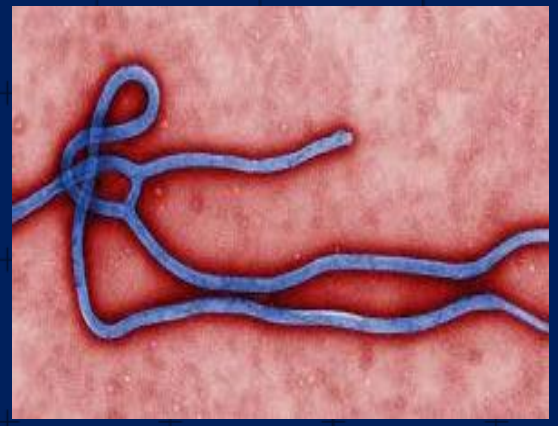
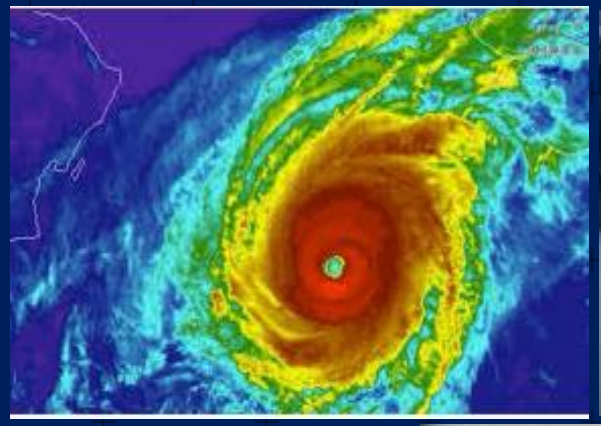
WHO AFRO Region Public Health Preparedness Activities in Africa

December 2025

World Health Organization
African Region

Emergency Preparedness

What are our risks? How do we prepare?

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"Emergency preparedness refers to actions introduced **before** the onset of an emergency to improve the **effectiveness, efficiency, timeliness and accountability** of emergency responses to **save lives and provide protection" UNHCR**

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Risk assessment and Emergency Preparedness

- To enhance level of preparedness in accordance with IHR (2005) countries are required to:

  - Conduct a risk assessment to identify the hazards that pose a very high or high risk
  - Develop and implement an all-hazard emergency response plan
  - Develop and implement contingency plans for the hazards that pose a very high or high risk.

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT CYCLE

THE 4 COMPONENTS OF THE IHRMEF IN THE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CYCLE

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DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT CYCLE

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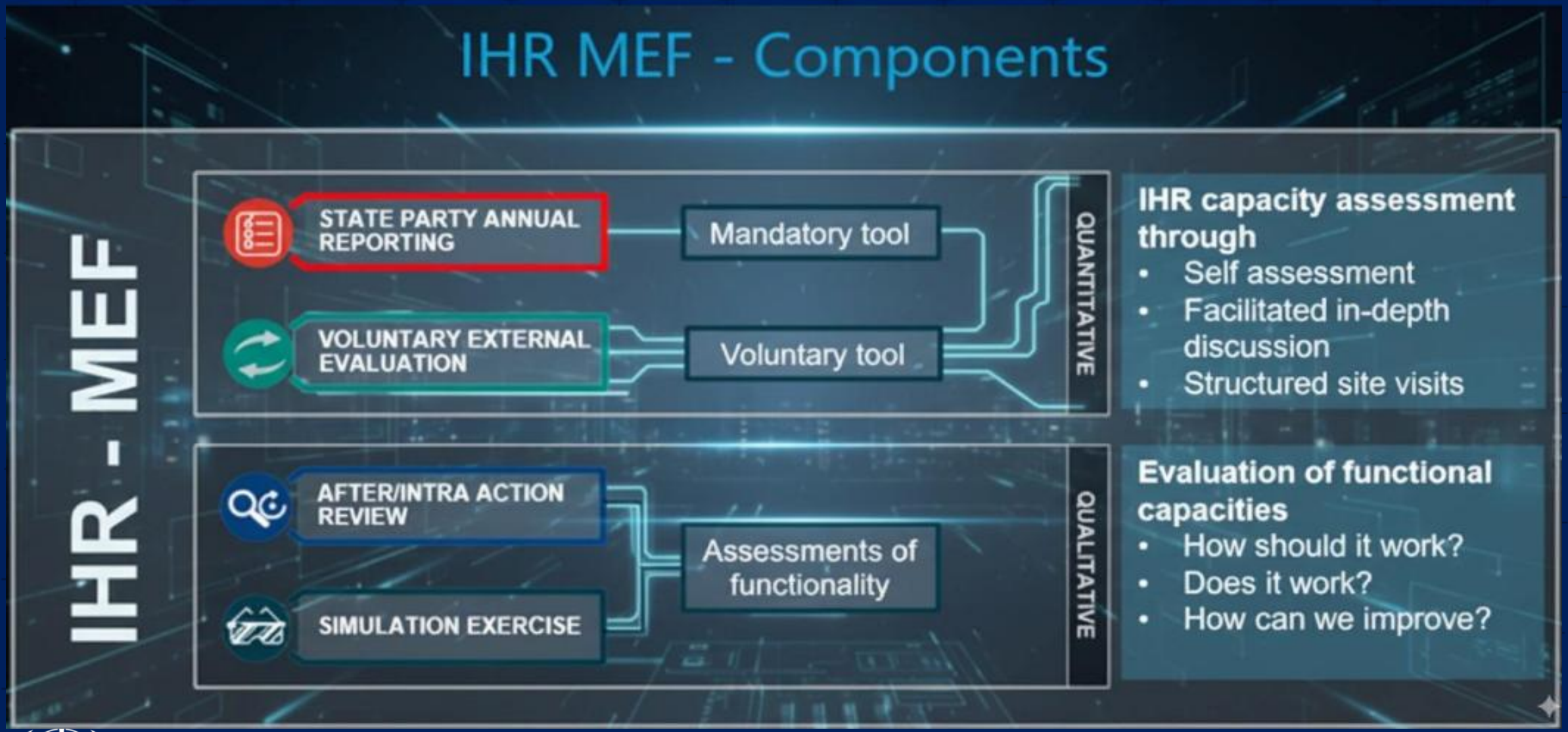
IHR MEF - Components



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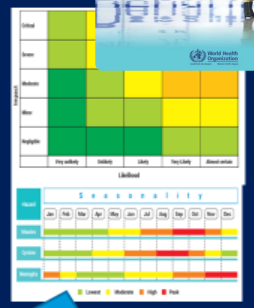
THE 4 COMPONENTS OF THE IHRMEF IN THE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CYCLE

AAR
- After action review
- Voluntary
- Following each response

SIMEX
- Simulation exercise
- Voluntary
- On a regular basis

SPAR
- State party annual reporting
- Mandatory
- Every year

JEE
- Joint external evaluation
- Voluntary
- Every five years



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Joint external evaluation 3.0 - 56 indicators, 19 technical areas, 4 categories

PREVENT

1. Legal Instruments
2. Financing
3. IHR Coordination, National IHR Focal Point Functions and Advocacy
4. Antimicrobial Resistance
5. Zoonotic Disease
6. Food Safety
7. Biosafety and Biosecurity
8. Immunization

DETECT

9. National Laboratory System
10. Surveillance
11. Human Resources

RESPOND

12. Health Emergency Management
13. Linking Public Health and Security Authorities
14. Health Services Provision
15. Infection Prevention and Control
16. Risk Communication and Community Engagement

OTHER HAZARDS

17. Points of Entry and Border Health
18. Chemical Events
19. Radiation Emergencies

states/countries
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Central Africa Republic
Chad
Comoros
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
DRC
Eritrea
Ethiopia
The Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria
Rwanda
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
South Africa
South Sudan
Swaziland
Tanzania
Togo
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe
Algeria
Angola
Cabo Verde
Equatorial Guinea
Gabon
Guinea Bissau
São Tomé and Principe
Legislation
Coordination
AMR
Zoonosis
Food safety
Bio-safety & bio-security
Immunization
Laboratory
Surveillance
Reporting
Human resources
Emergency preparedness
Emergency response operation
Linking PH and security
Medical countermeasures & personnel deployment
Risk communication
Points of entry
Chemical events
Radiation emergency
Prevent
Detect
Respond
PoE and other IHR hazards
Arithmetic Mean

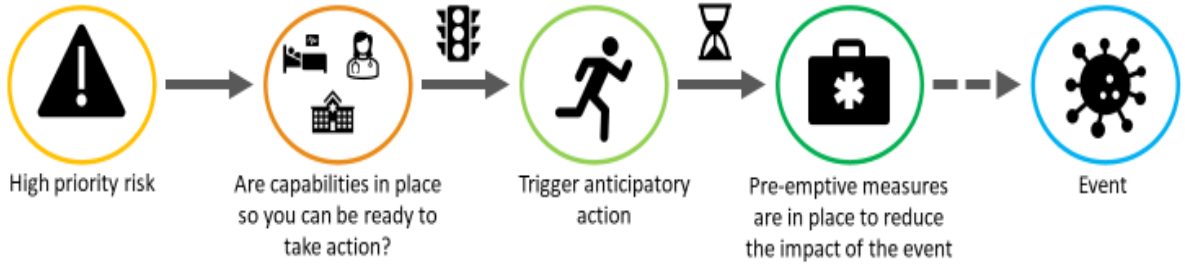
PREPAREDNESS AND READINESS

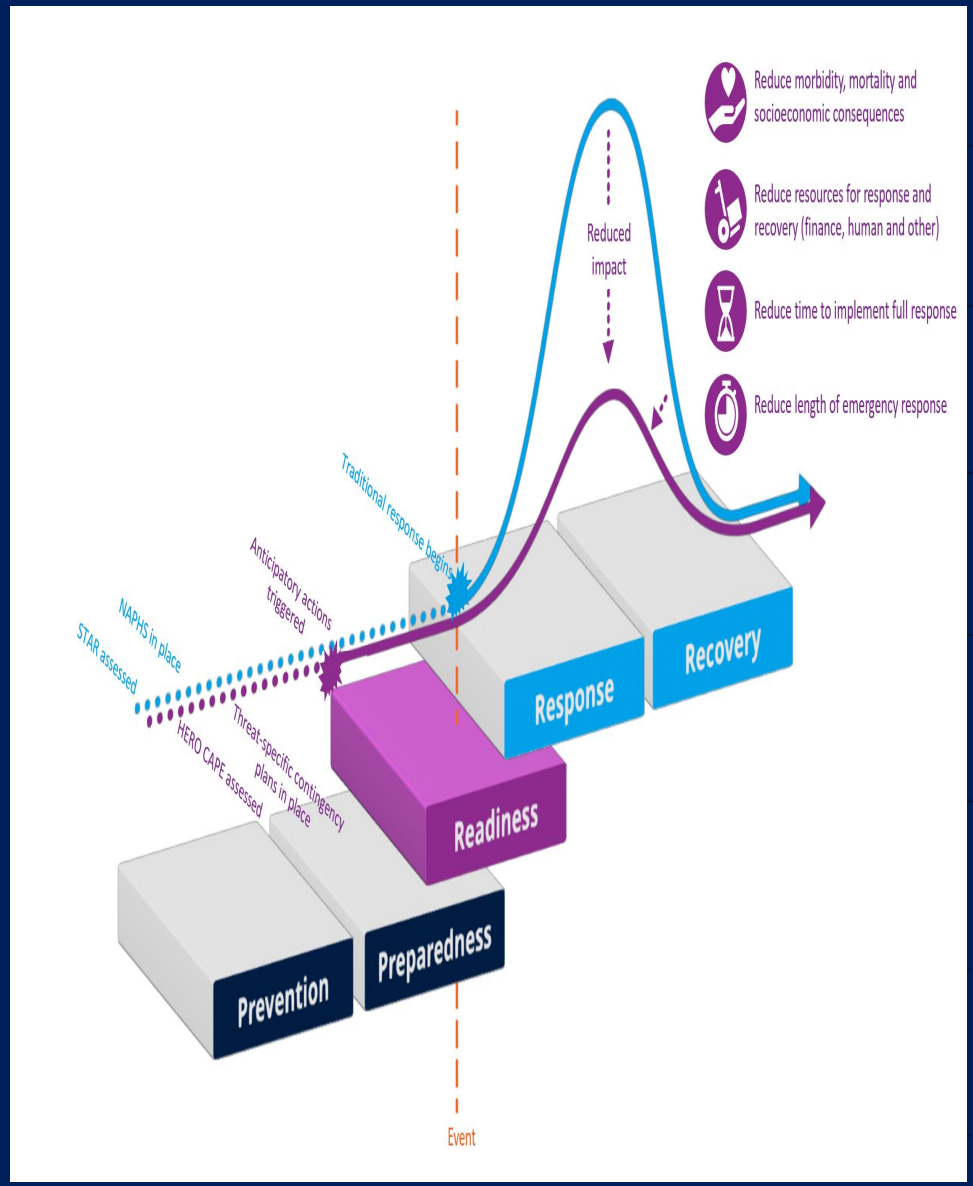
- OPR is the status of specific functional capabilities that are **activated, fast-tracked, or prepositioned** in anticipation of needing to respond quickly and appropriately to a **priority, imminent, or simulated threat**.

- OPR functional capabilities **bridge** preparedness and response in the health emergency cycle and involve triggering well-characterized anticipatory actions

- Long and medium-term preparedness are prioritized in the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) to address gaps identified in International Regulations (IHR) core capacities

- An OPR plan prioritizes the critical actions required for an effective imminent response, addressing gaps





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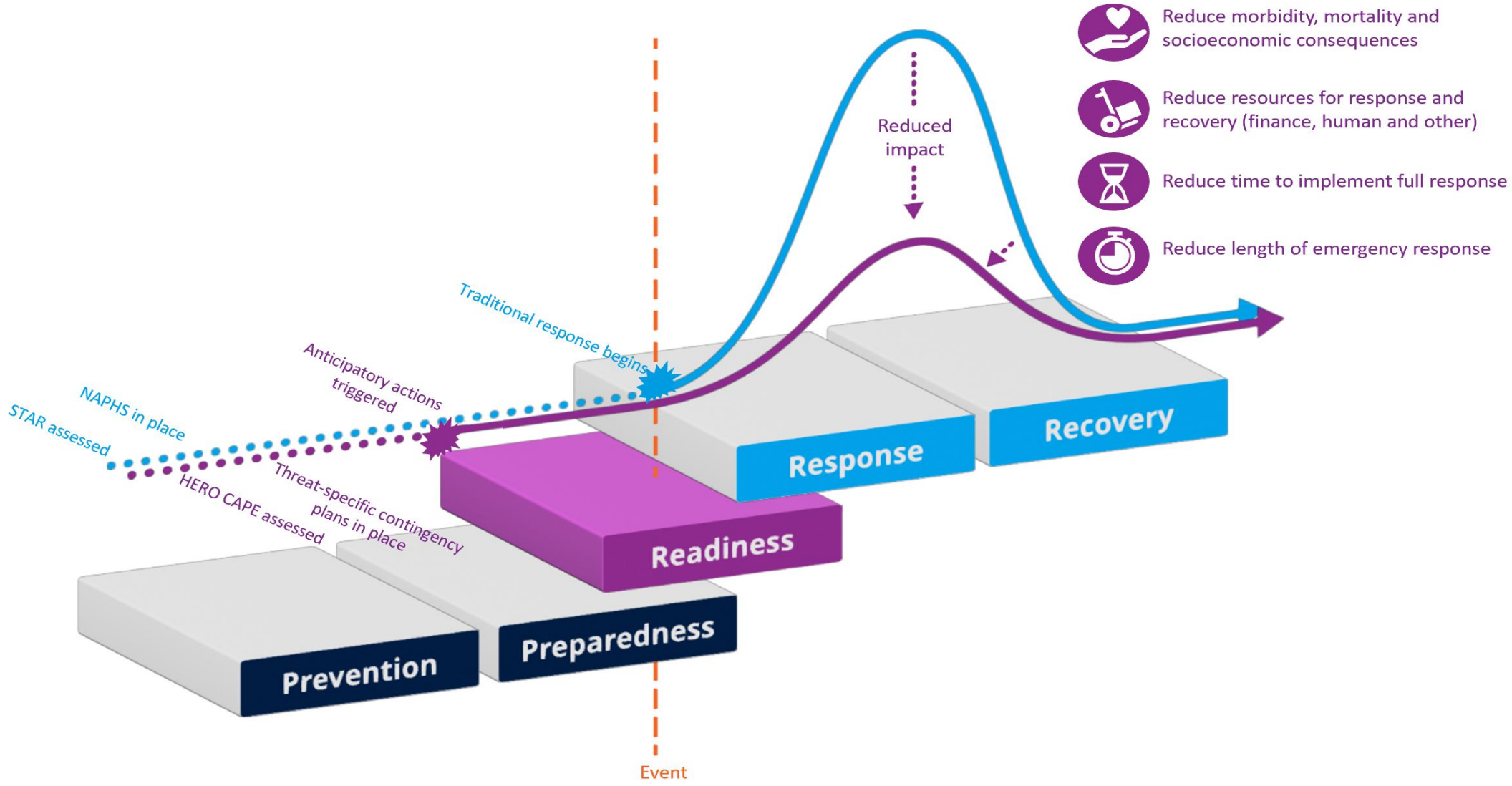

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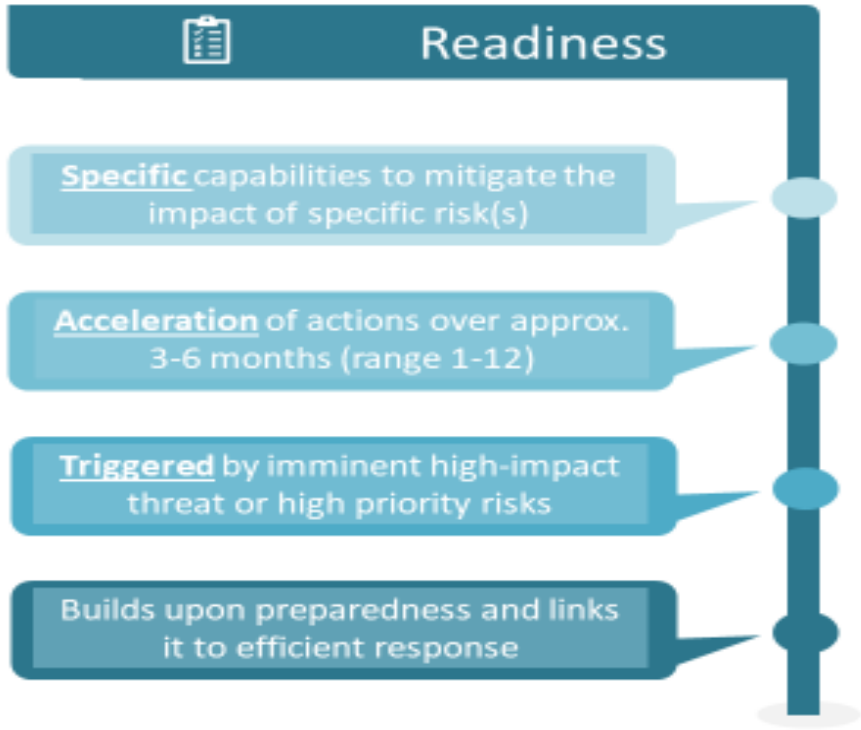
Preparedness vs. readiness/mitigation



Example
1. Establish and EOC with trained staff and equipment
2. Establish a PH Lab with trained staff and equipment

Example
1. Update the EOC roster and conduct a SimEx
2. Move specific lab test kits to high-risk areas

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Filovirus Diseases (FVD)

Consolidated Readiness Survey 2025v1

in the WHO African Region

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The purpose of this exercise is to assess the readiness for responding to potential outbreaks of filovirus diseases by the Member States.

The data presented on this dashboard are collected from WHO Member States in the African Region. Data are subject to change and are presented as they are reported by the Member States.

2025-Q4
Data Period

4
/47 Countries Reported

Click the links below to view the readiness dashboards:

Home | Readiness by Pillar | Readiness by Country | Readiness Responses | Readiness Scores | Readiness Data Table

Filovirus Diseases (FVD) Consolidated Readiness Checklist

Dear Respondent,

Please find below a set of indicators for the assessment of country readiness for filovirus outbreak response. Please kindly respond to all questions before submitting. Following your submission, you shall receive a confirmation email to the email addresses provided with a link to a summary analysis and report of your country readiness profile.

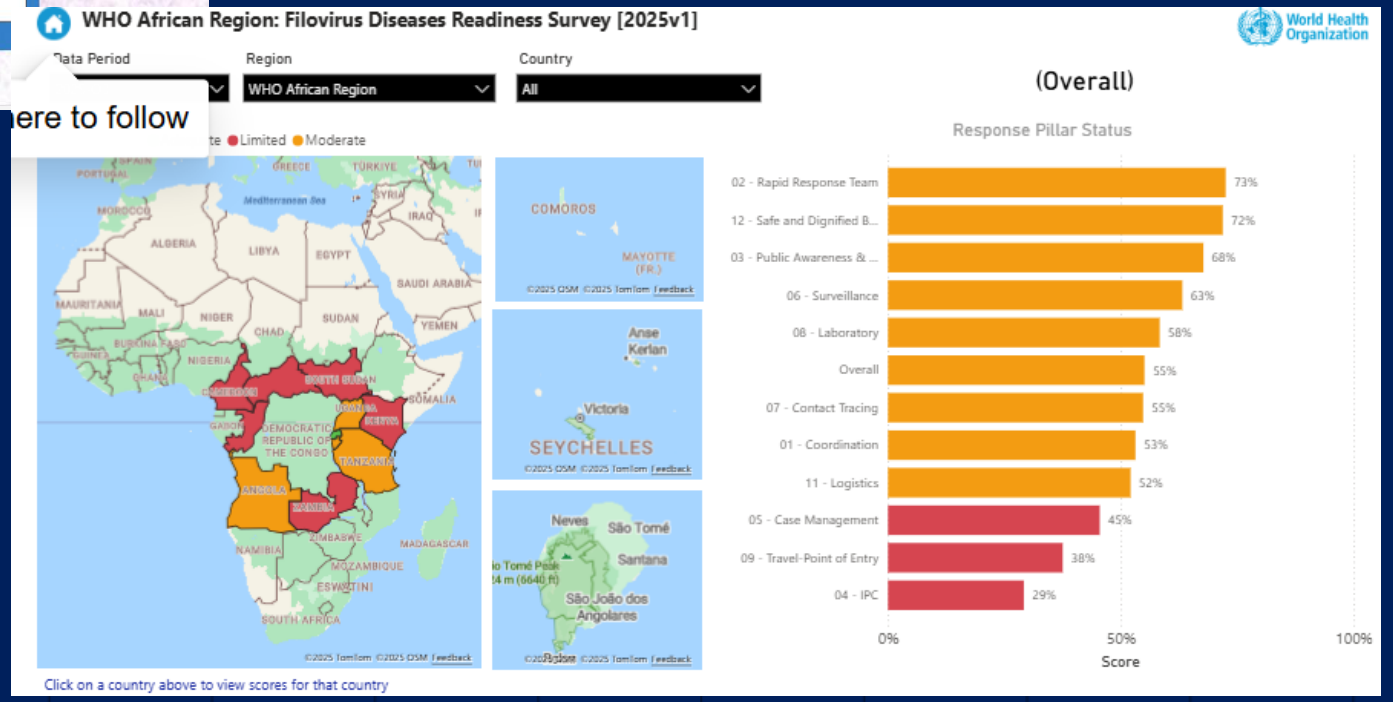
Thanks for your kind participation
Regards

* **Select country**

none selected

* **Date of data entry**

ere to follow



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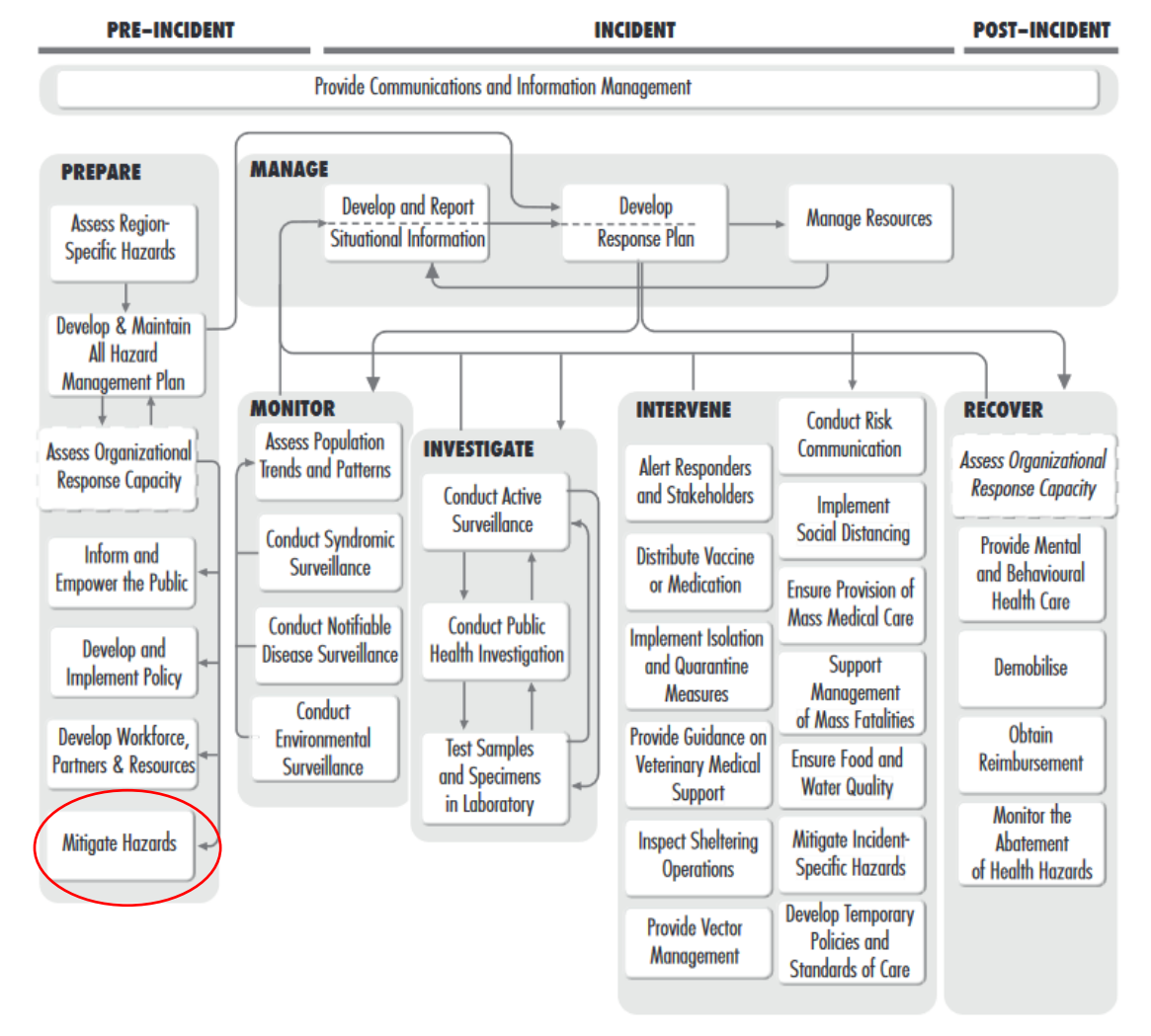

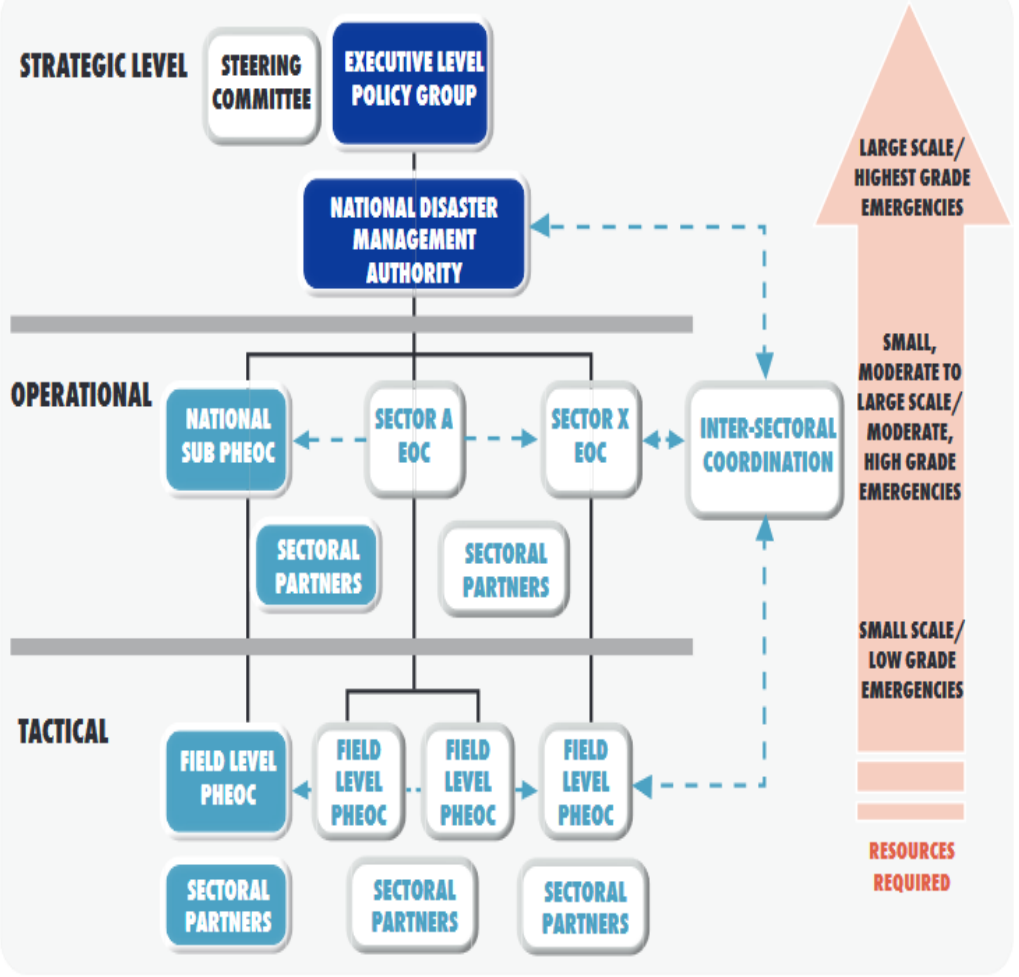

SOURCE: PHEOC Guidance Document (WHO)

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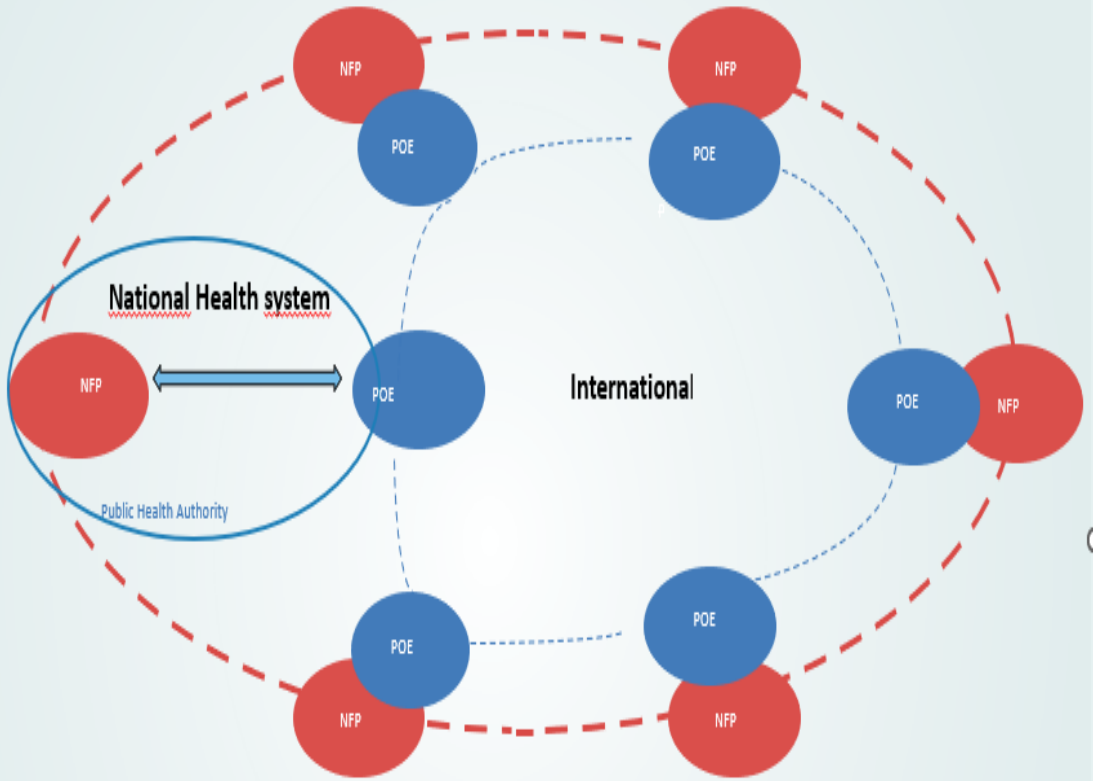
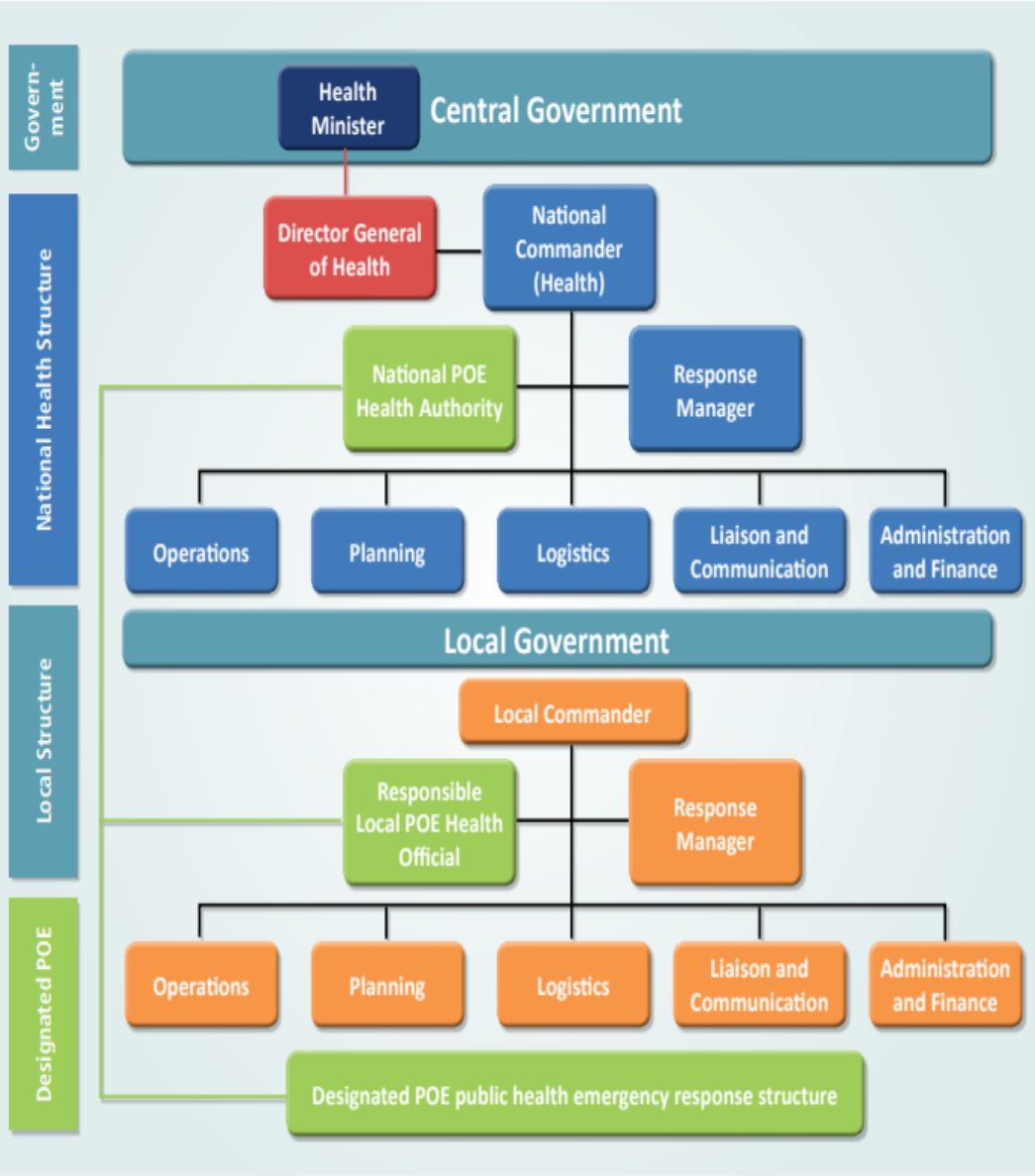
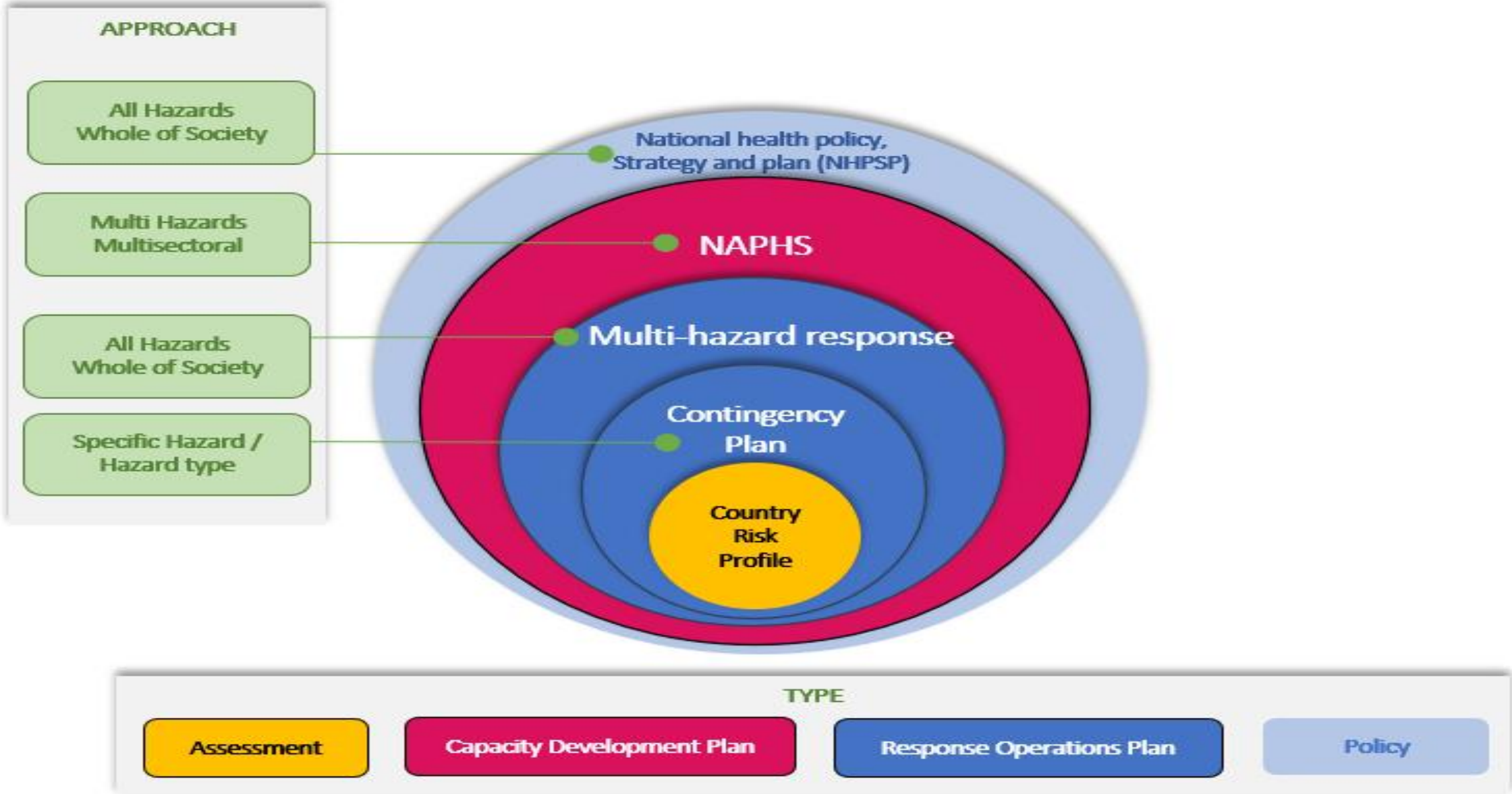


NFP : National IHR Focal Point

POE : Point of Entry



Preparedness planning in health security



- What is a contingency plan?

"A plan to deal with particular aspects of a specific threat that is different from other threats. "

"A plan that sets out the hazard-specific measures required for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery in order to minimise the level of risk posed by that hazard"

- What is a Multihazard or All-Hazard preparedness and response plan?

*"a document that describes how an agency or organization or **country** will manage its responses to emergencies of various types by providing a description of the objectives, policy and concept of operations for the response to an emergency. It also lays out the structure, authorities and responsibilities for a systematic, coordinated and effective response"*

*A **national action plan for health security (NAPHS)** to which stakeholders commit to improving a country's level of preparedness over a given period of time*

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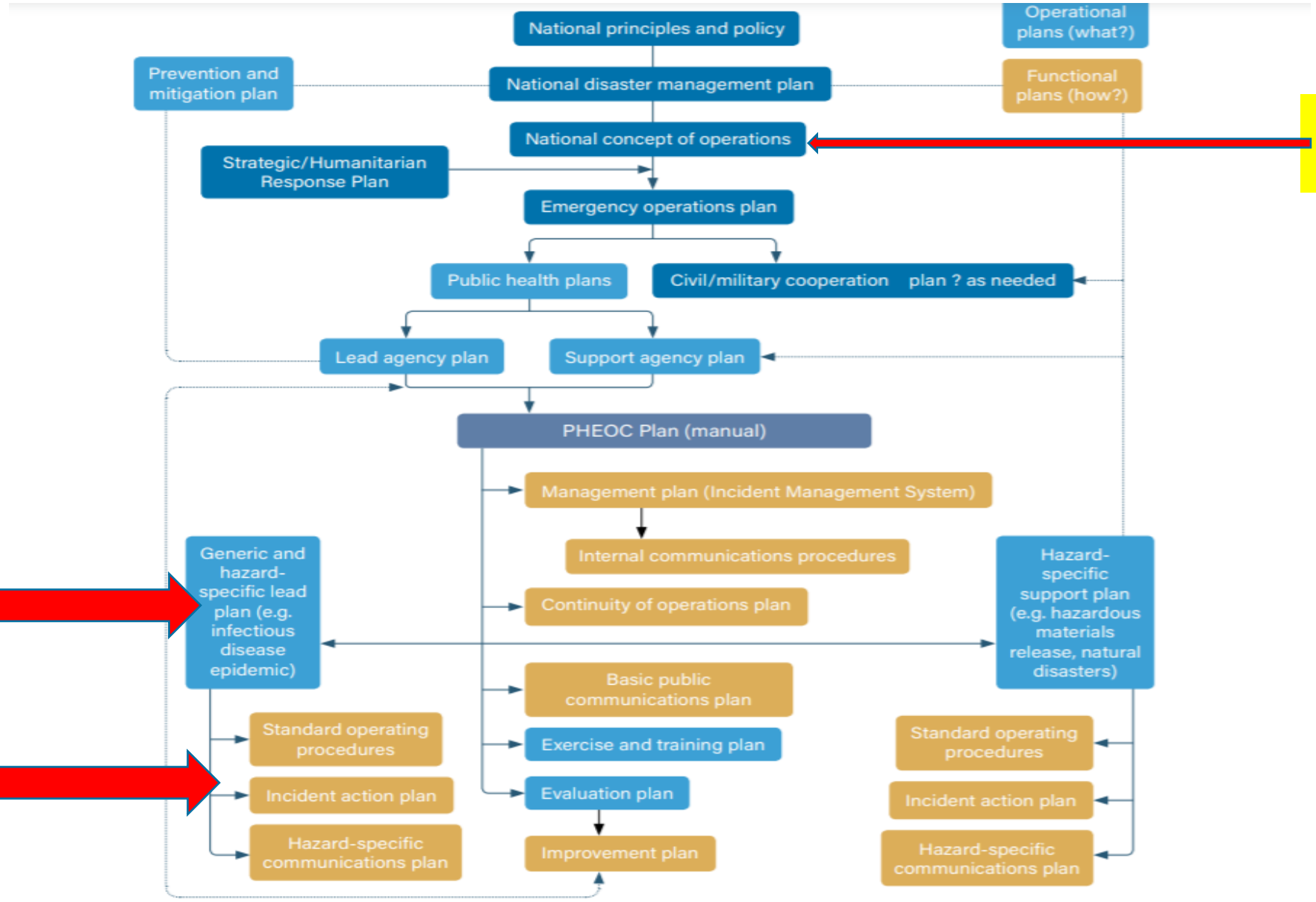

National Multihazard plan/NHEROP (non-hazard specific)

Contingency (hazard specific) plans

Response/Incident action (hazard specific) plans

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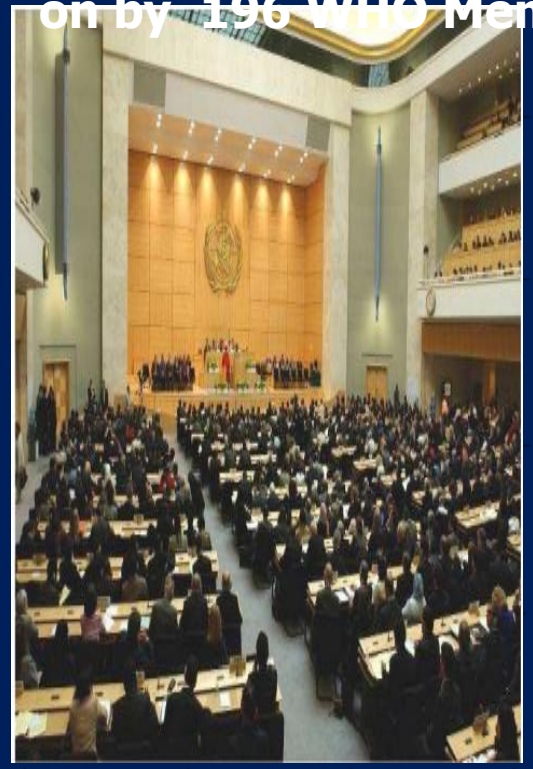
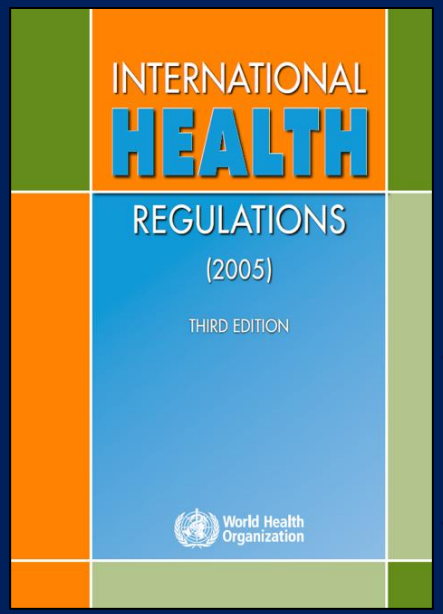
The International Health Regulations (IHR 2005)

- Adopted in 2005; entered into force in 2007; **legally biding, global health security framework agreed on by 196 WHO Member States**





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- Strengthened national capacity for **surveillance and control, including at ports, airports and ground crossings, and travel and transport**
- **Prevention, prepare for,** alert and response to international public health emergencies
- Global partnership and international collaboration
- Rights, obligations and procedures, and progress monitoring

AFRO Readiness/Preparedness | Advances in AFRO Region (1)

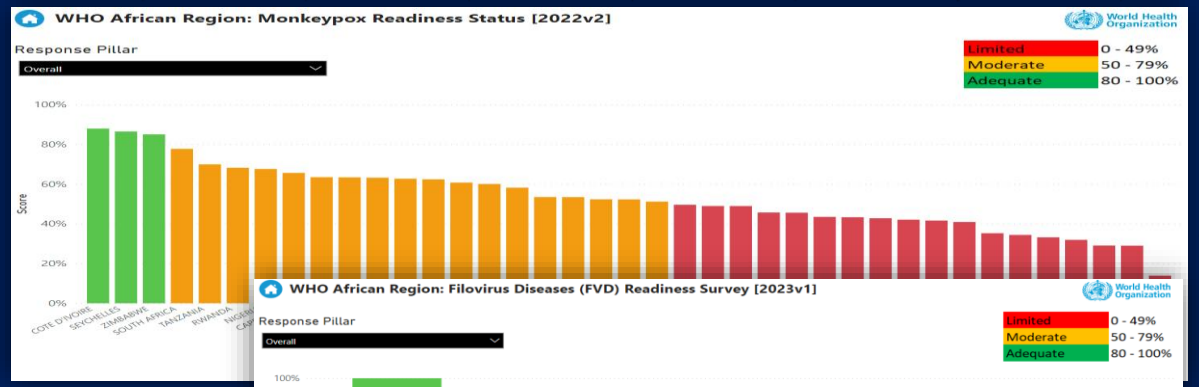
AFRO has recently supported prioritized countries to conduct readiness assessments and to implement readiness activities as below:

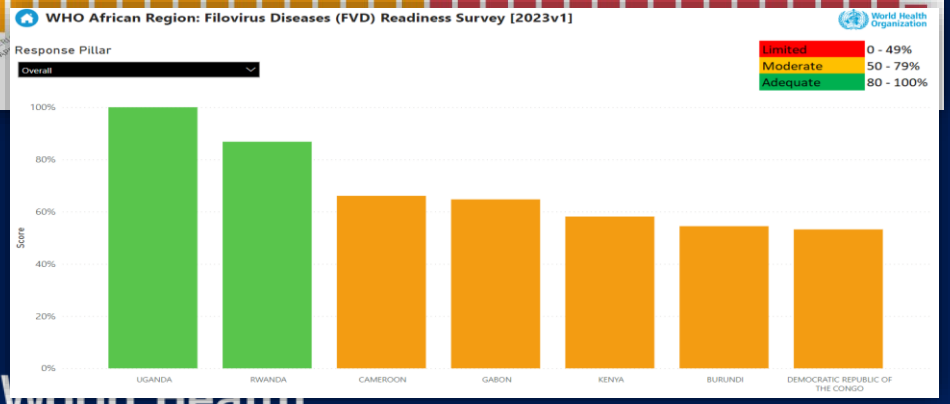
All **47** AFRO countries, including response countries for the **2022, 2024- multi Mpox-country outbreaks**

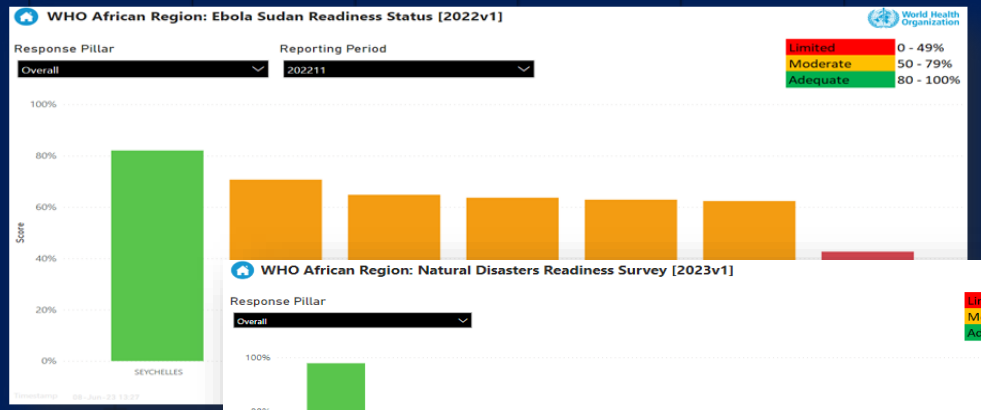
Prioritized countries for the FVD VHFs: **2025- MVD Tanzania, SVD Uganda, EVD DRC, MVD Eth outbreaks**

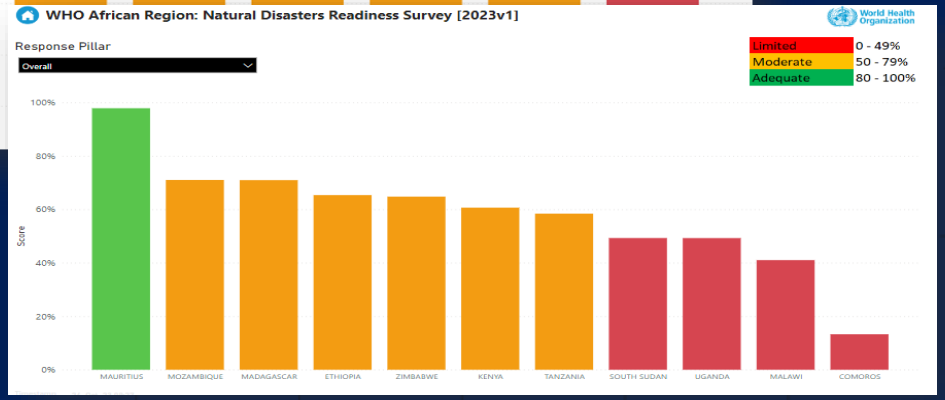
36, including response countries for the **2023 multi-country Cholera outbreaks.**

11 prioritized countries for **natural disasters (EL- Nino and cyclones), Also developed a POE VHF assessment tool**









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Readiness/preparedness initiatives contd.

- **Operational** readiness training hosted in Rwanda for FVC countries 2024
- **AI based Readiness Intelligence Tool Pilots**: The RIT pilot was rolled out in Nigeria, South Sudan and Chad. Discussions are underway to conduct a multi-country RIT workshop and roll out.
- **POE/Border Health Framework**: AFRO, in collaboration with Africa CDC, are developing a regional border health framework (the first draft is under review and will be shared with member states for inputs).
- **Preparedness in Humanitarian Framework**: a draft is currently developed to be disseminated
- **Community Readiness TTX:** AFRO, HQ and partners (UK HSA) conducted community readiness TTX in Ghana in early 2024, Uganda 2025 and planning for a TTX in 2026 trying to push for implementation in Border communities
- **Mass Gathering:** AFRO is developing the List of Events (LoEs) for mass gatherings 2025- 2026 to support country readiness for mass events.utilizing global online mass gathering tool
- **Webinars**: Cholera and Marburg in Feb 2025; PoE/border health in August Sept 2025; Risk calendars and predictions and anticipatory actions on Sept 2025 and plans underway for Framework launch webinar.
- AVOHC SURGE training for over 3,000 government personnel in the region, (target increased to 5000), JEAP program is strengthening in Workforce, OSL, Laboratory etc. regional stockpiles in Nairobi and Dakar
- FETP frontline trainings for POE personnel being piloted- South Africa, other trainings being facilitated as requested – pandemic fund- Towards strengthening the Africa regional strategy for health security and emergencies 2022-2030 & COVID-19 lessons
- Support to countries to conduct exercises. PRoBE project in planning stage

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AFRO Readiness | Challenges and Recommendations

Challenges

- Delays in completion and sharing of the readiness assessment tools
- Limited HR capacities
- Focus on the national level
- Competing emergencies hence delays in getting feedback from countries
- Insecurities in some countries
- Funding gaps and Low funds utilization by countries

Recommendations

- Enhance coordination and information sharing
- Timely completion and sharing of readiness checklist and development/updating CP & SPRPs
- Strengthen workforce planning through engagements with partners
- Rollout of readiness activities to the sub-national level
- Strengthen cross-border collaboration
- Support prioritized readiness countries in conducting hazard-specific readiness assessments Ensure efficient and timely utilization of funds

  In-country **resource mobilization.**

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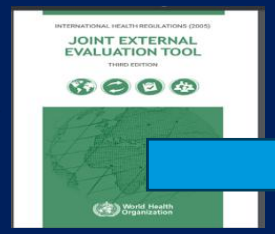

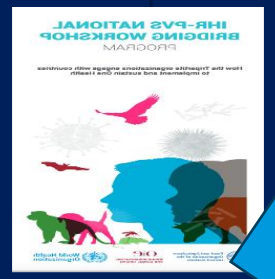

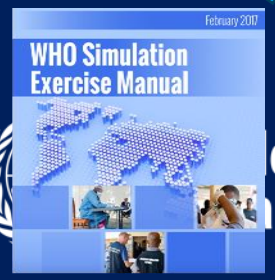

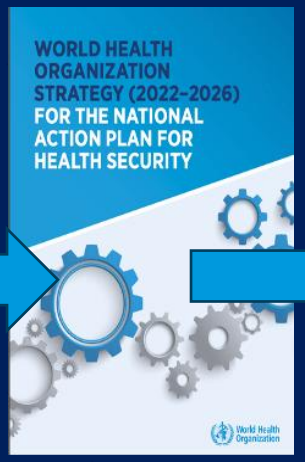

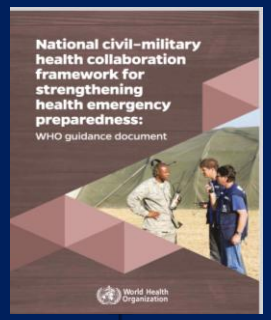

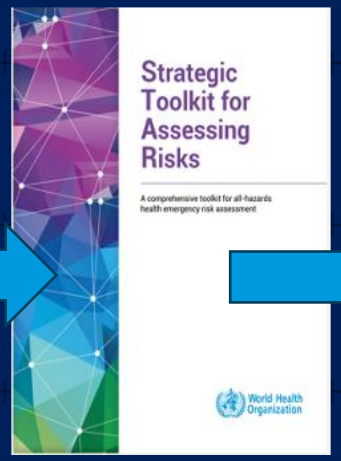

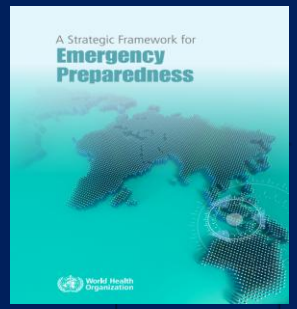

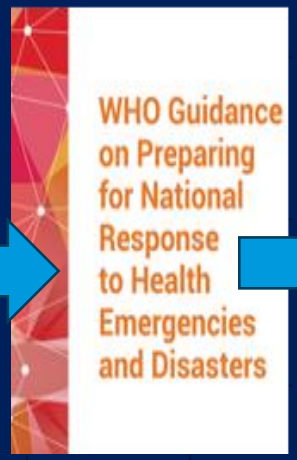

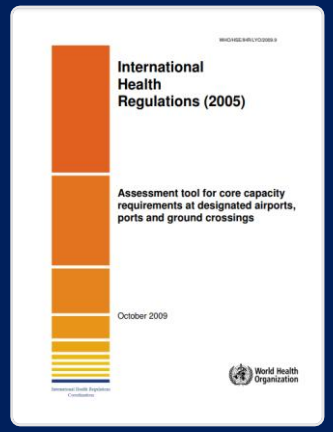

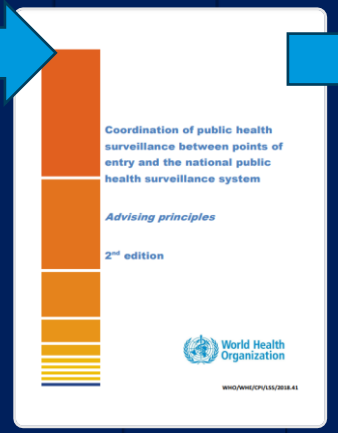

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“No one is safe until we ALL are safe” –Dr. Tedros, DG WHO

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Thank you. Merci.
Obrigado. Assante