

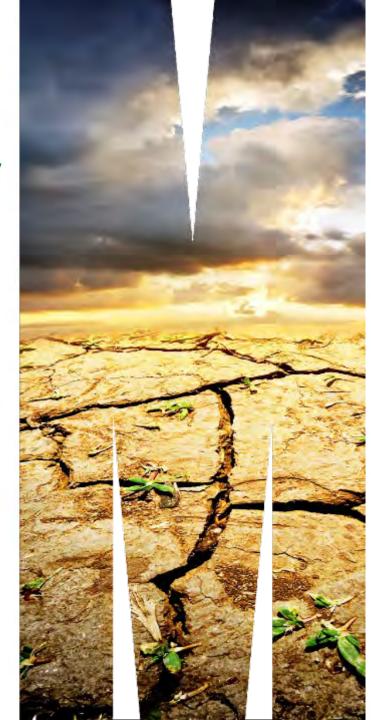
International Conference on Science and Technology for Sustainability 2023, Tokyo Japan

Strengthening whole-of-society action to reduce the health risks and impacts of emergencies and disasters

Assoc Prof Jonathan Abrahams Director, Monash University Disaster Resilience Initiative (MUDRI)

8 September 2023





Evolution: emergency management, risk and resilience

<1970 emergency services; civil defence

1970s emergency management: PPRR (FEMA est 1979)

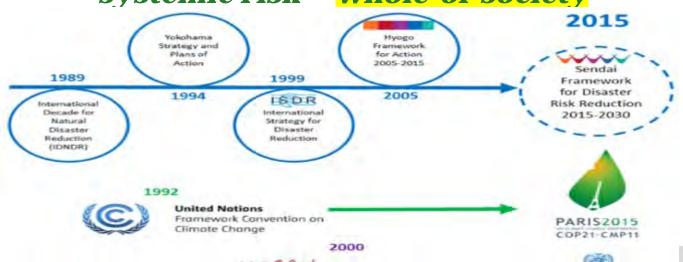
1980-90s vulnerability/social determinants, **risk reduction**

2000s disaster risk management; global health security

2010s **resilience**; 2030 sustainable development agenda

2020s climate change & pandemic (COVID-19); ecosystems; (in)equity; diversity; inclusion; community leadership; strengths-based;

systemic risk = whole-of-society



2015 DOLL DENNIN







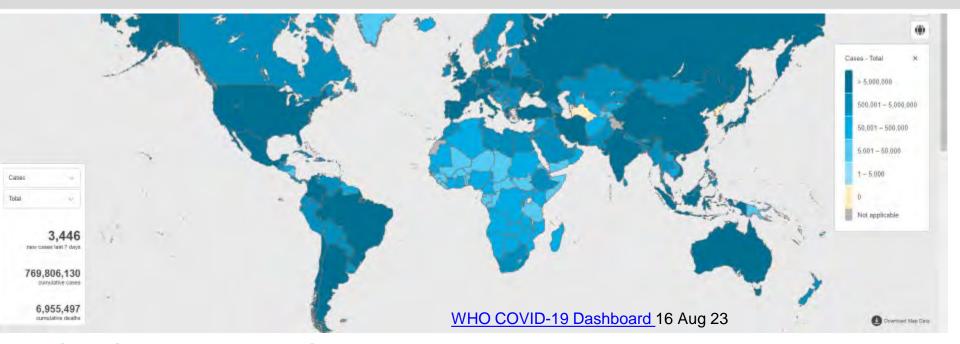






MUDRI - Abrahams - ICSTS - Sep 23

Health imperative: Adverse health outcomes (1)



DISEASE OUTBREAKS

- COVID-19 (@ 16 August 2023: 769.8m cases, 6.955m deaths
- 200+ major outbreaks/year (GPMB 2019); many local outbreaks

WHO estimates of excess mortality associated with COVID-19 pandemic

- Deaths due COVID: 5.42m deaths (2020-2021)
- Estimated excess mortality: 14.83m deaths (Msemburi, W. et al, Nature)



Why: Adverse health outcomes (2)

NATURAL HAZARD-RELATED EVENTS (2002-2021) (CRED 2023)

- Deaths: 60 955/year (30,704 in 2022)
- People affected: 198.9m/year (185m in 2022)
- Economic loss: \$187.7bn/year (223.8bn in 2022)

UNDERESTIMATED IMPACTS

- indirect & long term health effects
 - e.g. mental health, non-communicable diseases
- socio-economic consequences related to health

200+ small-medium events for every large scale event

 Colombia 1971-2002: 97 events EM-DAT; 19202 in Desinventar (ECLAC 2009)









Health = health sector? Not only ...















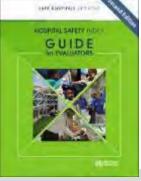






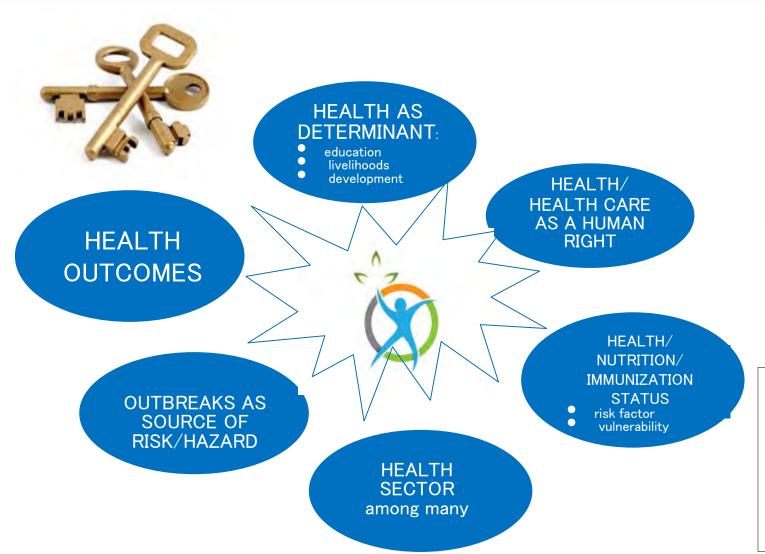








Many health lenses reflected in Sendai Framework



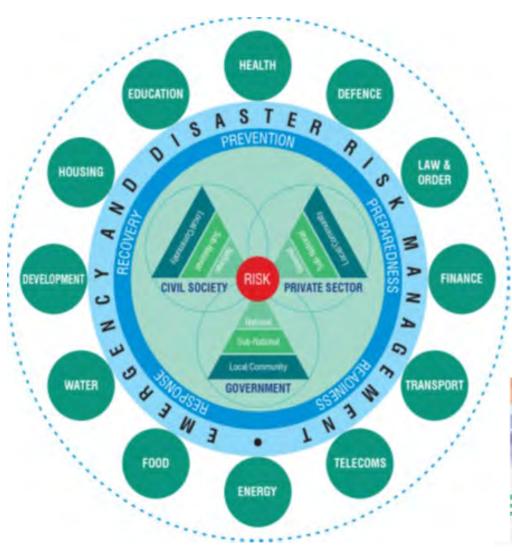




Target 3.d: Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks



Critical interdependencies with health



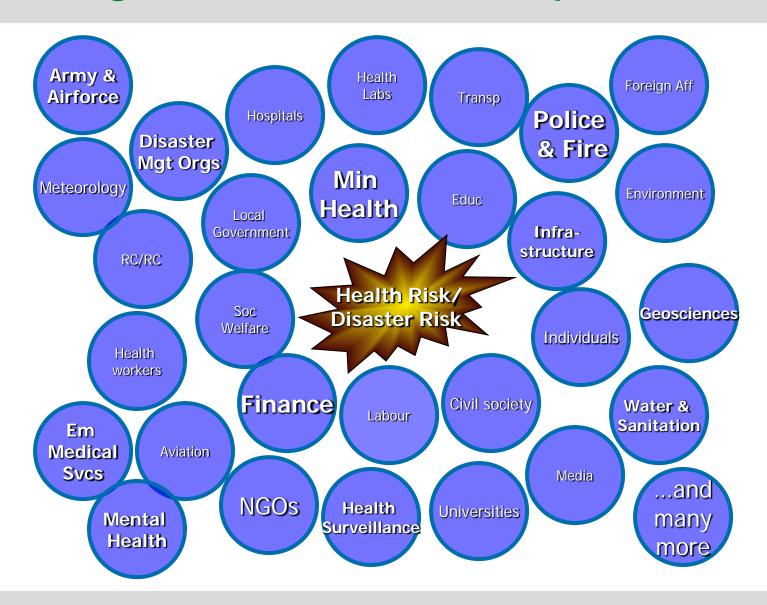
- logistics storage, transport, import/ export
- telecommunications
- energy
- water
- pharmaceuticals, medicines, consumables
- finance supply chain
- safety and security
- occupational/worker health
- public health & social measures



WHO (2020). Everyone's business: whole-of-society action to manage health risks and reduce socio-economic impacts of emergencies and disasters: operational guidance. https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/339421.



Who manages the health risks and impacts? = Everyone





Health actors = Everyone

















(WHO, Adobe stock)



Applying risk-based approaches to health























Target 3.d: Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks



Health EDRM Framework: bridging many frameworks





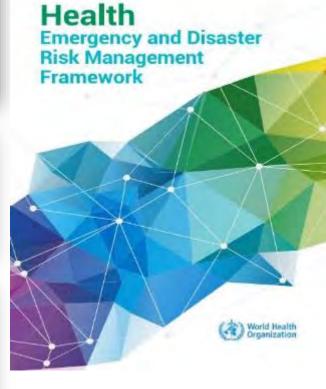












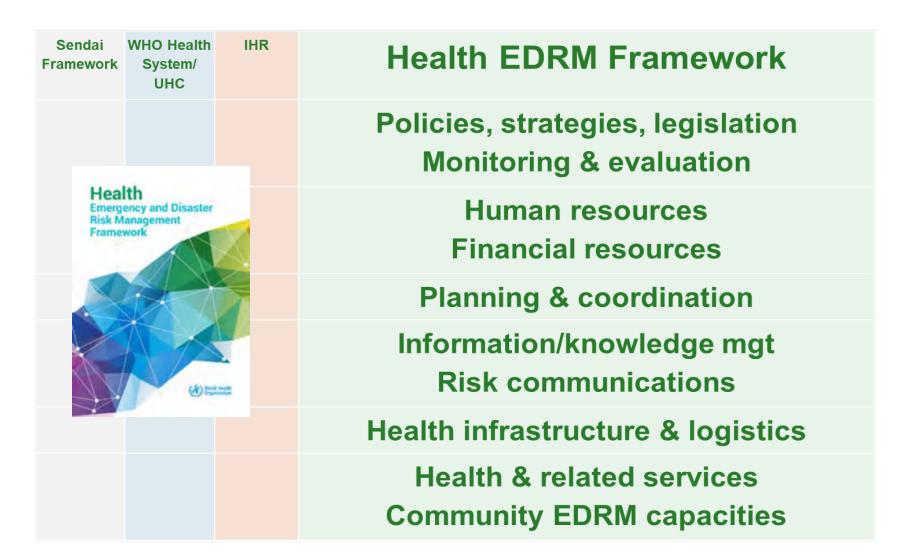




Target 3.d: Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks



Capacities for Health EDRM





What? Transformation - changing the paradigm

| From | То |
|-------------------------|---|
| Event-based | Risk-based |
| Reactive | Proactive |
| Single-hazard | All-hazard |
| Hazard-focus | Vulnerability and capacity focused |
| Single agency | Whole-of-society/multi-sectoral |
| Separate responsibility | Shared responsibility of health systems |
| Response-focus | Risk management |
| Planning for | Planning WITH/LED by communities |
| communities | |
| +++ | Inclusive, intersectional etc |



Applying Sendai and Health EDRM principles for a healthier, safer and fairer world

- Risk-based approach: Risk informed policy, planning and action?
- Comprehensive approach: Prevention, preparedness, response, recovery?
- All-hazards approach: Systemic, generic and specific capacities?
- Multisectoral and multisciplinary collaboration: Governance mechanisms enables joint decision making, planning, capacity development and action?
- Whole-of-health system: all health programs apply riskbased approaches?
- Inclusive, people- and community-centred approach: Assets and needs of sub-populations identified, leading decision-making and priority setting?
- Ethical considerations: Equity, equality, accountability, transparency and trust at heart of rights-based action?





Evolution: emergency management, risk and resilience

2020s climate change & pandemic (COVID-19); ecosystems; diversity, inclusion, equity; community leadership; strengths-based; systemic risk = whole-of-society

2030s? 2100?

- Investment in whole-of-society action
- Investment in building relationships
- Enabling local, community, individual action













WORKING TOGETHER FOR HE HEALTH OF HUMANS, ANIMALS, PLANTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Japan - leadership and collaboration in health EDRM 災害·健康危機管理

















Tohoku University













TOKYO 2025

https://extranet.who.int/kobe_centre/ja/what_we_do/health-emergencies



Acknowledgements

In combination with the references on these slides contained herein, I wish to acknowledge that the content of this presentation draws upon the work of:

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- 2. World Health Organization

I wish to thank and pay tribute to the many people within and across many countries and sectors who contributed to these products and continue to implement and advance health emergency and disaster risk management.

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