Strengthening health emergency preparedness, response and resilience in the WHO European Region 2024–2029

Dr Ihor Perehinets

WHO EURO

Health Emergency Programme

A region hit by major new acute emergencies in 2022–2023

Ukraine

Emergency: Conflict
Grade: Grade 3 acute for Ukraine and Grade 2 protracted for refugee hosting countries (re-graded)

Since the 24 February 2022 Ukraine invasion:
- Massive civilian displacement and casualties
- Critical civil and health infrastructure targeted
- Challenges with access to health services

Türkiye

Emergency: Earthquake
Grade: Grade 3 acute, now protracted Grade 2

6 February 2023, two major earthquakes (of 7.7 and 7.6 magnitude):

- Affecting south-east Türkiye and parts of Syria
- Over 45 000 dead, 107 000 injured
- Mobilization of emergency medical teams (EMTs) (deployment of 42 international EMTs)
- Trauma related rehabilitation and mental health
- Cross-border support into north-west Syria (through Türkiye/Gaziantep hub)

Armenia

Emergency: Refugee response
Grade: Grade 2 acute

Since 1 October 2023, mass population movement:
- Massive refugee movement into Armenia
- WHO support to Ministry of Health-led response
- EMT deployments for burn treatment and rehabilitation
- Focus on mental health and psychosocial support

Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territory

Emergency: Armed conflict
Grade: Grade 3 acute

7 October 2023, rapid escalation of armed conflict:

- Extensive human suffering, civilian deaths and injuries in both Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory
- Documented attacks on health care, hostages in Gaza
- Possibility of regional conflict and mass population movement internationally

World Health Organization
European Region

Health EMERGENCIES programme

Closing the gaps while ensuring alignment with global processes

- **Strengthening country preparedness** and readiness based on **lessons learned** through an **all-hazards** and **One-Health approach**

- **Accelerating the implementation** of **Monti Commission recommendations**, including operationalization of the **Pan-European Network for Disease Control**

- Building a **flexible and agile health emergencies workforce**, including through **expanding regional EMT capacities**

- Strengthening country capacities and building resilience to manage the **dual-track approach**

- **Building trust** through risk communication, community engagement and infodemic management

- Institutionalizing a **gender perspective** across the emergency management cycle and accelerating regional efforts to prevent **any form of sexual misconduct in emergency contexts**

3

Preparedness 2.0 – Towards a resilient WHO European Region

RC73

2023 | 2024

Preparedness 2.0

2023 January–October

Establishment of the Preparedness 2.0 TAG

First step in the MS consultation process on regional priorities launched

2023 October–RC73

Consultation on regional priorities

TAG to present its intermediate report

2024 January–October

Continuation of MS consultations

2024 WHA77–October

Preparedness 2.0 Strategy and Action Plan to be adjusted based on WHA77 outcomes

2024 RC74

The Preparedness 2.0 Strategy and Action Plan to be presented to the Regional Committee for their consideration

WHO SECRETARIAT

INB

2023 February

INB 4. Negotiations based on the zero draft begun

2023 May

WHA76. Progress report presented

2024 May

WHA77. Outcome to be presented to the Assembly for their consideration

WGIHR

2023 January

IHR Review committee's final report published

2024 May

WHA77. Outcome to be presented to the Assembly for their consideration

Additional processes to be considered during this timeframe include the implementation of the new regulations under the EU health security framework, and establishment of the Pan-European Network for Disease Control, the global Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience (HEPR) framework, and the Financial Intermediary Fund for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (FIF PPR)

EU – European Union
IHR – International Health Regulations (2005)
INB – Intergovernmental Negotiating Body
MS – Member State
RC – WHO Regional Committee for Europe
TAG – Technical Advisory Group
WGIHR – Working Group on amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005)
WHA – World Health Assembly

World Health Organization
European Region

Preparedness 2.0
PREVENTION PREPAREDNESS
RESPONSE RECOVERY RESILIENCE

Preparedness 2.0 initial TAG recommendations

- **Region should not wait until global architecture is finalized before moving forward with Preparedness 2.0.**

- **All-hazards approach** to consider the range of potential threats across the Region.

- **Elevate One Health**, to ensure cohesion between human health, animal health and environmental challenges.

- **The TAG endorses the HEPR 5C framework** as a structure for Preparedness 2.0.

- **Collaborative surveillance** is central to preparedness – across all sectors and types of data, allowing for meaningful presentation of different data points in parallel, including genomics.

- **Communities must be at the heart of all efforts**, recognizing the vital role that they play in all phases of health emergencies.

Preparedness 2.0 initial TAG recommendations

- **Equity in access to countermeasures** must be at the heart of preparedness.

- **Strong health systems with routine essential health services** are central to preparedness, which can then scale up to the demands of an emerging crisis.

- All of preparedness and response relies on a **well-trained, resourced, paid and protected workforce**.

- **Ministries responsible for preparedness must be empowered** to implement relevant activities and to do so working across the whole of government and whole of society.

- **Becoming prepared will require optimized governance arrangements** between sectors, between levels of governance and between institutions. This will also need sufficient financing within national budget lines or through international assistance.

6