**Health emergency and disaster risk management framework**

***Reducing health risks and consequences of emergencies for community and country resilience and health security***

**CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

All communities are at risk of emergencies and disasters including those associated with infectious disease outbreaks, conflicts, and natural, technological and other hazards. The health, economic, political and societal consequences of these events can be devastating. Climate change, urbanization, population growth, migration and state fragility are contributing to increasing frequency and severity of many types of emergencies.

Reducing risks and health consequences of emergencies are vital to health security and to building the resilience of communities, countries and health systems. Sound risk management is essential to safeguarding development and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals including the pathway to Universal Health Coverage, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, International Health Regulations (2005), Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other related global, regional and national frameworks.

While countries have strengthened capacities through the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005), multi-hazard disaster risk management and health system strengthening, many communities and countries remain highly vulnerable to emergencies and disasters. The ability to achieve optimal health outcomes has been hindered by fragmented approaches to different types of hazards, an over-emphasis on reacting to events instead of preventing and preparing properly, and gaps in coordination across the entire health system, and between health and other sectors.

In view of current and emerging risks to public health and the need for effective utilisation and management of resources, there is a need to consolidate contemporary approaches and practice in the conceptual frame or paradigm of “health emergency and disaster risk management” (Health EDRM). Health EDRM provides a common language and an adaptable approach that can be applied by all actors in health and other sectors who are working to reduce health risks and consequences, and improve health outcomes and wellbeing for communities at risk of emergencies and disasters in different contexts, including in fragile, low resource and high resource settings. Health EDRM emphasizes assessing, communicating and reducing risks across the continuum of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery and building the resilience of communities and countries. Health EDRM is derived from the disciplines of risk management, emergency management, epidemic preparedness and response, and healthsystems strengthening. It is fully consistent with, and helps to align, health security, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action, climate change and sustainable development.

**Vision of Health EDRM**

Improved health outcomes and wellbeing of people at risk of emergencies, and stronger community and country resilience and health security.

**Expected Outcome of Health EDRM**

Countries and communities have stronger capacities to manage the health risks associated with all types of emergencies and disasters resulting in reduced health risks and consequences.

**Principles of Health EDRM**

Health EDRM is founded on a set of core principles and approaches that guide policy and practice.

* Risk-based approach
* Comprehensive approach across the emergency management cycle
* All-hazards approach
* Inter-sectoral and multidisciplinary collaboration
* Community participation and resilience
* Integration of Health EDRM with health system strengthening
* Ethical considerations

**Components of Health EDRM:**

Health EDRM comprises a set of components that are drawn from multi-sectoral emergency management, IHR core capacities, health system building blocks, and good practices from countries. The components of Health EDRM are organized in the following groups.

* **Policies, strategies and legislation**

Defines the structures, roles and responsibilities of governments and other actors for Health EDRM; includes strategies for strengthening Health EDRM capacities.

* **Planning and coordination**

Emphasises effective coordination mechanisms for planning and operations for Health EDRM.

* **Human resources**

Includes planning for staffing, education and training across the spectrum of Health EDRM capacities at all levels, and occupational health and safety of personnel

* **Financial resources**

Supports implementation of Health EDRM activities, capacity development and contingency funding for emergency response and recovery.

* **Information and knowledge management**

Includes risk assessment, surveillance, early warning, information management, technical guidance and research.

* **Risk communications**

Recognises that communicating effectively is critical for health and other sectors, government authorities, the media, and the general public.

* **Health infrastructure and logistics**

Focuses on safe and prepared health facilities; logistics and supply systems to support Health EDRM.

* **Health and related services**

Recognises the wide range of health-care services and related measures for Health EDRM.

* **Community capacities for Health EDRM**

Focuses on strengthening local health workforce capacities and community-centred planning and action

* **Monitoring and evaluation**

Includes processes to monitor progress towards meeting Health EDRM objectives, including monitoring risks and capacities and evaluation of the implementation of strategies, related programmes and activities.