
Asia Pacific Health Security Action Framework

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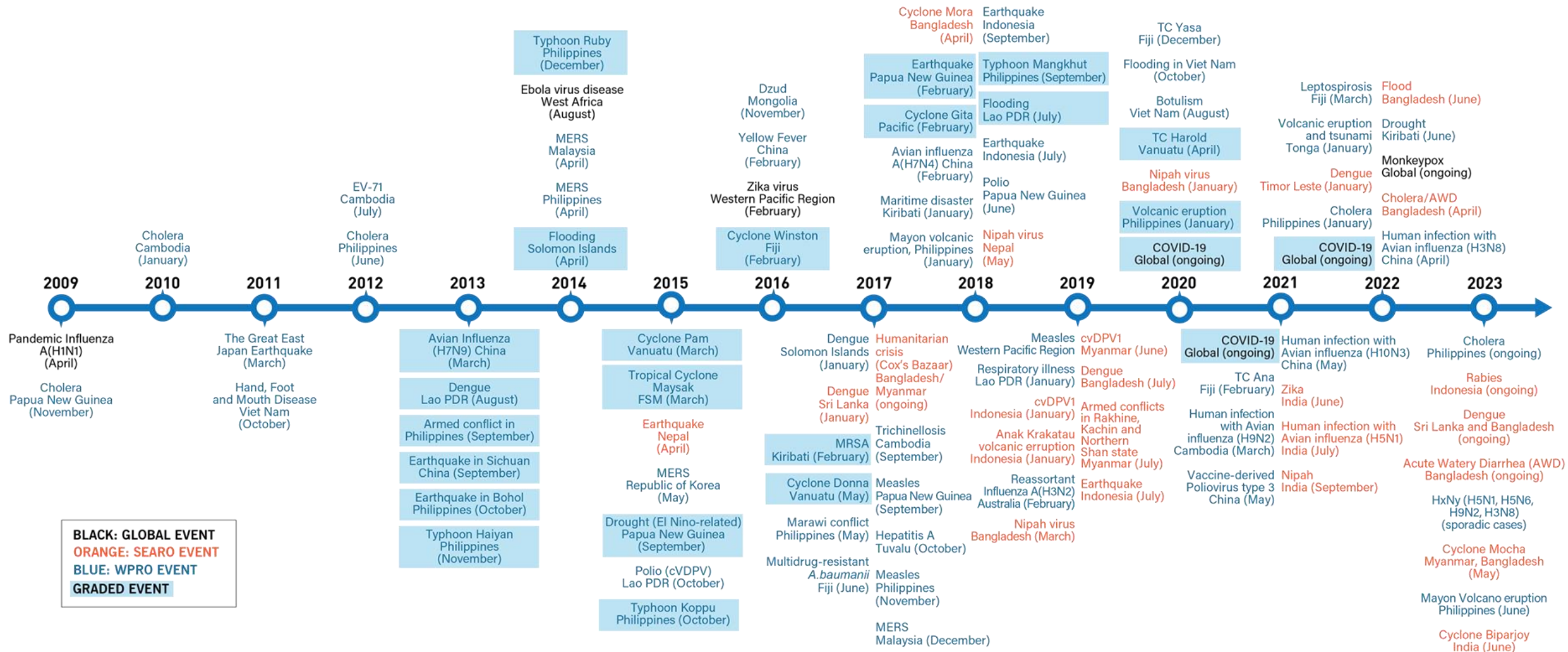
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Western Pacific Region

HEALTH
EMERGENCIES
programme

The Asia Pacific experiences frequent public health emergencies, which are increasing in complexity and impact



These public health emergencies can be triggered by a wide range of hazards



Infectious diseases

- E.g. Cholera, dengue, influenza



Emerging zoonotic diseases

- E.g. avian influenza, MERS, Ebola, COVID-19



Antimicrobial resistance



Geophysical

- E.g. earthquake, tsunami, volcanic eruption



Hydro-meteorological

- E.g. flood, landslide, typhoon, dzud, wildfire



Food safety

- E.g. Contamination, foodborne illness



Human-induced

- E.g. armed conflict, humanitarian



Chemical

- E.g. chemical spill, gas leak



Radiological

- E.g. nuclear reactor event, transportation event



Increasing complexity of factors influencing health security hazards, exposure and vulnerability

- Increasing speed and volume of movements of people and goods
 - Faster disease spread
- Urbanization
 - Higher population density
 - Habitat encroachment and increasing interactions between human-animal ecosystems
- Environmental factors
 - Climate change (can be favorable to vector breeding)
 - Increasing intensity and frequency of natural hazards e.g. drought, flooding, heatwaves, fires
 - Food insecurity
- Technology and man-made threats
 - Industrialization and pollution
 - Bioterrorism and conflicts

Major public health emergencies can impact on all aspects of health, economy and society



HEALTH

Significantly impact health system capacity and disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, widening health inequalities

SOCIAL

Consequences such as unemployment, discrimination, domestic violence, alcohol and substance abuse cause injury and increase inequities.

EDUCATION

Disruption to schooling can negatively impact student mental health and well-being, education and earning potential

ECONOMIC

Disruption to travel and trade can lead to reduced household and government incomes, business closure, disrupted global supply-chains

SECURITY

Can also threaten national security by causing civil unrest and political instability.

Since the 2003 SARS outbreak, our Region has invested strategically in health security systems

Utilizing a common Asia Pacific strategic framework and collaborative efforts of countries, areas, WHO and partners to:

- Strengthen capacities to detect, report and respond to **multi-hazard** public health emergencies
- Implement the revised **International Health Regulations** (2005)
- Support multisectoral collaboration and **One Health** approaches

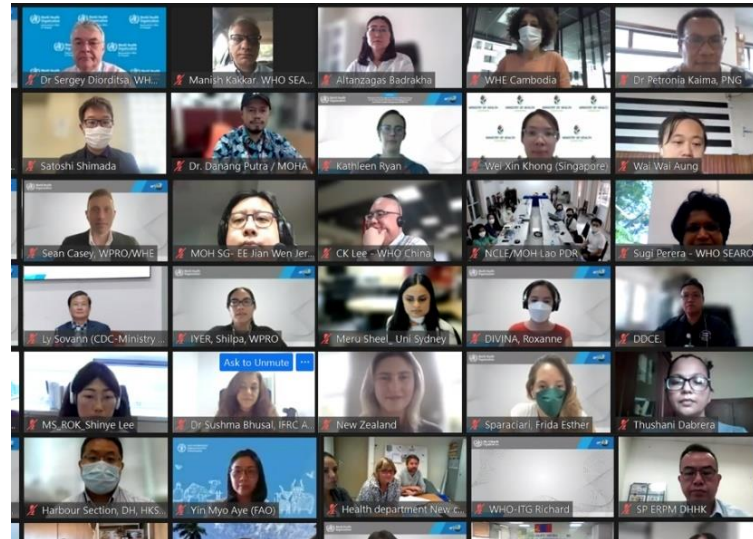
Asia Pacific Health Security Action Framework (**APHSAF**): 2023
Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies (**APSED**): 2005, 2010, 2016



A man wears a surgical mask on the street in Hong Kong SAR, China, May 2003.



The strengths of this approach and investment were demonstrated by rapid and effective response of countries in the Region to COVID-19



Better than global averages

The Asia Pacific has performed better than global averages for key COVID-19 indicators (*The Lancet COVID-19 Commission*)

Guided responses

Responses in the region guided by annual APSED Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting discussions and recommendations

Learning and improving

Countries have shared challenges, achievements and lessons to learn and improve from each other.



Papua New Guinea Defense Force (PNGDF) Training on COVID-19, Port Moresby, July 2020

But more needs to be done to be ready for the next pandemic or major public health emergency

- The impact of major public health emergencies goes far beyond health – they can affect all aspects of life, society and economy.
- Forward-looking, multi-hazard, multisectoral and integrated approaches are needed to develop comprehensive health security systems.
- Small island developing states – including Pacific island countries and areas – face a complex mix of geographic, economic and environmental challenges and are particularly vulnerable to public health emergencies.

The new Asia Pacific Health Security Action Framework has been developed in collaboration between Member States, WHO, experts and partners

Building on:

- Progress achieved under APSED
- Regional experiences of responding to public health emergencies e.g. SARS, MERS, HxNy, typhoons, flooding
- Lessons identified from COVID-19

Stakeholder Consultations: May 2023

Experts Consultation: Apr 2023

WHO Collaborating Centers
Consultation: Nov 2022

APSED TAG, JUNE 2023

- Draft *Asia Pacific Health Security Action Framework* presented
- Discussion and comments to domain approach and implementation

APSED TAG, JULY 2022

- COVID-19 learning and improving mechanism
- Structure options for new framework presented
- Recommendations to convene further consultations to discuss action framework structure and content

APSED TAG, JULY 2021

- Identified technical areas presented
- Recommendation to develop new health security action framework to present at APSED TAG 2023

Western Pacific & South-East Asia Regional
Committee Meetings: Oct/Nov 2023

APSED TAG, JULY 2020

- 6-month review of COVID-19 response
- Member States shared lessons and experiences to support improved responses

Our vision is of an Asia Pacific Region that is prepared for and resilient to public health emergencies through collective action and that contributes to global health security



Asia Pacific Health Security Action Framework

VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Values

- **Equity:** Leave no community or country behind – reach the unreached, and support and engage the most vulnerable.
- **Inclusivity:** Involving the engagement and ownership of all countries, communities and stakeholders, including participation in leadership and decision-making.
- **Coherence:** Connect health security systems and initiatives at the subnational, national, regional and global levels, consistent with international instruments.

Guiding Principles



Country focused



Multi-hazard approach



Sustained long-term investment



Future facing



Step-by-step approach to system building



Solidarity and partnerships for collective action



Whole-of-government and whole-of-society



Continuous learning for improvement

Asia Pacific Health Security Action Framework

KEY APPROACHES



Members of the Guam National Guard, assist travelers arriving from Honolulu to check into mandatory 14-day hotel quarantine.

Multisectoral emphasis

Coordinating and working with partners from the health sector and beyond.



Collaboration with civil society organization People In Need to increase COVID-19 vaccination uptake in vulnerable groups, Manicani Island, Philippines

Whole of-government and whole of society

Engaging stakeholders from across government and society to strengthen the resilience of communities and countries.

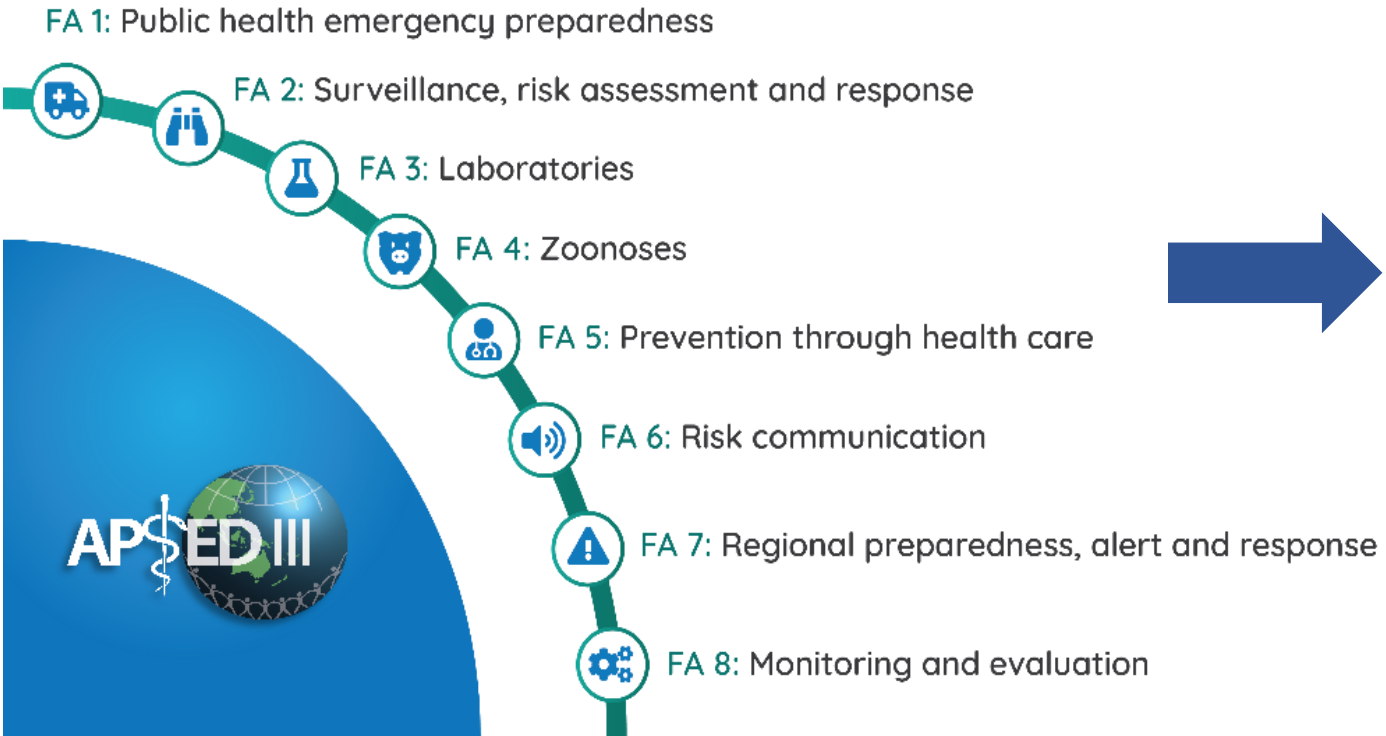


Mobile vaccination team in Cam Thanh Commune, Hoi An, Quang Nam, Viet Nam doing home visits to elderly people.

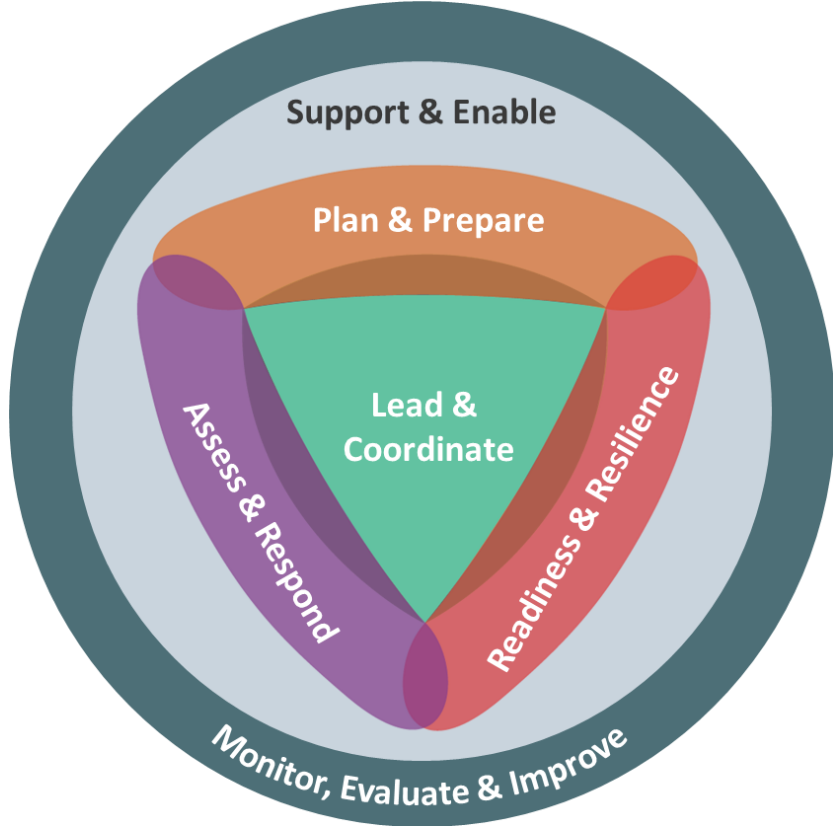
Domain approach

Using a strategic framework of six interconnected domains to better understand and plan comprehensive health security systems.

Moving from focus areas to a 'domain approach'



APSED III focus areas



APHSAF domains

Six interconnected domains for effective health security in the Asia Pacific region

LEAD AND COORDINATE

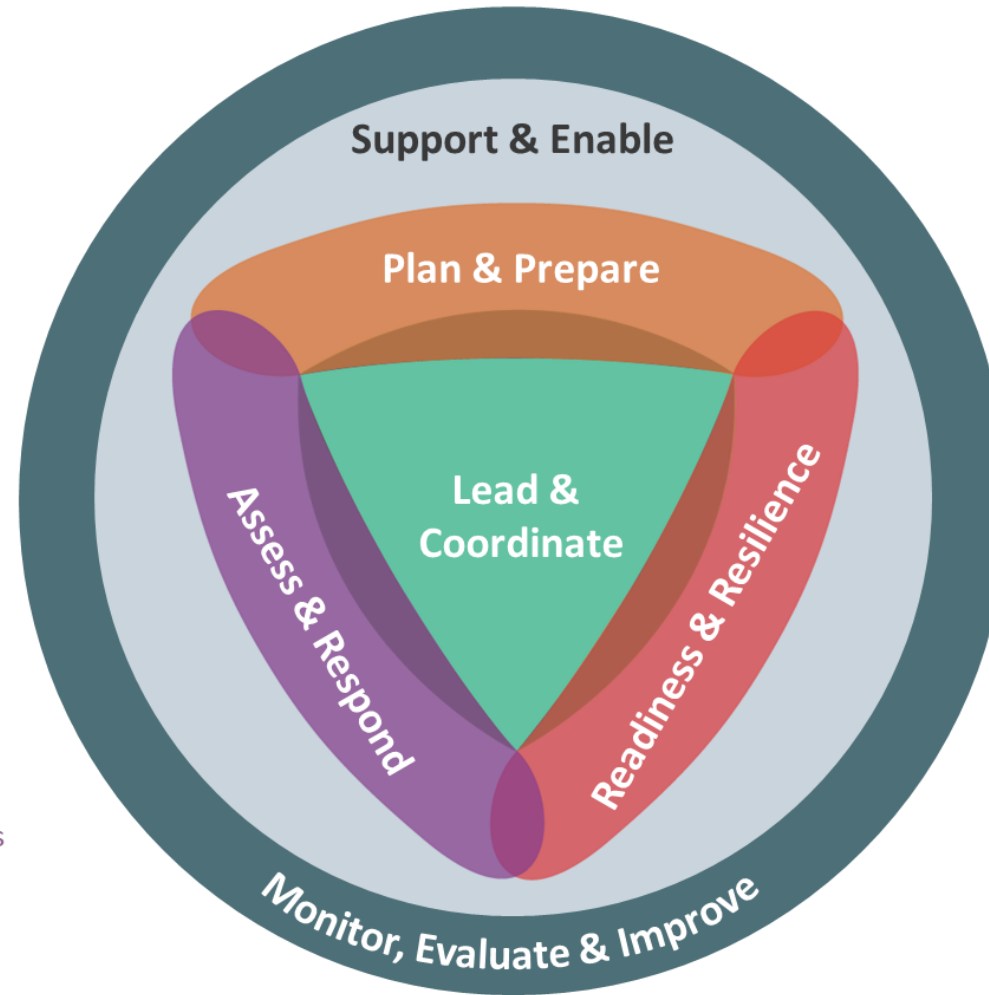
- Leadership, governance and partnerships
- Multisectoral coordination
- International cooperation and information sharing
- Coordinating regional health security

PLAN AND PREPARE

- Legal and regulatory frameworks
- Health security planning and preparedness
- Health information systems
- Forecast public health events and potential impact

ASSESS AND RESPOND

- Risk assessment and readiness actions
- Detect, report and monitor new and unusual events
- Rapid response to limit impact and spread



READINESS AND RESILIENCE

- Prevention and risk reduction
- Deliver essential and emergency health care
- Prioritize measures for groups at risk and with vulnerabilities
- Risk communication and community engagement

SUPPORT AND ENABLE

- Develop and sustain the health security workforce
- Financing health security
- Optimize logistics and operations management
- Strengthen and promote research, technology and innovation

MONITOR, EVALUATE AND IMPROVE

- Assessing health security capacities
- Exercise and test emergency plans and functions
- Learn and improve

SAMPLE

Plan and Prepare

PLAN AND PREPARE

- Legal and regulatory frameworks
- **Health security planning and preparedness**
- Health information systems
- Forecast public health events and potential impact



Workshop to strengthening local governance for primary health care and enhanced community engagement, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Priorities in this area include:

- Develop and test **public health emergency preparedness and response plans** at national and subnational levels.
- Engage **multisectoral participation and collaboration** in public health emergency planning and preparedness.
- Strategically build and strengthen health security capacities by **developing, implementing and updating plans**, such as national action plans for health security (**NAPHS**) or similar.
- Strengthen **risk-based approaches** to managing health emergencies and mitigating risk.
- Strengthen key **systems for public health emergency management** including IMS principles, clear delegations of authority, EOCs, the National IHR Focal Point system, and systems to rapidly mobilize and allocate human and other resources.

Implementing the Framework

The Framework provides an outline for the interconnected components of a comprehensive health security system.

- intended to be tailored and adapted to local context and needs

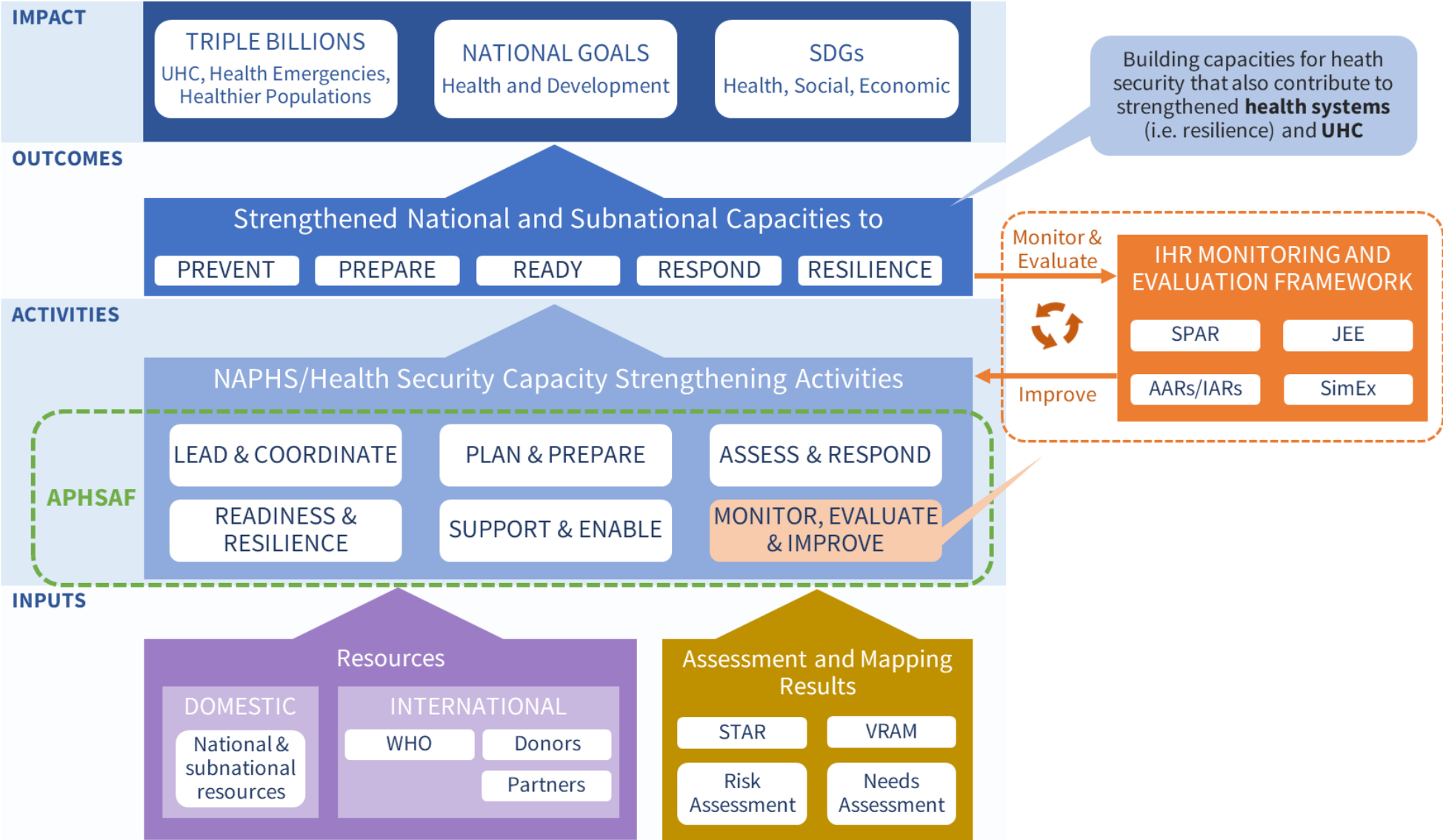
What a country/area chooses to implement depends on:

- risk and vulnerability profile
- priorities
- resources
- other contextual factors

Planning processes to strengthen health security capacities such as the NAPHS (or similar) can be used to plan and develop the identified priority components



Using the Framework to guide health security strengthening





The Asia Pacific Health Security Action Framework expands on the foundations laid by APSED with an interconnected 'domain' approach to health security

- Public health threats will continue and are growing in complexity and impacts that go far beyond health
- APSED, its principles and approaches have laid a strong base for health security in the region since 2005.
- The new Framework emphasizes multisectoral, whole-of-society and whole-of-government engagement in comprehensive health security
- WHO will continue to support Member States to prevent, prepare for and be ready to respond to public health emergencies.

Thank you

For more information, please contact:

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