



World Health
Organization

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

Member States Information Session

13 January 2022

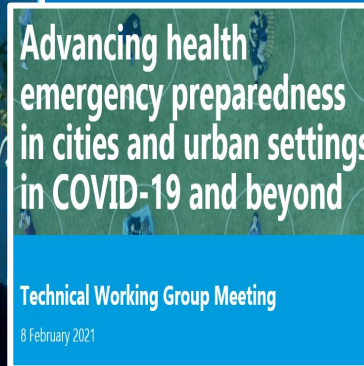
Context: Urban Health Emergency Preparedness

- 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.



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

- 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.

Strengthening Preparedness for COVID-19 in Cities and Urban Settings

Interim Guidance for Local Authorities



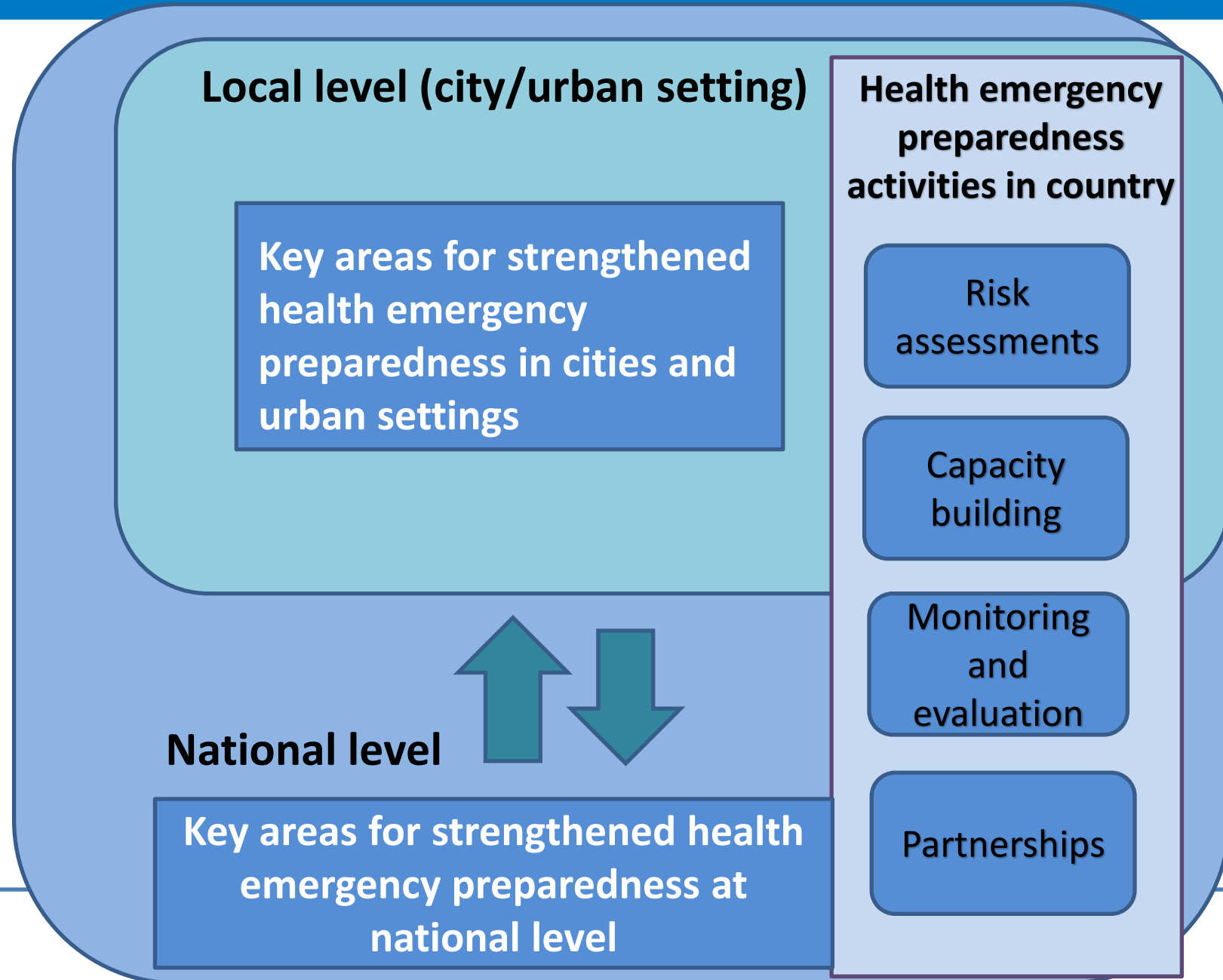
Practical actions in cities to strengthen preparedness for the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond

An interim checklist for local authorities



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



WHO Framework: Key Areas for Urban Preparedness Strengthening (1/2)



FRAMEWORK FOR STRENGTHENING HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN CITIES AND URBAN SETTINGS

**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)



FRAMEWORK FOR STRENGTHENING HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN CITIES AND URBAN SETTINGS

**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