

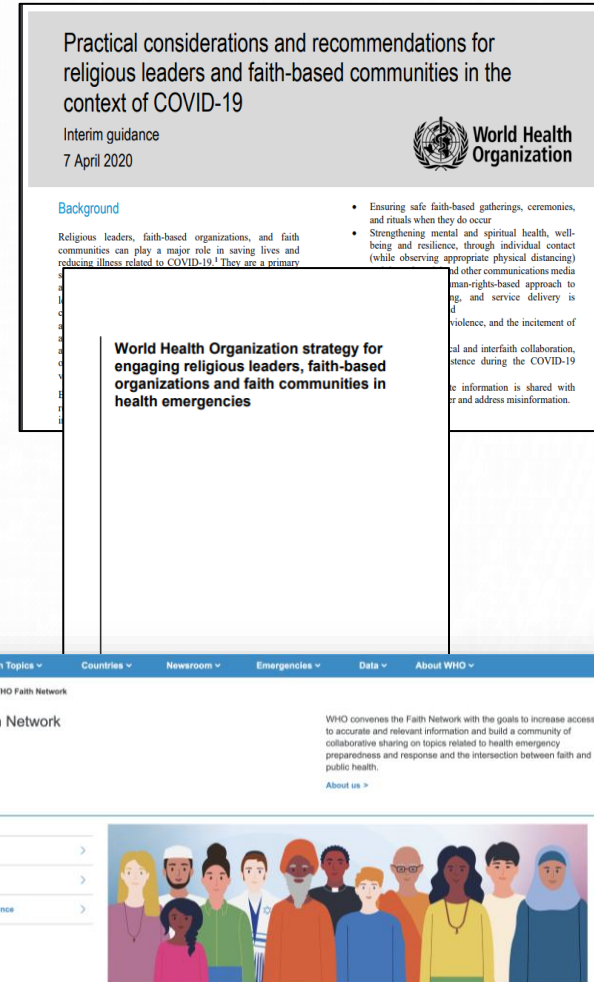
WHO Faith Network Update December 2024

Sarah, Sally, and Priya



Faith Network engagement 2020 onward – some early deliverables

- COVID-19 guidance: [Practical considerations and recommendations for religious leaders and faith-based communities in the context of COVID-19](#)
- WHO DG Dr Tedros - **high-level dialogue** with religious leaders hosted by Religions for Peace in early 2021
- WHO-RfP-UNICEF joint webinar series in spring 2021 on COVID-19 **communications and advocacy for vaccine equity, access and uptake**
- **Formalization of the WHO Faith Network**
- November 2021: publication of the ***World Health Organization strategy for engaging religious leaders, faith-based organizations and faith communities in health emergencies***
- Late 2021, global conference co-hosted by WHO and RfP: ***Strengthening national responses to health emergencies: WHO, Religious Leaders, Faith-based Organizations, Faith Communities and National Governments***
- End 2021 – Commission invitation from Lancet editorial staff



WHO Faith Network Key Areas of Interest 2022-23

Communication and advocacy

The COP's focus is to support 1) the sharing of accurate and timely health information resulting in the adoption of healthy behaviours and informed decision making, and 2) advocacy for health equity and vaccine access.

Trust

Develop more evidence regarding the role of trust and FLs as sources of trust in preparing and responding to health emergencies.

Resources

Document existing communication and advocacy resources that can be repurposed for other emergencies

Strengthening health emergency preparedness, response, and resilience

The COP's focus is strengthening the partnership between WHO and faith partners for health emergency preparedness, response and resilience including contributing to UHC and HCSS.

Strategy

Dissemination and operationalization of the [WHO strategy for engaging religious leaders, faith-based organization and faith communities in health emergencies](#)

Checklist

Preparedness checklist(s) for faith partners, including to pilot and refine for dissemination + faith-specific considerations input in existing checklists. **Developed.**

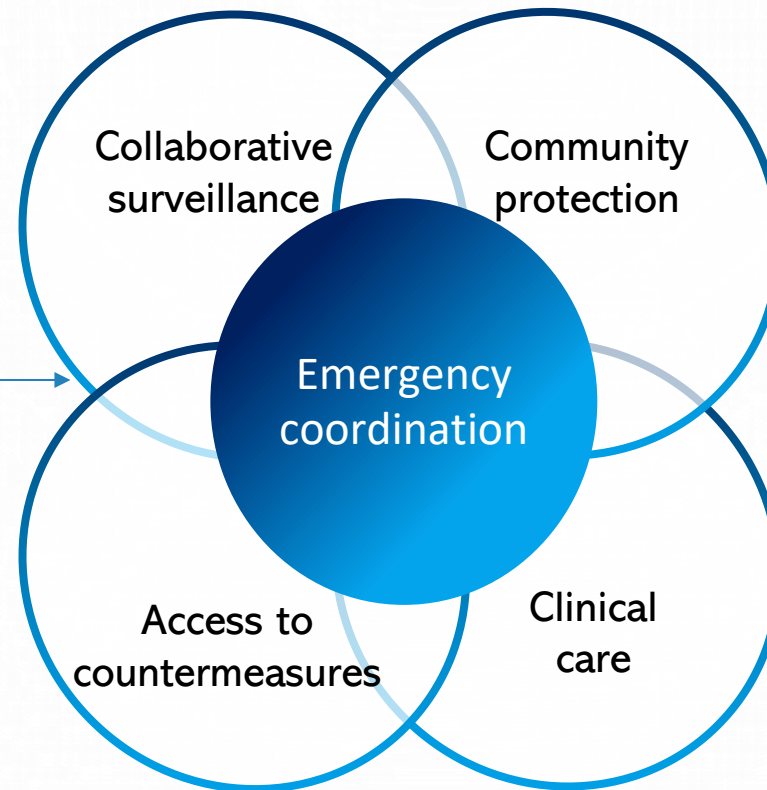
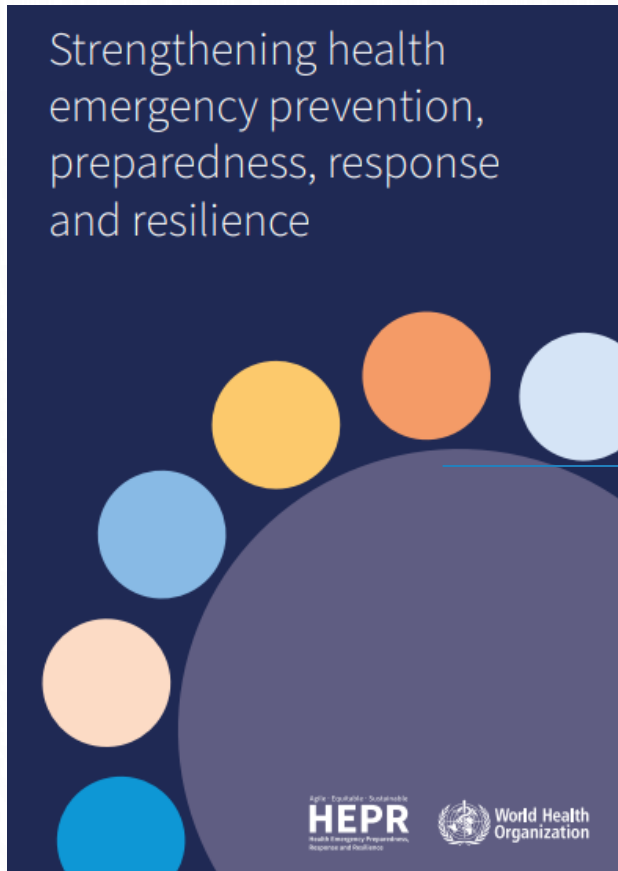
Mapping

Support documentation of the health assets and infrastructure owned and managed by FBOs and faith partners.

Research

Collect, document, and publish on various related topics.

Strengthening the global architecture for health emergency preparedness, response and resilience



“Each of the five Cs encompasses core IHR (international health regulations) capacities, alongside complementary multi-sector and One Health capacities crucial for an effective whole-of-society approach to health emergency prevention, preparedness, response and resilience.”

5 core health emergency components – the 5 C's

Pandemic preparedness global platforms unit

- WHO Health in the World of Work Network
- WHO Faith Network for Epidemic & Pandemic Preparedness
- WHO Initiative on Trust and Pandemic Preparedness

Also within PGP:

- Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET) Initiative
 - Module 1: respiratory & Module 2: arbovirus pathogens
- WHO MOSAIC Respiratory Surveillance Framework
- Seasonal influenza vaccination (programme & policy strengthening)

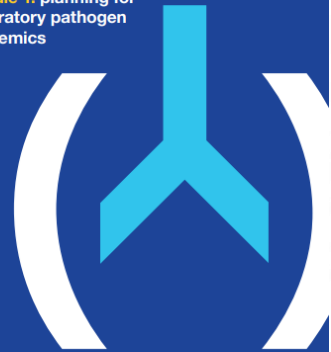
“Crafting the mosaic”

A framework for resilient surveillance for respiratory viruses of epidemic and pandemic potential



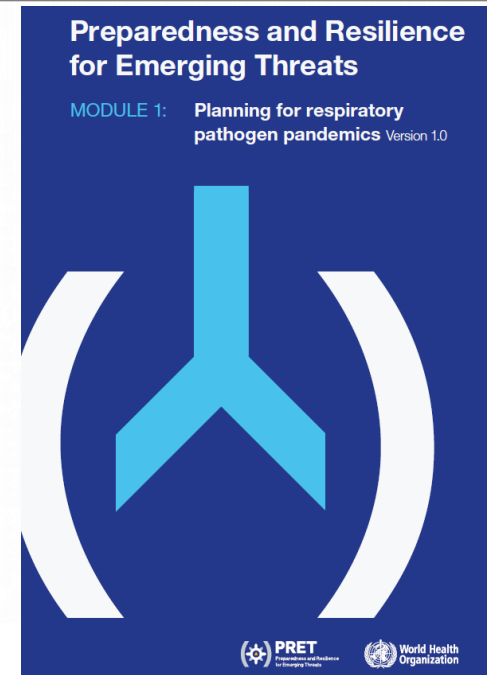
Preparedness and resilience for emerging threats

Module 1: planning for respiratory pathogen pandemics



New approaches to pathogen pandemic preparedness

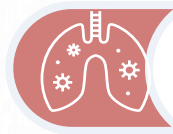
- Planning for the inevitable: future respiratory pathogen pandemics
- PRET Initiative – pandemic preparedness applying a mode of transmission approach
- Rationale? For pathogens with the same mode of transmission, we can leverage similar systems, capacities, knowledge and tools.



PRET

Preparedness and Resilience
for Emerging Threats

Modes of transmission



Respiratory (e.g. COVID-19, influenza, MERS-CoV-2, adenovirus)



Arthropod borne (e.g. Dengue, Zika, Yellow fever)



Direct contact (e.g. Mpox, Ebola virus disease, Marburg)



Water and food borne (e.g. Cholera, Typhoid fever)



Zoonotic (e.g. Rabies, Plague, Lassa fever, Nipah)

1. **Key actions** to strengthen pandemic preparedness
2. New **organizing framework** with operational stages, triggers and assumptions for planning
3. Suggested outline of a **pandemic plan**
4. **National examples** of good practices
5. **Simulation Exercise** package to test national preparedness



Technical Briefings

1. Influenza H5N1 preparedness work at WHO, and the current global monitoring and preparation work. Updated information on H5 N1 can be found [here](#), and the Q&A page [here](#).
2. Technical briefing for faith-based health service providers on Mpox. Technical information on the Mpox outbreak can be found [here](#).
3. [WHO framework for Strengthening the global architecture for health emergency prevention, preparedness and response and resilience \(HEPR\)](#).
4. Faith partners provided technical briefings to other WHO teams, or requested WHO experts to take part in technical briefings on other topics that they hosted

Advocacy, Global Consultations

- [WHO Director General addressed Religious Leaders Multi-Religious and Multi-Stakeholder High-Level Forum: The Role of Faith in Advancing Positive Outcomes for Children, Families, and Communities.](#)
- Members of the WHO Faith Network drafted an advocacy [Statement in support of a strong International Pandemic Accord](#) being negotiated by Member States.
- The WHO Faith network, and World of Work networks, together hosted a dialogue on Trust with the Global Preparedness and Monitoring Board (GPMB) Team. Following this, a report from the dialogue was included in the [Annex to the 2025 GMPPM Report released in October.](#)
- Work on Mental Health Psychosocial and Spiritual Support has resumed with the engagement of a consultant to develop a technical document to accompany the WHO [IASC Guidelines on mental health and psychosocial support in emergency settings](#) (2007).
- Faith based representatives from the WHO MHPSS Community of Practice joined the [Inter Agency Steering Group on Mental Health and psychosocial Support in Emergency settings](#) meeting in October.

Publications

1. Lancet Global Health. Published a comment entitled: [Faith as a complex system: engaging with the faith sector for strengthened health emergency preparedness and response](#) which subsequently appeared in the November printed issue. Volume 12, Issue 11.
2. Christian Health Asset Mapping Consortium published a new concept paper "[Mapping Faith-Based Public-Private Partnerships with National Ministries of Health: Context, Gaps, & Strategies](#)".
3. [Enhancing hospital preparedness for respiratory pathogen epidemics and pandemics Good Samaritan University Hospital conducts a tabletop simulation exercise.](#)
4. A report of participation in the Inter-agency meeting appeared in [L'Osservatore Romano](#), the Vatican Newspaper on 21 Nov to raise awareness of this work.

2025 and beyond...

- **Consolidation within the Pandemic Preparedness Global Platforms Unit**
 - Faith Network
 - Health in the World of Work,
 - PRET Partners Engagement Forum
 - Trust Partners Engagement Forum
- **The plan is to host a combined meeting on specific topics related to epidemic and pandemic preparedness and prevention with “breakouts” for network-specific deeper discussion and action.**

Integration of Faith Network into PRET PEF

PRET Partners Engagement Forum

- **Frequency of meetings:** Every 2 months (last Wednesday of the month)
- **Length:** Scheduled for 1.5 hours
- **Platform:** Zoom

Tentative format

- **Plenary (45 minutes)**
- **Welcome and Overview**
- **Plenary Discussion**
 - Updates from WHO
 - Topic focus presentation(s) (relevant to all networks)
- **Wrap-Up and Next Steps**
- **Breakout Groups (45 minutes)**
- **Breakout Sessions by Topic**
 - Separate break out groups for Faith Network, World of Work, and optional breakout group for plenary presenter
 - Colleagues will also have the option to drop off at this point

Moving forward

Upcoming Meeting:

- **Next Partners Engagement Forum: Tentatively last week of January (invitation to follow)**
 - **Tentative theme:** hospital simulation exercises
- **Full series to be shared in the coming weeks**
- **If you would like to share any updates or initiatives related to respiratory planning at future meetings, please contact PRET@who.int**
- **AOB?**



**World Health
Organization**