Overview of recent regional activities and initiatives, reporting on airport designation vis-à-vis the status of contingency plans in SPAR and coordination between aviation and public health authorities

Country Health Emergency Preparedness and IHR Programme

Health Emergencies Programme,

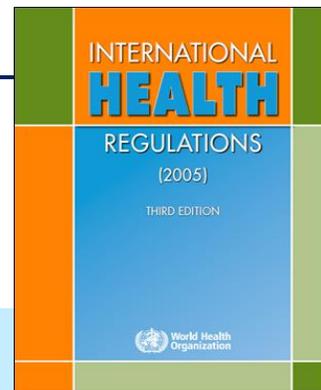WHO Regional Offices for Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean

Cologne, 25- 26 April 2024

World Health Organization

European Region

Introduction to designated PoE under the IHR(2005), reporting on designated airports and public health emergency contingency plans in SPAR

World Health Organization

European Region

Designation of points of entry (POE) under the IHR (2005)

- **3 types of POE**: airport, port, ground crossing

- Airports and ports (article 20): "States Parties **shall** designate the airports and ports that shall develop the capacities provided in Annex 1"

- Ground crossings (article 21): "Where justified for public health reasons, a State Party **may** designate ground crossings that shall develop the capacities provided in Annex 1"

Criteria for designation:

1) Population density in and around the POE
2) Epidemiological situation in around the POE
3) Volume and frequency of international traffic
4) Multimodal transportation
5) Public health risks in the place of origin and transit of international traffic
6) Existing capacities and facilities to manage public health risks at the POE
7) Joint designation of POE with neighboring country

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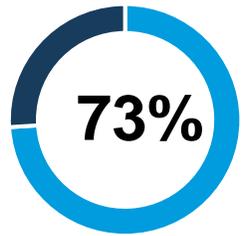# Core capacity requirements at designation PoE

At all times (routine)

- Medical services and adequate staff to allow the assessment and care of ill travellers
- Trained staff and programmes for vector control
- Equipment and personnel for transport of ill travellers
- A safe environment for travellers at all point of entry facilities
- Trained personnel for inspection of conveyances

In response to a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC)
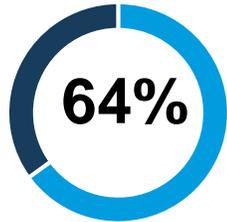
- **Develop a Public Health Emergency Contingency plan**
- Transfer travellers with infection/ contamination.
- Provide assessments & care for affected travellers or animals
- Apply entry/exist control for departing & arriving passengers
- Interview suspect or affected persons
- Apply recommended measures to disinfect and decontaminate, baggage, cargo, etc
- Perform assessments and quarantine of suspect or affected travellers

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State Party self-assessment Annual Reporting (SPAR) WHO EURO 2023

All capacities EURO average 2023

73%

All capacities Global average 2023

64%

Main challenges reported

- C1 Policy, Legal and normative Instruments to implement IHR — 62%
- C6 Human resources — 67%
- C10 Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) — 68%
- C11 Points of entry (PoEs) and border health — 70%
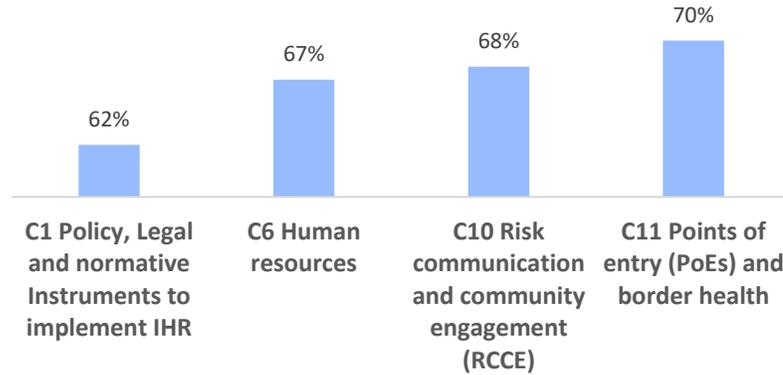
Region(EURO) average score for PoE from 2021-2023

- Region average score for PoE in 2021 — 65%
- Region average score for PoE in 2022 — 67%
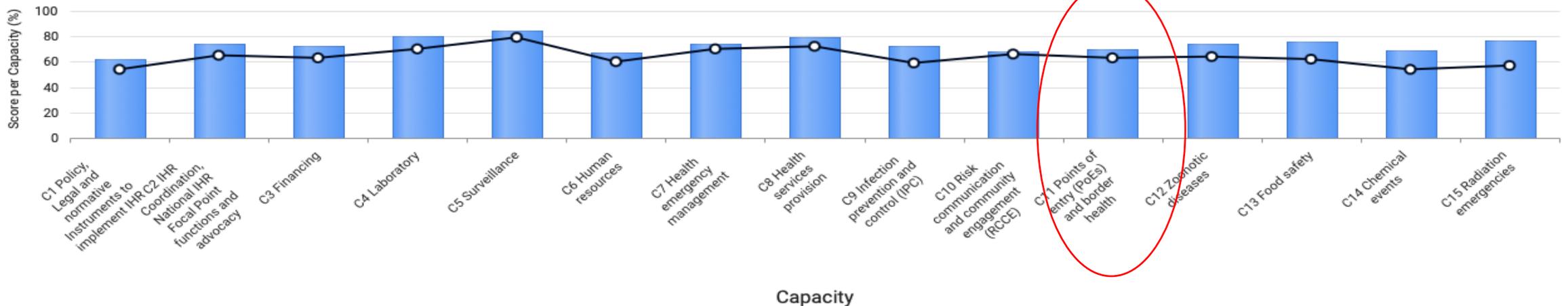- Region average score for PoE in 2023 — 70%
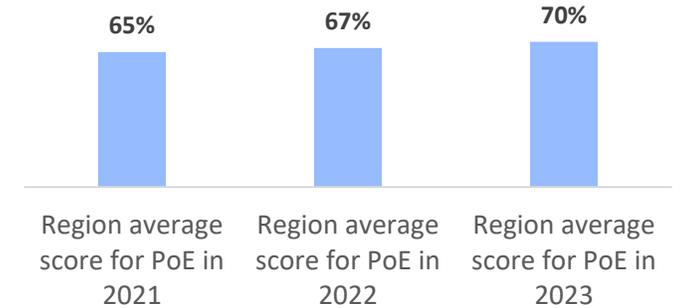
IHR Score per capacity EURO 2023 (Updated on 18-03-2024)

— Region Average   N=54 (based on 54 countries that have submitted)   — Global Average N=194 (based on 194 countries that have submitted)

WHO EURO SPAR 2023 - Points of Entry and Border Health

234 ✈

Number of designated airports reported

225 🚚

Designated ground crossings reported

230 🚢

Designated Ports in the WHO EURO Region.

571

PoEs reported to have a public health emergency contingency plan

500

PoEs reported to have a programme for vector surveillance and control

40

States Parties reported authorized ports to issue ship sanitation certificates (SSC)

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (2005)

STATE PARTY SELF-ASSESSMENT ANNUAL REPORTING TOOL
Second Edition

World Health Organization

extranet.who.int

https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240040120

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Status of public health emergency contingency plans at designated airports reported in SPAR 2023

Status of public health emergency contingency plans at designated airports in the WHO European regions

- ■ Number of designated airports with public health emergency contingency plan
- ■ Number of designated airports with no public health emergency contingency plan
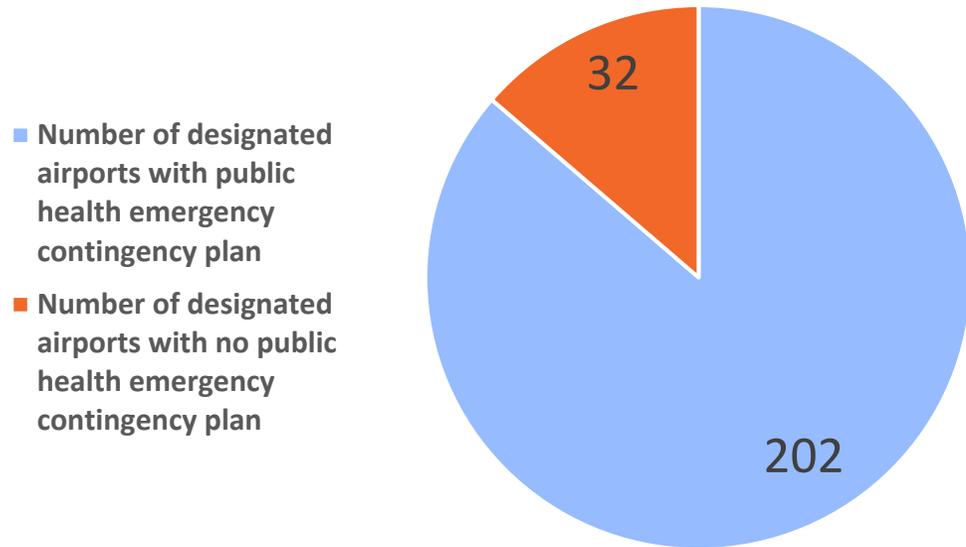
States Parties reporting a public health emergency contingency plan at designated airports (n=54)

World Health Organization
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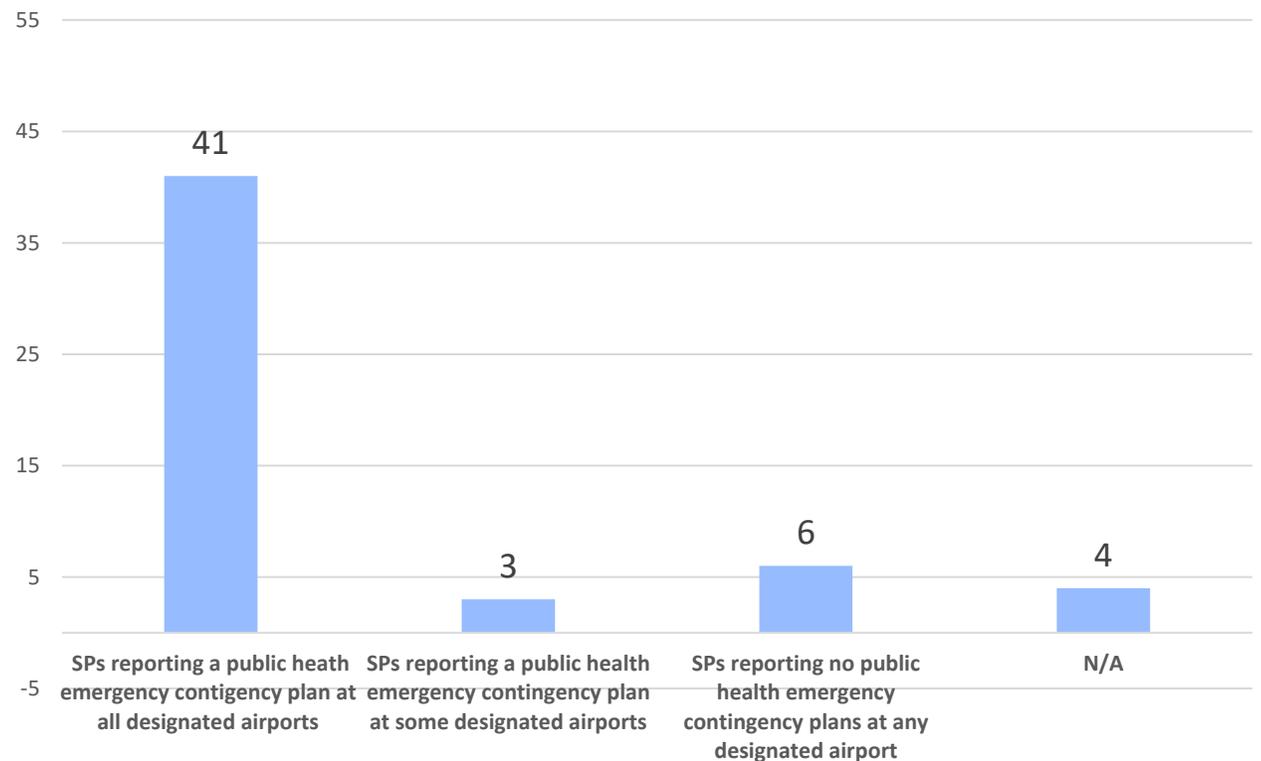
Overview of regional activities and initiatives

World Health Organization
European Region

WHO Operational Support on Border Health

2.1.1 All- Hazard emergency preparedness capacities in countries assess and reported

2.1.2 Capacities for emergency preparedness strengthened in all countries

Key support actions

- States Parties Annual Reporting (SPAR) Process

- Simulation Exercises on PoE

- Intra/After Action Reviews reviewing PoE/international travel measures response

- Joint External Evaluations

- Support to Action Planning for improvement of PoE capacity based on IHRMEF results and linked to NAPHS

- PoE Contingency Plan Development and implementation during health emergencies

- Provide access to a specialized network of PoE expertise including in the aviation, shipping and cruise cruises a land-crossings sector.

- IHR Art. 43: Monitoring, analysis and reporting of international travel measures in response to emergencies (EIS, Dashboards)

- Regional/sub-regional consultations on coordinated decisions making including operational framework development

- Tailored support based on country requests

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Support to Member States for assessing and strengthening core capacity requirements for designated airports

Subregional and national trainings on use of the WHO assessment tool for core capacity requirements at designated airports

Assessments of public health capacities at airports

IHR MEF activities relating to PoE such as SPAR, JEE, IAR/AAR

Development of a public health emergency contingency plans

Tailored support based on country requests

Simulation exercises at airports

World Health Organization
European Region

Examples of Border health support activities in the WHO European Region in 2023

- Sub-regional & national trainings on use of the WHO Assessment tool for core capacity requirements at designated airports: Kazakhstan, June 2023: 45 pax. from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were trained on using this tool for assessing public health capacities at airports.

- National IHR Focal Point Trainings, including modules relevant for airports - Türkiye, November 2023: Introductory training on IHR and IHR NFP function and experience-exchange for all IHR NFPs.

- Joint Assessment and Detection of Event (JADE) Functional Exercises, including modules relevant for airports: Denmark, November 2023: Annual regional functional simulation exercise involving a disease outbreak and its consequences requiring multisectoral coordination for all 55 WHO EURO IHR State Parties

- Support for public health capacity assessments at airports (Serbia, June,2023. Supported the assessment of public health capacities at the Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport)

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Support to decision-making and monitoring of Public Health and Social Measures in response to health emergencies

- Comprehensive database of PHSM response to COVID-19, including including international travel measures implemented at airports by **EURO Member States (33k entries, 5k on travel and trade measures)**

- International travel measures implemented at airports shared with NFPs via **WHO restricted platform for public health emergencies** (*Event Information Site*, EIS)

- Ongoing: Development of WHO guidance on monitoring of PHSM, including international travel measures implemented at airports, in response to health emergencies.

- Ongoing: Development of global PHSM Policy monitoring platform, including data collection of PHSM measures implemented at airports.

- Ongoing: The PHSM Bibliographic Library, first in the series of three interconnected tools of the PHSM Knowledge Hub. A dynamic database of global, multidisciplinary PHSM research which is continuously curated and updated by automated feeds and experts.

EURO COVID-19 PHSM Platform   PHSM Knowledge Hub

Country support on decision-making for implementation of international travel measures at airports

World Health Organization — REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

Operational framework for international travel-related public health measures in the context of COVID-19

WHO public health checklist for controlling the spread of COVID-19 at ground crossings

WHO public health checklist for controlling the spread of COVID-19 in aviation


WHO public health checklist for controlling the spread of COVID-19 in ships, sea ports and inland ports

- Publication of the Operational framework for international travel-related public health measures in the context of COVID-19 based on regional consultations

- A public health checklists for controlling the spread of COVID-19 in aviation, ground crossings and at sea ports and inland ports

- 4 regional consultations on coordinated decision-making on International travel measures during COVID-19, including at airports.

Catalogue of WHO guidance, assessment tools and trainings on Border Health and Points of Entry, including airports

1. WHO guidance
   1. All PoE
   2. **Specific for airports and air transport,** ground crossings and seaports and sea transport

2. Assessment and review tools

3. Trainings
   1. WHO online trainings for PoE & Border Health
   2. Face-to-Face trainings

World Health Organization
European Region

Catalogue of WHO guidance, assessment and review tools and trainings on Border Health and Points of Entry
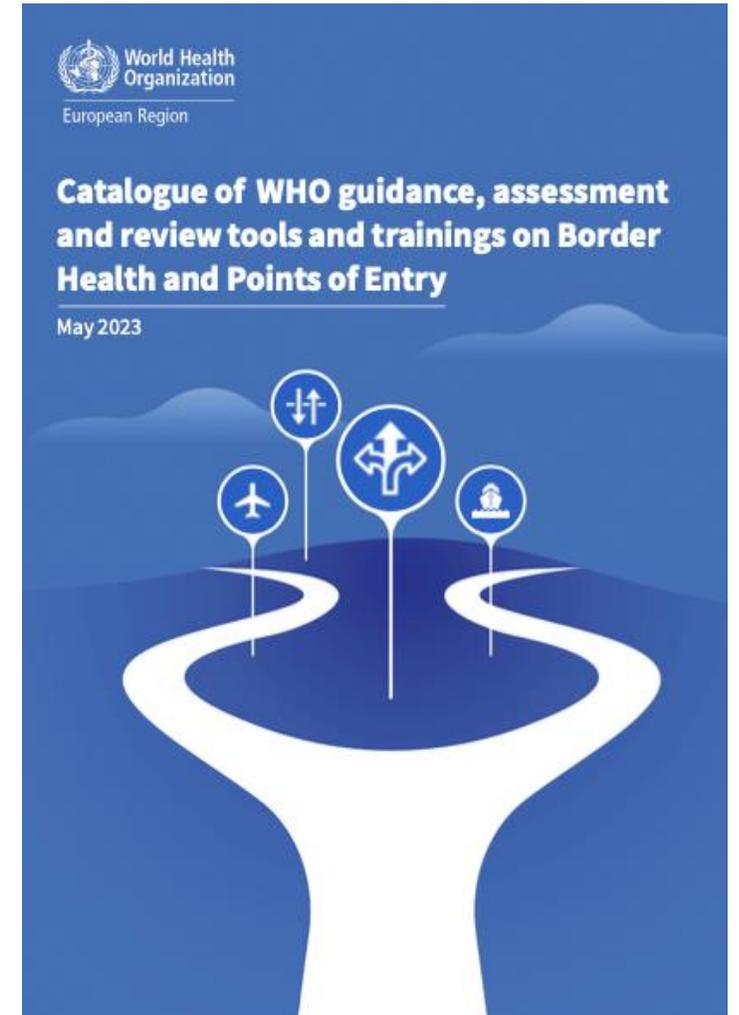
Preparedness 2.0: Objective and Progress to date

- **Ensure continuation of action**: The current *Action Plan to improve public health preparedness and response in the WHO European Region (2018-2023)* ends this year.

- Establish **regional priorities** for targeted efforts to address identified preparedness capacity gaps.

- Create a common platform for countries to **contribute to ongoing global processes** and facilitate a consolidated European position.

- **Synchronize** global and regional consultation processes.

- Submission of **Working Document and TAG Recommendations** for RC73.

- Delivery of **Strategy and Action Plan** for RC74 in 2024

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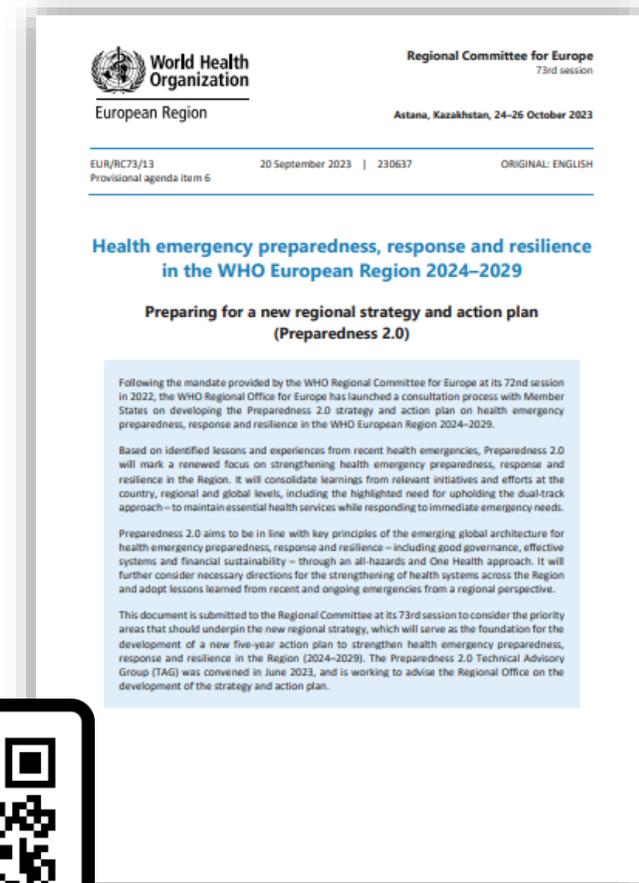
Border health - literature reviews, technical advice and operational tools

- [Evidence review – Public health measures in the aviation sector in the context of COVID-19: quarantine and isolation.](#)

- [Rapid review-International travel-related control measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic (including measures implemented at airports)](#)

- [Handbook for the management of public health events in air transport](#)

- [WHO aircraft disinfection methods and procedures.](#)

- [Guide to hygiene and sanitation in aviation.](#)

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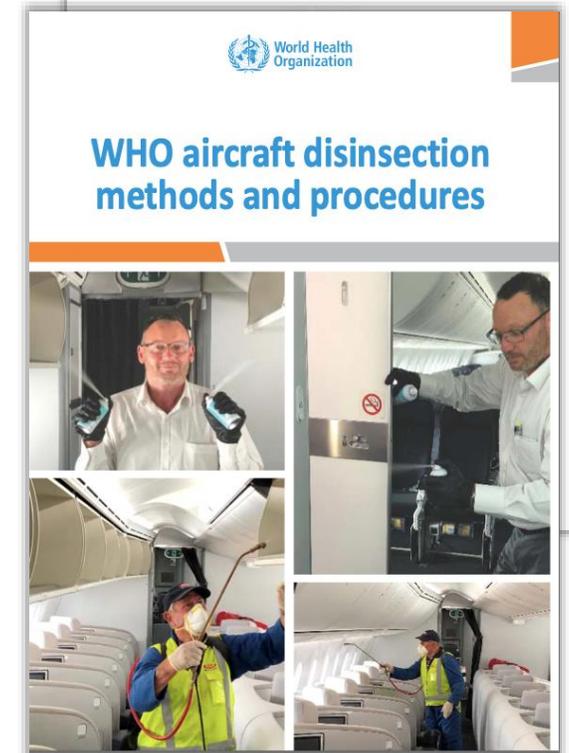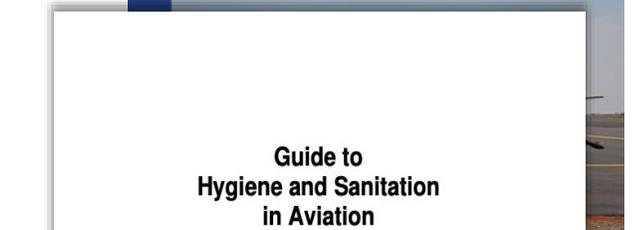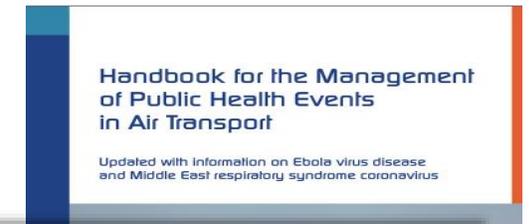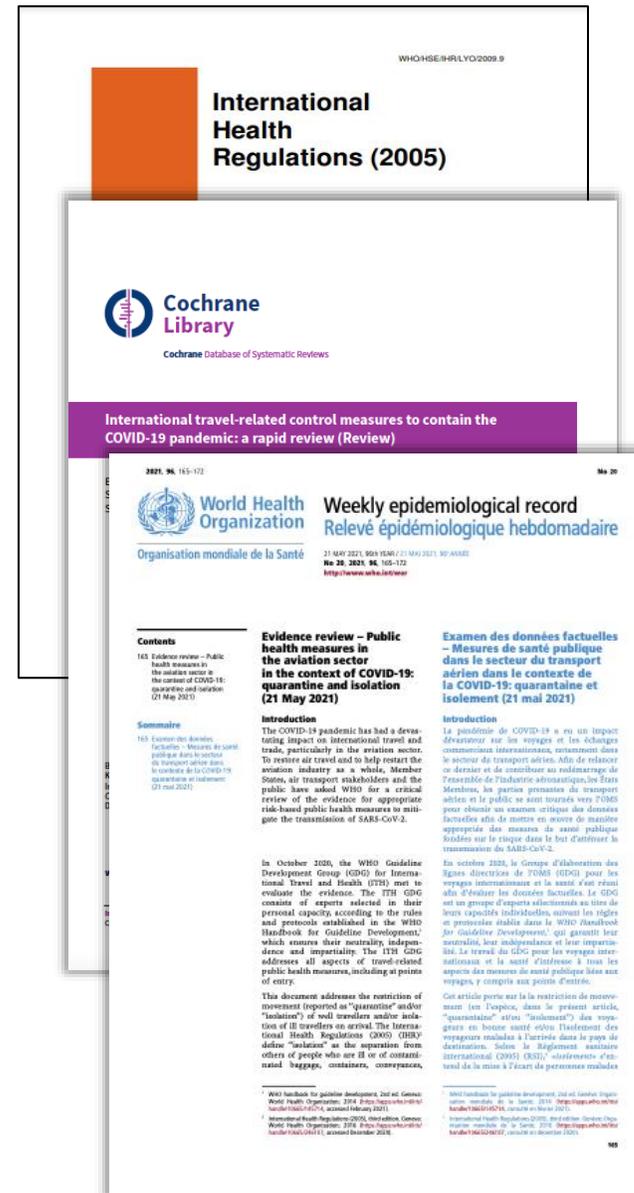
European Region

Coordination between aviation and public health authorities

World Health Organization

European Region

Airport designation and the status of public health emergency contingency plans

1. To provide adequate public health emergency response, designated airports should have *a public health emergency contingency plan.* (IHR(2005))

2. Designated airports should Integrate their public health emergency contingency plans with other response plans.

3. Designated airports should have periodic training and/or drill exercises to familiarize contact points of key sectors/services at point of entry with the public health emergency contingency plan and respective roles and functions within it.

WHO/HSE/IHR/LYO/2009.9

International Health Regulations (2005)

Assessment tool for core capacity requirements at designated airports, ports and ground crossings

October 2009

International Health Regulations Coordination

WHO guidance for contingency planning

World Health Organization

World Health Organization

European Region
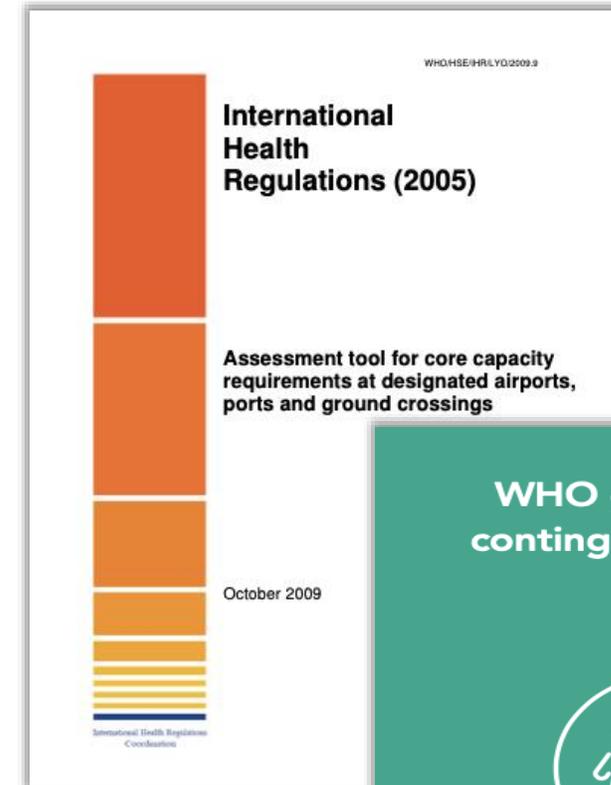
Coordination between aviation and public health authorities

- Better coordination needed between aviation and public health authorities to address gaps in public health emergency contingency planning

    o Joint training of personnel required for implementation of the public health emergency contingency plans

    o Joint simulation exercises to test functionality of public health emergency contingency plans and coordination between all stakeholders

    o Joint evaluation and review of existing public health emergency contingency plans

    o Joint workshops to develop public health emergency contingency plans where unavailable

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (2005)

A guide for public health emergency contingency planning at designated points of entry

World Health Organization

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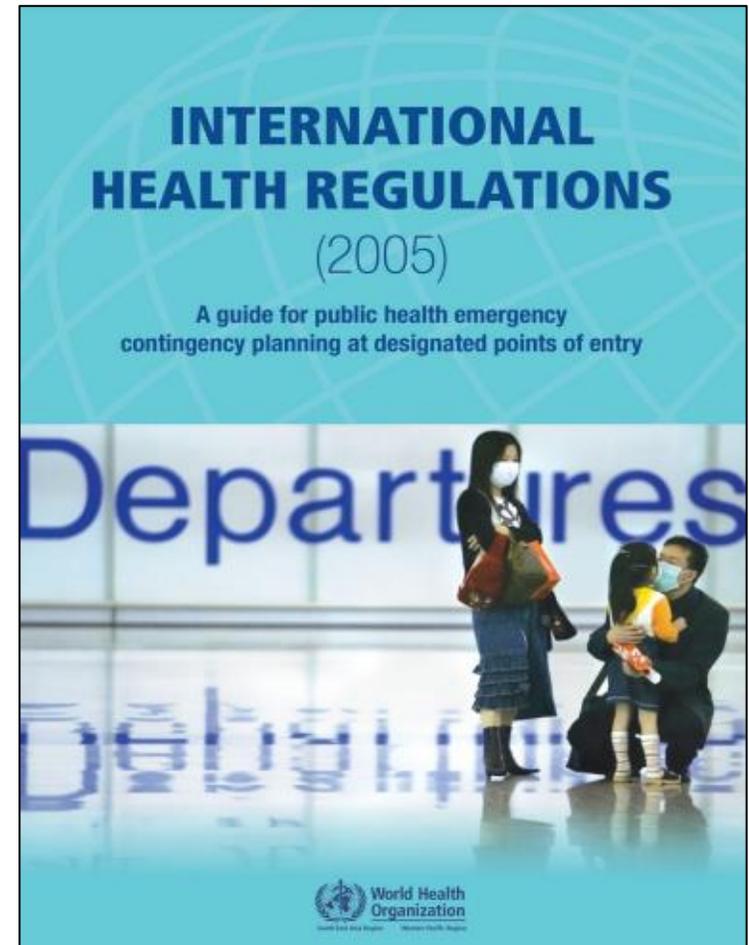
Coordination between aviation and public health authorities: Way forward

- Other areas of cooperation between aviation and public health authorities?

  o Joint assessments of public health risks at airports

  o Joint development of SOPs for management of specific public health events in aviation

  o Joint trainings on assessment of public health capacities at airports in line with the IHR

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European Region

Thank you!

For further questions on WHO EURO activities please contact

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Points of Entry & IHR

"*To prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the **international spread of disease in** ways that are commensurate with and restricted to **public health risks**, and which avoid unnecessary interference with **international traffic & trade***

PoE means a **passage** for international entry or exit of travellers, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods and postal parcels as well as **agencies and areas** providing services to them on entry or exit."

Photo credit @ Shutterstock

Designation of PoEs under IHR

- States Parties shall designate to designate the airports and ports that shall develop the capacities provided in Annex 1.
- Varying capacities across countries in the region
- Capacities at airport better than other PoEs
- Average number of PoEs designated by SPs (**9**)

IHR designated points of entry in EMR

247 Total designated PoEs

104 Ports

90 Airports

53 Ground crossings

19 Number of States Parties reporting authorized ports to issue ship sanitation certificates (SSC)

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HEALTH FOR ALL BY ALL | a call for solidarity and action
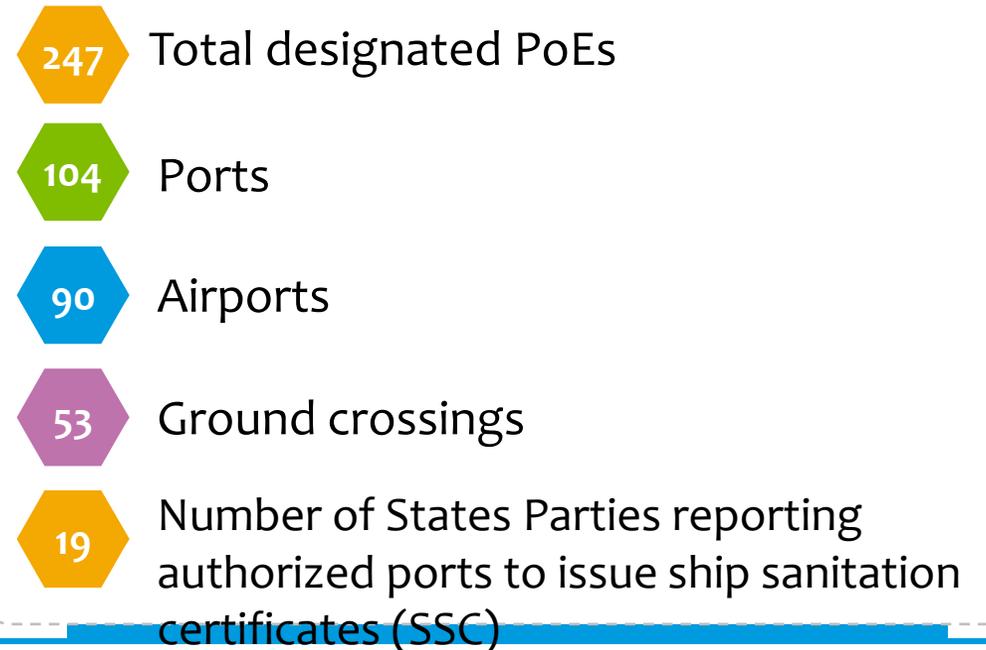
PoE Capacities in EMR, SPAR (1)
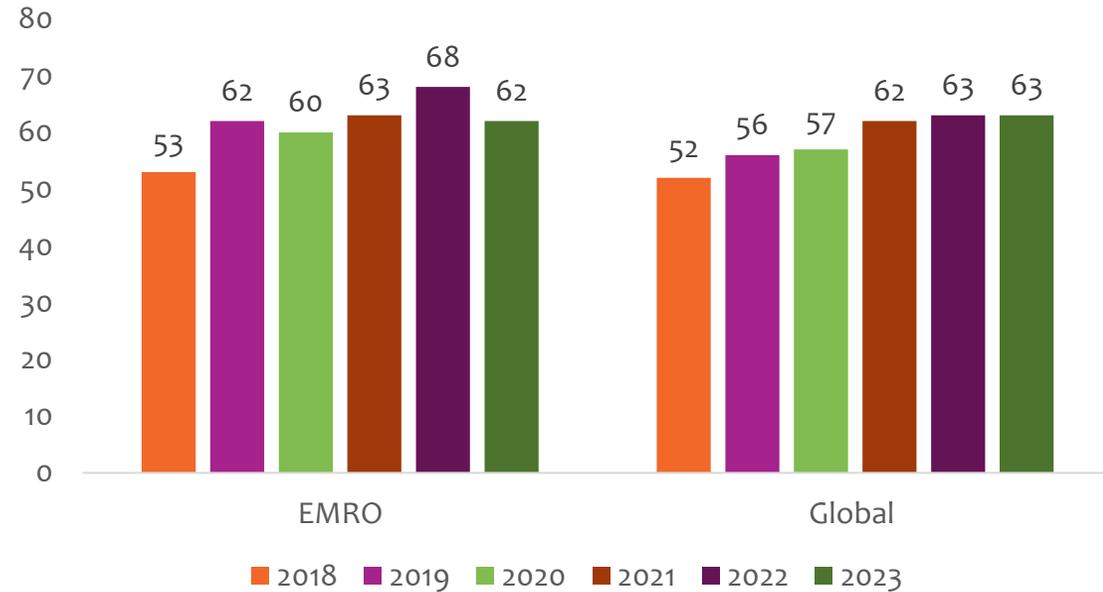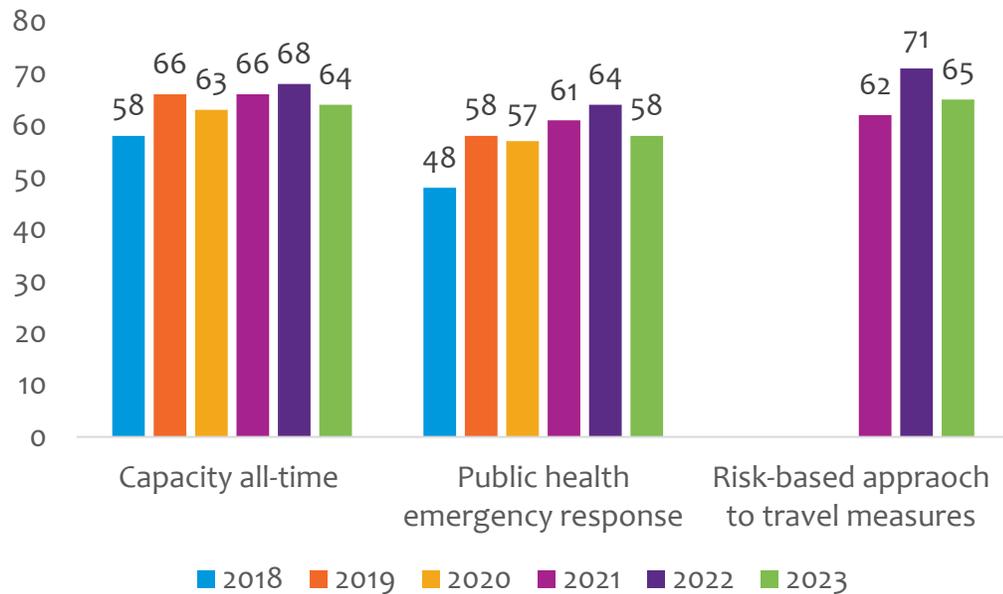
PoE Capacities in EMR, e-SPAR, WHO

Source: e-SPAR

PoE Capacities in EMR, SPAR (2)

- **99%** of designated PoEs have identified competent authority *(245/247)*
- **84%** of designated PoEs have vector surveillance & control programme *(207/245)*
- **71%** of designated PoEs have developed public health emergency contingency plan *(175/245)*

Percentage of designated PoEs with PHECP in EMR

Type of PoEs	Percentage
GCs	62%
Ports	76%
Airport	70%
Total	71%
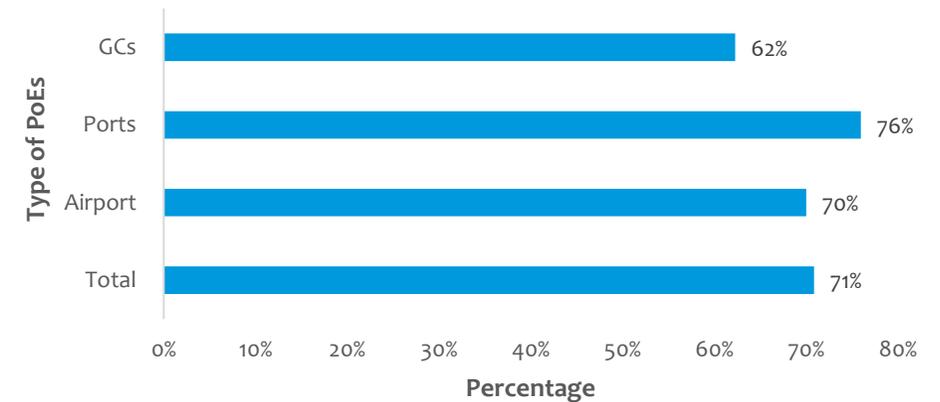
Multi-sectoral coordination at PoE

Many sectors, agencies, organizations and services providers may be involved

Strategic relationship: PoE is part of the National System for the public health emergency response which links to the national command and response management structure

Operational: Important for implementation of tasks and actions at the operational levels

Suggested Profile of Stakeholders

Such as veterinary services

customs

security staff

transport authorities

Facility operators (at ports/airports/ground crossings),

radioactive sources and human remains

agricultural services

immigration authorities

maintenance personnel

conveyance operators

importers/exporters/organizations and/or ministries responsible for shipments of hazardous substances

There are likely to be more!

Enhancing multi-sectoral coordination at PoEs in EMR

- Multi-sectoral coordination is at the heart of all PoE capacity building, assessments and developing policies and plan in EMR countries

- Established partnerships and collaboration with other UN agencies and partners (i.e Africa CDC, ECDC, IOM, ICAO, UNHCR, IMO..)

- Advocacy for enhancing multi-sectoral engagement

- Multi-sectoral coordination established for cross-border collaboration TWGs and steering committees

- WHO supports in developing the ToR for multi-sectoral committee for IHR NFPs' unit and PoE competent authority

- SimEx and joint response & SimEx to public health events

- Coordination and communication is one of the main elements in PoE assessments

PoE Public Health Emergency Contingency Plan (PHECP)

PHECP is agreed, updated, documented public health emergency contingency plan, integrated with other public health response plans (national/intermediate/local levels) and other emergency operational plans at point of entry, covering relevant services at point of entry and disseminated to all key stakeholders.

PHECP devised for an outcome to an unusual event other than in the plan for day-to-day operations

Templates developed for PHECP at airports and seaports
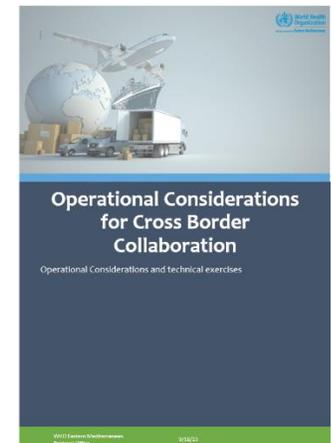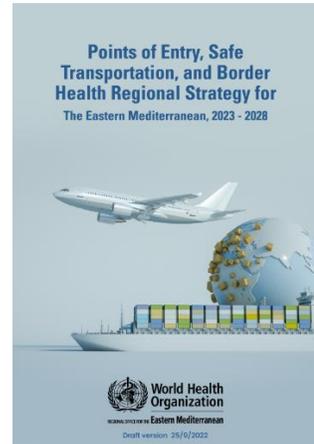
WHO supports in developing, testing, updating PHECP
- Multisectoral coordination
- Trainings & capacity building
- Conducting Risk-assessment & prioritization
- Developing PHECP & SOPs, implementing, SimEx

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HEALTH FOR ALL BY ALL
a call for solidarity and action

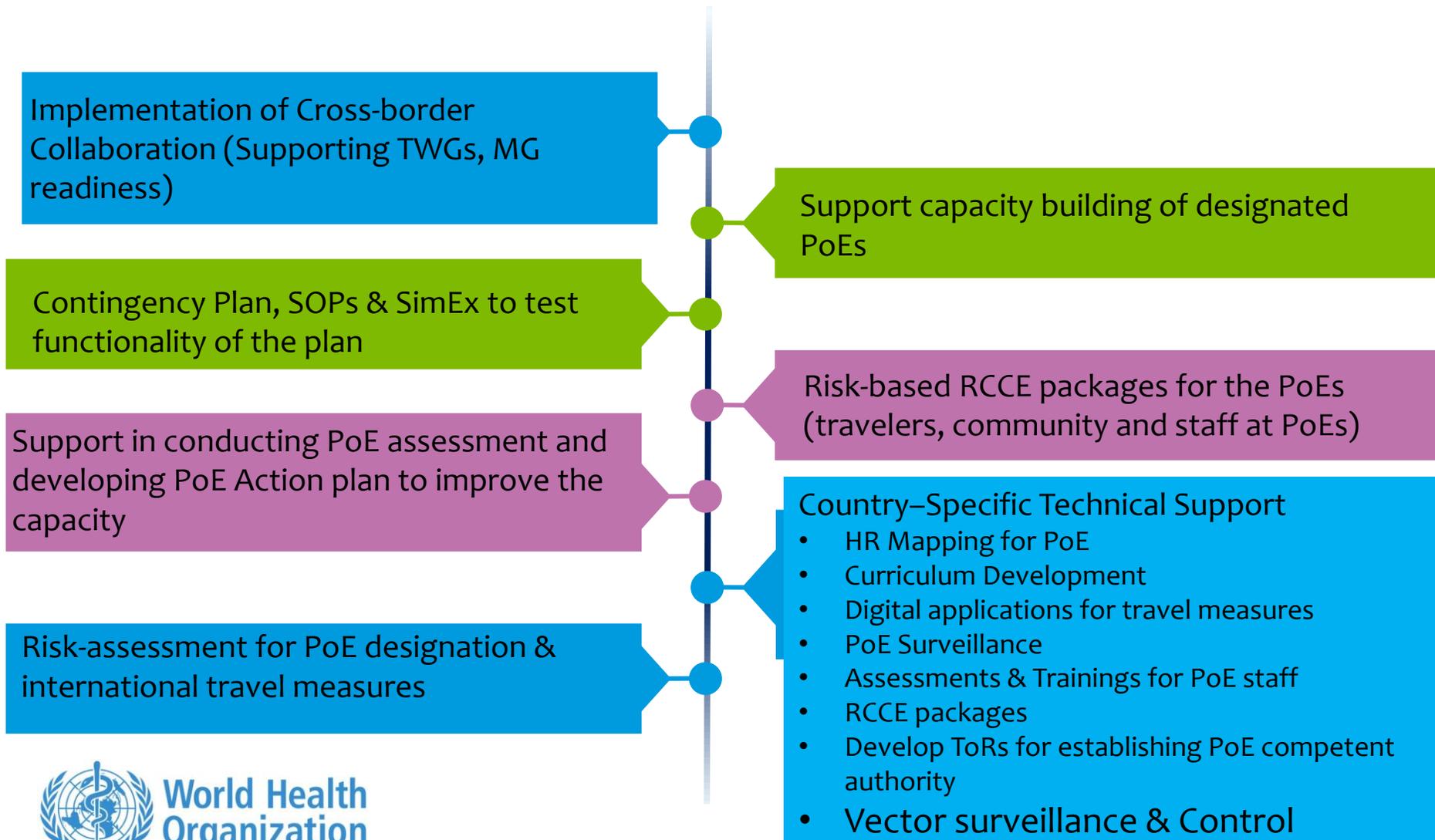# WHO approach to developing PoE capacities

- PoE regional strategy "Border Health & Safe Transportation, 2023-2028

  - Enabling Environments
  - Multi-sectoral coordination
  - Cross-border collaboration
  - Operations for effective preparedness and response
  - Workforce & Capacity Building
  - M&E
  - Regional PoE Network

- Technical support & strategic guidance/framework to develop **PoE capacities** by enhancing the enabling environments, multi-sectoral coordination, cross-border collaboration, workforce capacity building,
- Inter-agency network/coordination (Africa CDC, ICAO, IOM, UNHCR,…)
- Joint cross-border SimEX in context of One-Health between Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia
- Guidelines & advocacy for risk-based approach travel measures and advice against disease outbreaks in the region
- Facilitating exchange opportunities and case Studies for PoE Lessons Learned & Legacy
- EMR Expert Roster for PoE Professionalism
- PoE Stakeholder mapping across EMR
- Regular review, evaluation, learning and updating of capacities

WHO approach to developing PoE capacities (Operational)

Implementation of Cross-border Collaboration (Supporting TWGs, MG readiness)

Support capacity building of designated PoEs

Contingency Plan, SOPs & SimEx to test functionality of the plan

Risk-based RCCE packages for the PoEs (travelers, community and staff at PoEs)

Support in conducting PoE assessment and developing PoE Action plan to improve the capacity

Country–Specific Technical Support
- HR Mapping for PoE
- Curriculum Development
- Digital applications for travel measures
- PoE Surveillance
- Assessments & Trainings for PoE staff
- RCCE packages
- Develop ToRs for establishing PoE competent authority
- Vector surveillance & Control

Risk-assessment for PoE designation & international travel measures

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Conclusion

Foundational needs & continuous investment to adequately equip PoEs with the proper resources & to maintain the capacities

Adopt innovative, and rigorous **multisectoral coordination** in preparedness and response approaches at PoE

Cross-Border Collaboration a key avenue for syncing resources and modalities across countries/regions and harmonization of emergency preparedness

Investments required in **applying risk-assessment** approach to inform travel-related measures and all-hazard emergency planning preparedness with operational SOPs for rapid response.

Expanding and enhancing **Human Resources** capacity

Develop, test and maintain the **PHECP** in coordination with the relevant sectors

Utilizing **digital solutions** and platforms

Promote conducting **research** to inform evidence-based policies and interventions

Regular **assessment and Plans** implementation

Thank You

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Panel discussion for day 2

Panel discussion: What collaborative activities between public health and aviation authorities will be beneficial to States?

- What are some examples of collaboration between public health and aviation authorities in your country or that your organization has supported ?

- Describe any challenges you encountered in your collaboration with either public health or aviation authorities, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic and how these challenges can be overcome?

- How can collaboration between public health and aviation authorities be strengthened as part of preparedness, readiness and response to future pandemics?

- What specific support or resources would you need to enhance the capacity of your country to implement multisectoral approaches between aviation and public health effectively?

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