

Emergency Ready Primary Health Care

Introducing the ERPHC Framework and Operational Guide: advancing community protection and resilience through PHC

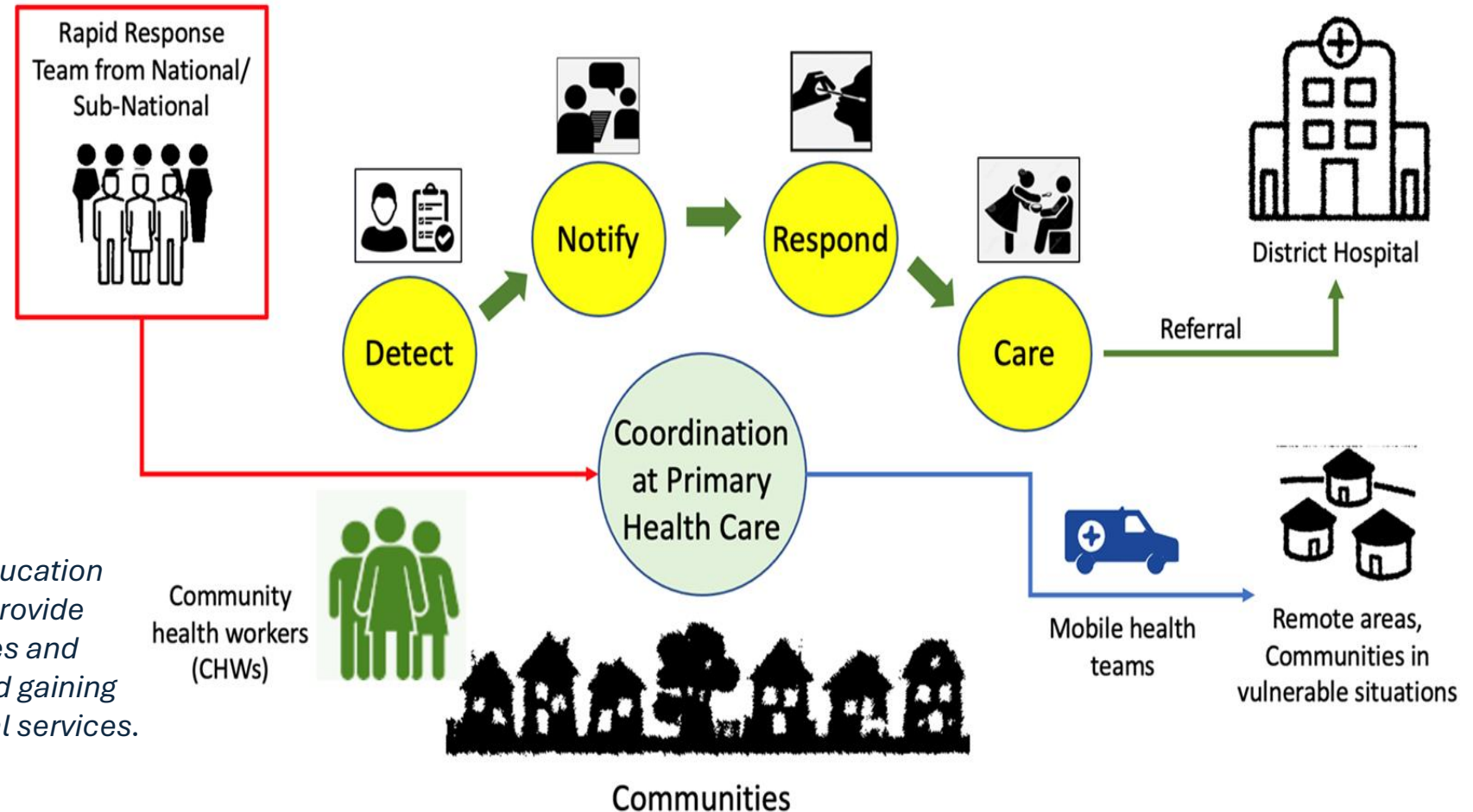
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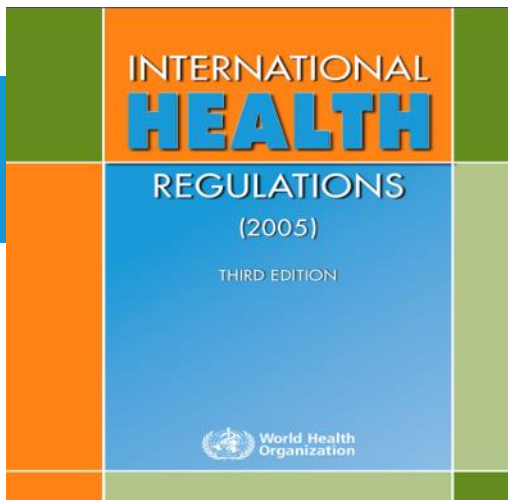


Central role of communities and local system in preventing, detecting and responding health emergencies



Community Health Workers provide health education and referrals for a wide range of services, and provide support and assistance to communities, families and individuals with preventive health measures and gaining access to appropriate curative health and social services.





Global agreement, legal instrument and commitment to leverage community and PHC centered approach



The local community level and/ or primary public health response level should have the capacities:

- to **detect events** involving disease or death above expected levels for the particular time and place...;
- to **report** all available essential information immediately to the appropriate level of health-care response.
- At the **primary public health response level**, reporting shall be to the intermediate or national response level...;
- And to implement **preliminary control measures immediately**.

Pandemics start and end in communities. All our work to prevent future pandemics must start locally, by strengthening public health surveillance and systems that can detect and contain diseases at source, stronger primary health care systems that can save lives, and bolstering community engagement and participation through stronger social safety nets. **That must be our first priority ...**

WHO Director-General's Opening Remarks at the UN General Assembly meeting on IPPPR, July 2021



Pandemic Agreement, May 2025

Early detection and control measures at the community level, through strengthening mechanisms and enhancing capacities at the community level for early containment at the source.

Health emergencies begin & end in communities...

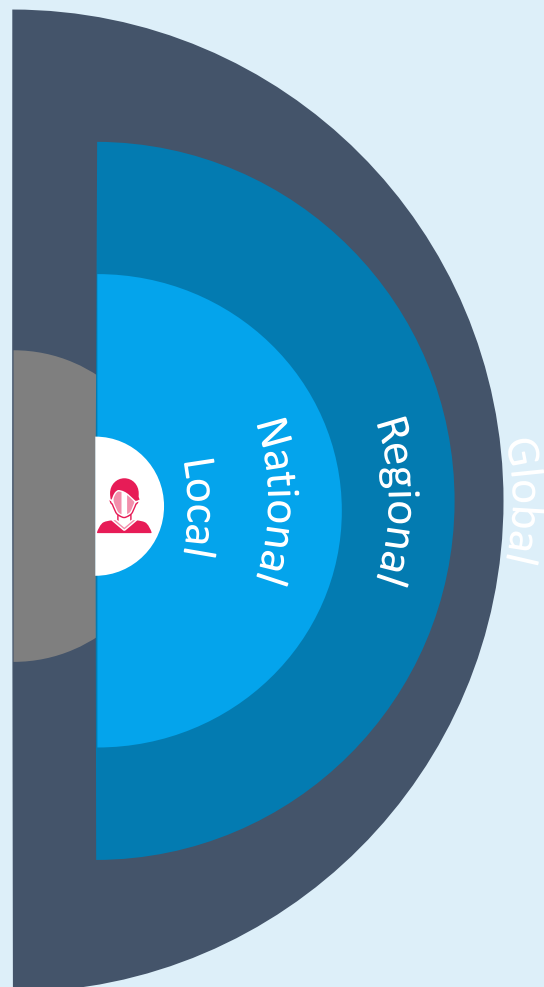


Pandemic

Epidemic

Outbreak

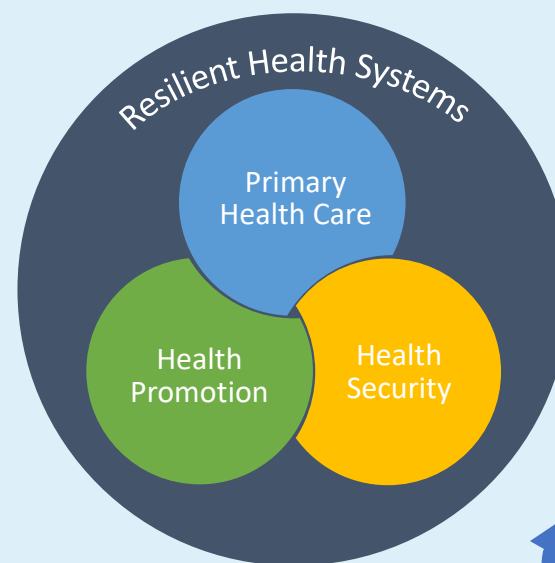
Patient 0



No one is safe until all are safe

...and require a systemic approach to achieve health protection

Resilient communities & health systems...



...supported by a local, national, regional & global technical/operational networks for health emergency preparedness, readiness and response

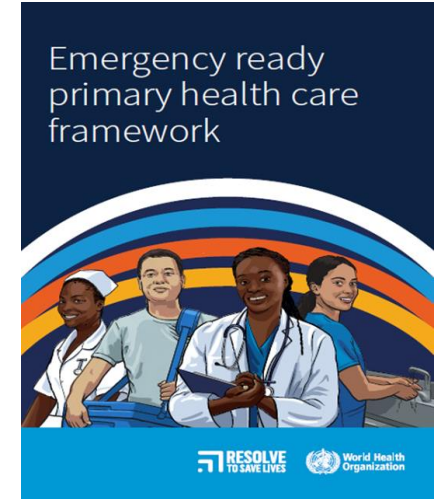
Launch of ERPHC Framework and Operational Guide at WHA 79



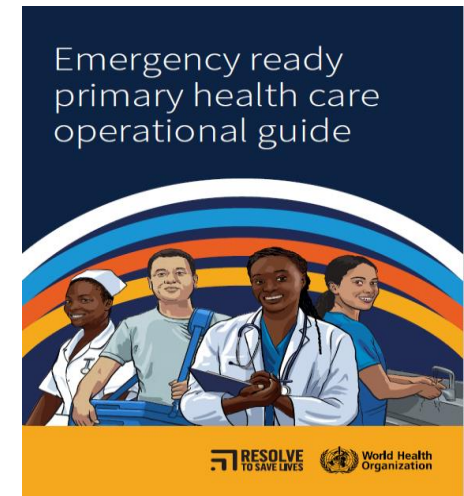
- Partnership between WHO and Resolve to Save Lives
- External Review Group consisted of Global experts on RCCE, Surveillance, IPC, PHC, etc.
- Global Consultation, 25-26 February 2026
- Launch of ERPHC Framework and Operational Guide, WHA 79 event organized by Kazakhstan, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, Resolve to Save Lives



Photo taken during the side event on ERPHC at the seventy-ninth world health assembly by WHO governance department, Geneva, Switzerland, May 21, 2026



<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/B09750>



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WHAT IS EMERGENCY READY PRIMARY HEALTH CARE?



The **Emergency Ready PHC Framework** presents an approach that strengthens PHC to prevent, detect and respond to all-hazards health emergencies while ensuring the continuity of essential health services through PHC systems that can:

- Rapidly detect and respond to health threats → **Speed**
- Manage emergencies safely, protecting staff, patients, and communities → **Safety**
- Handle increased patient volume and maintain essential health services → **Surge**

ERPHC strengthens four interdependent capacities within PHC systems that together generate speed, safety and surge: **Connect Detect Protect Treat**



Build trusted relationships with communities, share information, and strengthen local preparedness and resilience



Identify and report emerging health risks early through surveillance, early warning, and situational awareness systems



Protect HCWs, patients, and communities through IPC, resilient infrastructure, and access to medical countermeasures



Manage emergency-related conditions and maintain essential health services during periods of increased demand

Emergency Ready Primary Health Care Framework

Impact

Reduced morbidity and mortality + Reduced socio-economic costs = Improved health and wellbeing

Outcomes

Timely detection and early response to all hazards

Healthcare workers and patients are protected

Delivery of essential health services maintained

Outputs

Speed

Rapidly detect and respond to health threats

Safety

Manage emergencies safely, protecting staff, patients, and communities

Surge

Handle increased patient volume and maintain essential health services

Capacities

Connect

Build trusted community relationships that enable early action

Detect

Identify and report emerging health risks early

Protect

Ensure safe service delivery and protect health workers and communities

Treat

Manage emergency-related conditions while sustaining essential services

Activities



Targeted technical interventions to strengthen each capacity

This all-hazard framework simplifies complex systems, offering both a clear model and a practical guide to help primary health care serve as the first line of defence in health emergencies

PHCs as vital bridge linking communities with National health systems and capacities that save lives during health emergencies.



Community capabilities and functions linked with PHC operational framework

- **Equitable, High-Quality Primary Care**
 - First contact, person-centered care
 - Community based care, referrals and outreach services
- **Essential public health functions**
 - Risk communication and community engagement, Infodemic management
 - Community based early warning, alert and surveillance
 - Public health and social measures
 - Emergency prevention, preparedness and response
- **Community Engagement & Empowerment**
 - Leveraging community structures & networks
 - Building Trust and sustained relationships
 - Strengthening capacities of the community workforce
- **Multi-sectoral coordination and action**
 - Community based disaster management
 - Social and economic protection

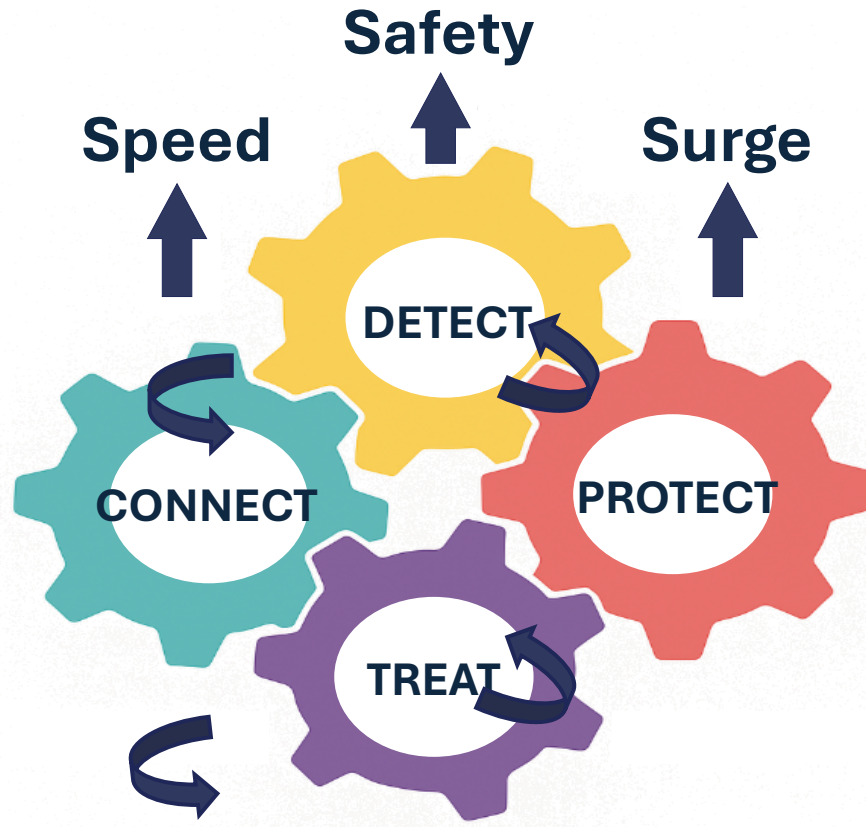


A systems model

Integration is the innovation

ensuring all parts work together to build emergency ready PHC system

- Capacities are interdependent
- Speed, safety and surge are collective system properties
- Shared system foundations enable performance



Shared
workflows

Shared
enablers

Shared
outcomes

ALL-HAZARDS APPROACH

The outcomes remain consistent, while the actions adapt to the hazard and context

	SPEED	SAFETY	SURGE
Infectious disease outbreak	Early detection & notification of outbreak signals, timely risk communication and community engagement	Prevent and mitigate community transmission & protect communities and health workers	Manage increased cases, community base case management & maintain essential services
Extreme weather event	Early warning, risk communication and mitigation & anticipatory action	Protect people from environmental exposure and minimize health impacts	Manage climate-related illness and health impact & maintain essential health services
Natural disaster	Rapid assessment of casualties, facility status & first aid, management of injuries & early detection of emerging threats and disease outbreaks	Ensure facility safety & protect people from secondary hazards including water, food and vector borne diseases	Manage mass casualties, timely response to outbreaks & maintain essential services

From Framework to Implementation: The ERPHC Operational Guide

The ERPHC Operational Guide translates the ERPHC Framework into a practical, country-led implementation pathway

A Stepwise, Iterative Process:



The operational guide supports adaptation - not prescription - **enabling countries to contextualize, prioritize, and sequence interventions based on risk, system capacity, and national priorities**

1. Assess

- Identify where progress has been made across **Connect, Detect, Protect, and Treat**, and pinpoint the **biggest gaps**.

2. Prioritize

- Select activities based on **relevance, feasibility, and impact** - aligned with national priorities. Remove what doesn't fit. Add what's missing.

3. Integrate and refine

- Integrate efforts across capacities to avoid siloes - ensuring coherence, efficiency, and measurable impact.

Key Messages

- **PHC is front door of health system** to protect communities and provide emergency care & services
- **Interconnected four ERPHC capacities:** Connect, Detect, Protect and Treat
- **ERPHC output :** Speed, safety and surge
- **Integration** is the innovation
- **All hazard approach,**
- **Step by Step approach:** Asses, prioritize and adapt/integrate
- **Pilot for country specific operational model, national adaptation or focused actions**



Emergency Ready Primary Health Care (ERPHC)

Global Expert Consultation
Cairo, 25th - 26th February 2026



Thank you

- Sign-up to the Community Protection Newsletter: [HERE](#)
- Access Community Protection resources on OpenWHO: [HERE](#)
- Learn more about the Hive digital collaboration space: [HERE](#)
- Download Defining Community Protection: [HERE](#)

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<https://www.who.int/activities/strengthening-community-readiness-for-health-emergencies>