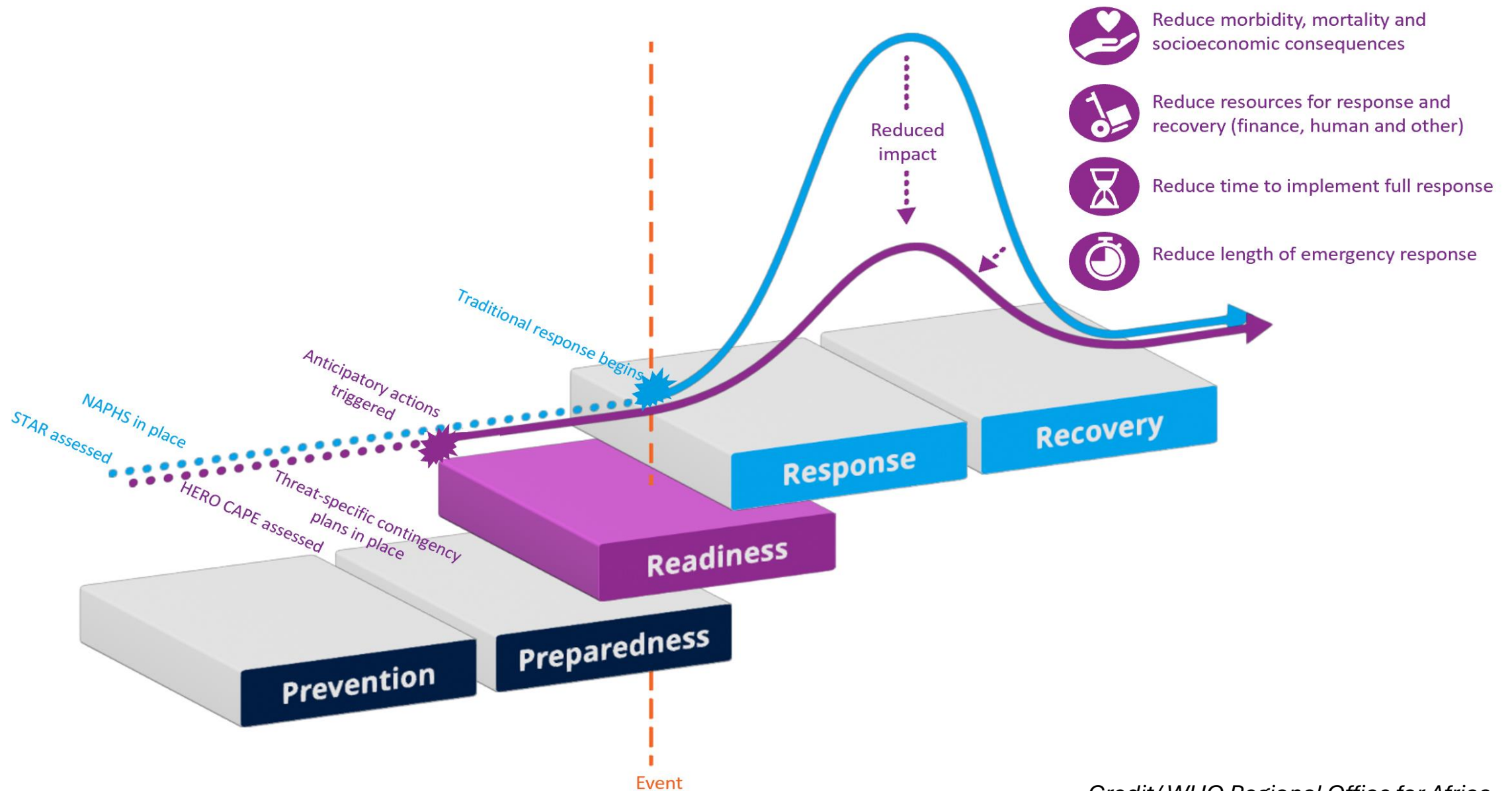




Community Protection and Readiness for BVD

“The community protection pillar will strengthen risk communication, support community health workers, reduce social barriers to care, and prevent gender-based violence.”

Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu, Executive Director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme

Communities are the first line of defense against BVD.

Readiness means ensuring that people, communities and frontline systems can detect, prevent and respond rapidly before widespread transmission occurs.

This includes:

- **Risk communication and community engagement** – helping people understand the risks and how to protect themselves.
- **Public health measures at borders/points of entry** – reducing spread across borders and travel routes.
- **Readiness evaluation and action** – ensuring countries at risk ready their systems and share anticipatory actions.
- **Operational Research** – ensuring community needs, capacities and expectations are at the centre of response efforts.

Communities are partners, not beneficiaries, in preparedness and response.



LES COMMUNAUTÉS
AU CENTRE DE L'INTERVENTION
D'URGENCE
RENFORCER L'IMPACT AU NIVEAU
LOCAL PAR LE BIAIS DE SCIENCES
SOCIALES ET
COMPORTEMENTALES



Readiness Activities for an Upcoming Mass Gathering Event

South Sudan : Martyr's day, 30th July 2026 - Juba (main ceremony) plus in Bor, Wau, Bentiu and Yei – Several thousand attended expected

Readiness measures to strengthen **alert detection**, **referral pathways** for suspected cases, hygiene and sanitation measures, **risk communication** for attendees, enhanced **cross border coordination**, at borders and at event sites bordering affected areas.

Reference documents and tools

- Cross-Border Movement readiness checklist and event mapping template
- Escalation Scenarios and Recommended Actions for MG Event Organisers
- All-Hazards MG Risk Assessment Tool
- WHO BVD mass gatherings guidance
- MG SimEx practical guidance document
- RCCE readiness and response toolkit: mass gatherings

Training and Orientation Sessions

- All-Hazards MG Risk Assessment Tool Orientation/training for AFRO BVD Focal Points Uganda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Rwanda and Kenya
- Simex /TTX : crowd surge

