WHO Framework on Strengthening Health Emergency Preparedness in Cities and Urban Settings

Member States Information Session

13 January 2022
COVID-19 has highlighted the unique challenges and opportunities that cities and urban settings face in preparing for, and responding to, health emergencies.

A high proportion of COVID-19 cases, deaths and community spread has occurred in highly dense environments and cities.

Member States called for greater attention to urban preparedness in World Health Assembly Resolution 73.8 adopted in November 2020.
The Process of developing the Urban Preparedness Framework

• WHO and Singapore have co-hosted a series of technical working group meetings on advancing urban preparedness for COVID-19 and beyond in cities and urban settings.

• Included representatives from Member States across all WHO regions, UN partners, international organizations, NGOs, city networks

• Key areas of review:
  - The challenges that cities have faced during COVID-19 and potential solutions moving forward.
  - The optimal roles of key stakeholders including mayors, governors and national leaders.
  - The tools and resources needed for stronger urban preparedness.

• The WHO Framework on Strengthening health emergency preparedness in cities and urban settings is based on the working group recommendations.

• The Framework builds on two interim WHO publications for COVID-19 preparedness in urban settings:
  ➢ Interim Guidance on Strengthening Preparedness for COVID-19 in Cities and Urban Settings
  ➢ Interim checklist of practical actions for local authorities to strengthen preparedness in cities

• Targets policymakers in all sectors engaged in health emergency preparedness in cities and urban settings at
  • national and subnational levels,
  • relevant stakeholders within the international community.
WHO Framework: Highlights

• The role of cities and urban settings in emergency preparedness

• 8 Key areas that should be strengthened in local and city settings, and some critical activities that should be considered

• The intrinsic linkages and interdependencies between emergency preparedness and readiness actions at the local level and national level.

• The need for more comprehensive action that builds sub-national capacities in addition to national level health security preparedness strengthening

Key areas for strengthened health emergency preparedness in cities and urban settings

Key areas for strengthened health emergency preparedness at national level

Health emergency preparedness activities in country

- Risk assessments
- Capacity building
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Partnerships
WHO Framework: Key Areas for Urban Preparedness Strengthening (1/2)

- Governance and financing for health emergency preparedness
- Multisectoral coordination for preparedness
- High population density and movement
- Community engagement and risk and crisis communication
WHO Framework: Key Areas for Urban Preparedness Strengthening (2/2)

- Groups at risk of vulnerability
- Data, evidence and information
- Commerce, industry and business
- Organization and delivery of health and other essential services
Next Steps

**Preparedness and Readiness strengthening**

Scaling up WHO’s work with Member States and partners to support implementation, of the Framework and guidance

**Knowledge Sharing and Transfer**

Documenting and disseminating best practices, challenges, and opportunities, promoting peer to peer learnings for urban preparedness

**Encourage global & regional commitment to urban Preparedness**

Enhancing existing and developing new partnerships, leveraging relevant networks, showcasing impact, including through global, regional and country platforms
Roadmap for 2022

**Operational Guidance**
Launch operational guidance for national and local authorities

**Technical Meetings**
- Technical Working Group to discuss and develop future workplan and roadmap on urban health emergency preparedness and readiness
- Technical meetings on implementing urban health emergency preparedness including the Framework
- Enhancing capacities and functionality at subnational levels

**Global prepared cities platform**
Explore the establishment of a global prepared cities platform as a part of the Global Strategic Preparedness Network (GSPN)
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Thank You