>
<td>Community engagement, risk communication and infodemic management to guide priority actions and strengthen community resilience</td>
<td>Evidence from the studies of the COVID-19 response in humanitarian settings:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• The Health Cluster lead on multisectoral collaboration with all clusters for broad community-based public health interventions is a key achievement and central lesson from the COVID-19 pandemic in humanitarian settings.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Strengthening and supporting national and local partners</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Protection mainstreaming and localization with focus on RCCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population and environmental public health interventions</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Multisectoral efforts on public health and social measures in and with affected communities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Focus on equitable access to vaccination (advocacy, coordination, implementation, monitoring)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multisectoral action for social and economic protection</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Integration of affected populations in national social health protection systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Advocacy for equitable access to livelihoods, education, and social participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Protection from vulnerabilities (cash-based interventions)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>