

# WHO actions in radiation emergencies

## WHAT WE DO

- Coordinate the global health response under the International Health Regulations and the [Joint Radiation Emergency Management Plan](#).
- Provide assessment of health risk of radiation exposure, food and water safety, and health-system impacts.
- Issue evidence-based technical guidance on public health response, clinical management, dose assessment, MHPSS and risk communication tools.
- Support national authorities through global expert networks ([REMPAN](#) and [BioDoseNet](#)) and [WHO Collaborating Centres](#).
- Advise on medical countermeasures, including iodine thyroid blocking and clinical management of radiation injuries and internal contamination with radionuclides.
- Ensure timely, verified health information for the public to reduce fear and misinformation.
- Mobilize resources for international health assistance, provision of medical supplies and equipment.

## WHAT WE DON'T DO

- Do not lead the overall emergency response—national authorities retain primary responsibility; [IAEA](#) coordinates international response and [UN/OCHA](#) leads humanitarian coordination.
- Do not operate, regulate, or secure nuclear facilities—this is the role of national regulators and the IAEA.
- Do not undertake field missions, nor conduct environmental radiation monitoring or field measurements.
- Do not issue evacuation, sheltering, or exclusion-zone orders—these are national decisions.
- Do not provide military, security, or law-enforcement functions related to nuclear materials.
- Do not impose trade or border measures; WHO provides health risk advice, but Member States make policy decisions.