

Republic of Moldova Country Experience in Providing Strategic Risk Assessment (STAR)

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Introduction

- Moldova, a small country in Europe, faces multiple risks (biological, chemical, terrestrial) and evolving challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.
- Conducting regular Risk assessments is critical for identifying and addressing these threats



The STAR history in Moldova

- Ø Moldova's first risk assessment (STAR) in 2018 identified key risks, but the landscape has since changed.
- Ø In 2024, the government prioritized updating the risk profile due to new threats like pandemics and regional instability.
- Ø The Ministry of Health (MoH) and National Agency for Public Health (NAPH), with WHO support, conducted the 2024 risk assessment.
- Ø This process improved intersectoral collaboration among key stakeholders and resulted in an updated, more accurate list of current hazards.

STAR process - step by step

- Ø The risk assessment is part of GD 222/2023 “Regarding the approval of the plan for the implementation of IHR”;
- Ø STAR is included in the activity plan of the National Focal Point for the year 2024;
- Ø In March 2024, the National Focal Point sends a request to the WHO Country Office for support;
- Ø In April 2024, we received WHO approval for the national and regional STAR;
- Ø Until the national workshop - 3 training sessions with the group of international experts and the national group of experts (MoH, HAPH, GIES, NAFS);
- Ø During the training sessions, the tool and method of completion was presented, the generic list of dangers was agreed, or the roles for the national team and the organizational aspects for the national workshop were divided;
- Ø June 4-6, 2024, the Risk Assessment Workshop was organized, attended by over 50 interministerial participants;
- Ø August 28 - September 12, 2024, the regional workshops on risk assessment took place;

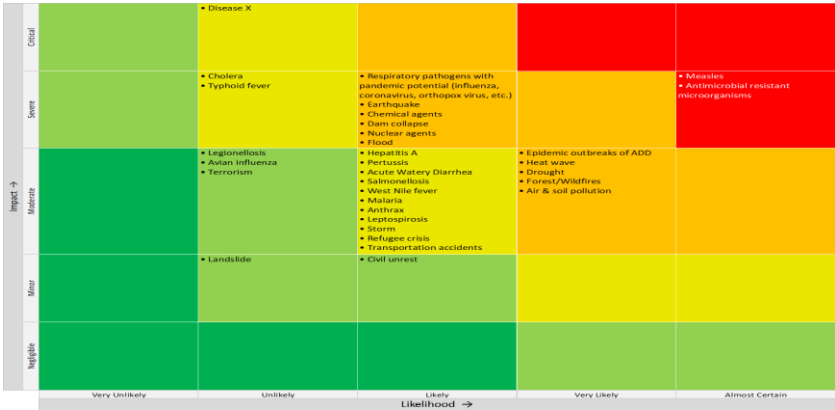
Organization of the STAR workshop

- **Multisectoral**

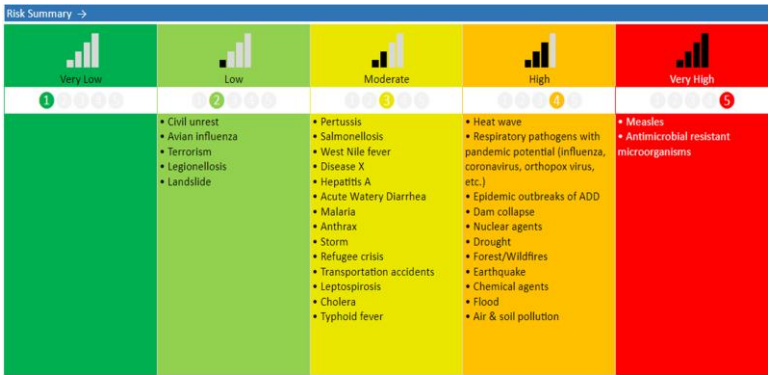


- ✓ Ministry of Health
- ✓ National Agency for Public Health
- ✓ General Directorate of Medical and Social Assistance Municipality
- ✓ Ministry of the Environment
- ✓ Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry
- ✓ Minister of Infrastructure and Regional Development
- ✓ Minister of Labor and Social Protection
- ✓ Ministry of Education and Research
- ✓ National Agency for Food Safety (ANSA)
- ✓ Republican Veterinary Diagnostic Centre (CRDV)
- ✓ State Hydrometeorological Service
- ✓ National Agency for the Regulation of Nuclear and Rad Activities
- ✓ General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations
- ✓ General Inspectorate of the Border Police
- ✓ Customs Service
- ✓ State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Testemițanu
- ✓ Civil Aeronautical Authority
- ✓ Naval Agency

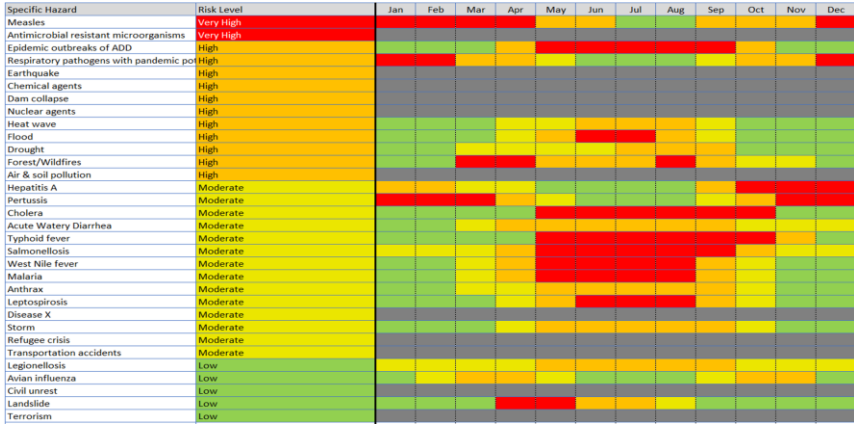
Risk profile



Risk level



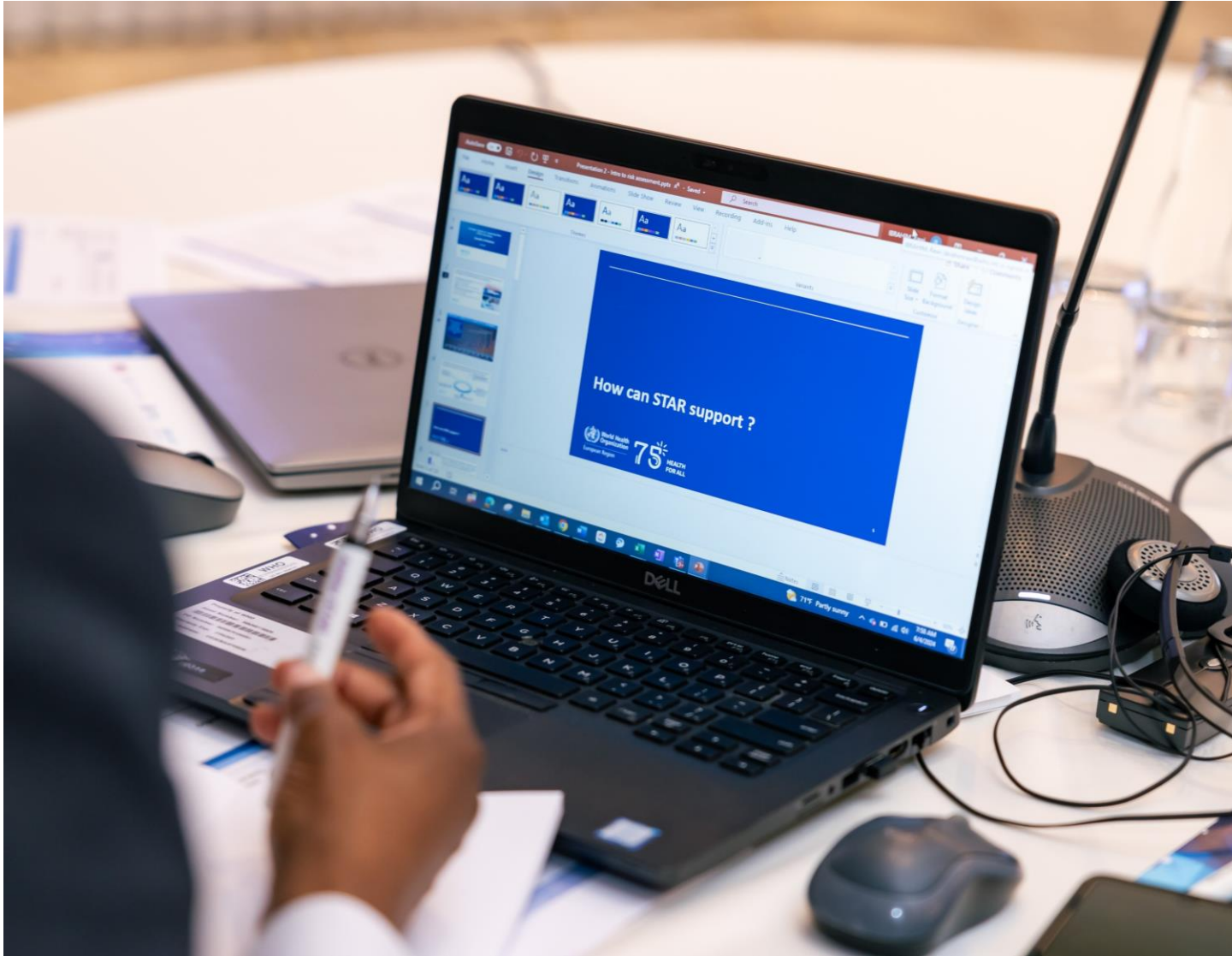
Risk calendar



STAR result

How Risk Assessment Informs Plans

- Ø The updated risk profile helps tailor public health emergency response plans, ensuring a focus on high-priority threats;
- Ø Inform the NAPHS development;
- Ø **Resource Allocation:** It informs the efficient use of resources, prioritizing areas of greatest risk;
- Ø **Dynamic Response:** Flexible response frameworks are now based on evolving risks, enabling swift adaptation.

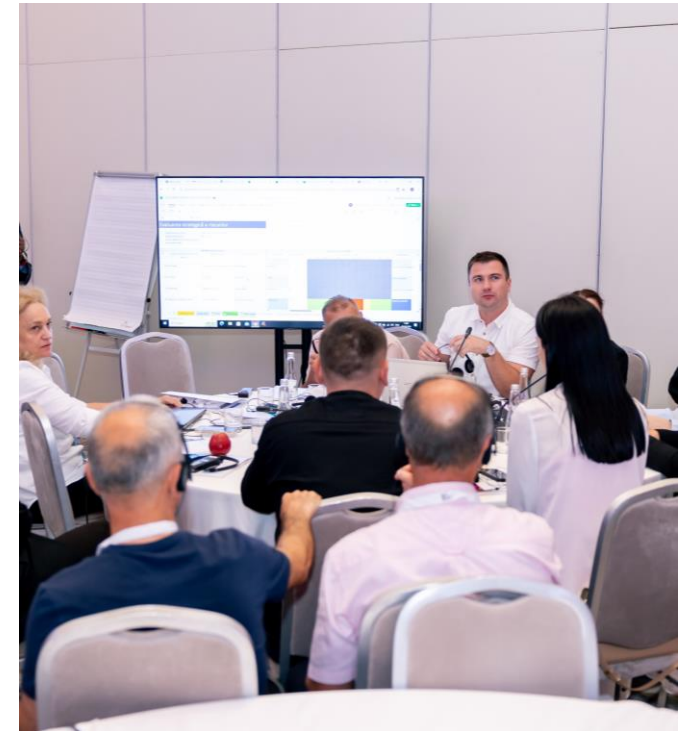


Challenges

- Inter-sectorial cooperation;
- Lack of plans with distributed responsibilities;
- Very low risk management capacity (chemical, radiological);
- Limited financial resources for equipment insurance;
- Need of participating in the planning, design and conduct of exercises to assess preparedness and response to public health hazards.

Lessons Learned & Best practices & Recommendations:

- q Elaboration and updating of plans for preparation and response to existing public health hazards and emergencies at the national, regional and territorial level, with the involvement of all actors responsible for responding to public health hazards and emergencies;
- q Developing contingency plans for risks that have been assessed as requiring additional risk mitigation actions;
- q Trainings;
- q Periodically carrying out the assessment of public health hazards and risks with the updating of the risk list for public health hazards;



Thank you!

