

WHO definitions used for five phases of the Emergency Management Cycle (EMC)

Prevention

WHO-EMRO Health promotion and disease prevention in public health

Operational definition

This function includes disease prevention and health promotion.

Disease prevention

Disease prevention, understood as specific, population-based and individual-based interventions for primary and secondary (early detection) prevention, aiming to minimize the burden of diseases and associated risk factors.

Primary prevention refers to actions aimed at avoiding the manifestation of a disease (this may include actions to improve health through changing the impact of social and economic determinants on health; the provision of information on behavioral and medical health risks, alongside consultation and measures to decrease them at the personal and community level; nutritional and food supplementation; oral and dental hygiene education; and clinical preventive services such as immunization and vaccination of children, adults and the elderly, as well as vaccination or post-exposure prophylaxis for people exposed to a communicable disease).

Secondary prevention deals with early detection when this improves the chances for positive health outcomes (this comprises activities such as evidence-based screening programs for early detection of diseases or for prevention of congenital malformations; and preventive drug therapies of proven effectiveness when administered at an early stage of the disease).

[WHO EMRO | Health promotion and disease prevention through population-based interventions, including action to address social determinants and health inequity | Public health functions | About WHO](#)

(Emergency) Preparedness

WHO/Europe Health emergency Factsheet

A programme of long-term activities with the goal of strengthening the overall capacity and capability of a country or a community to manage efficiently all types of emergency and to bring about an orderly transition from relief through recovery and back to sustained development.

Preparedness requires that emergency plans have been developed, personnel at all levels and in all sectors have been trained, and communities at risk have been educated; finally these measures need to be monitored and evaluated regularly (50).

(50) = Risk reduction and emergency preparedness. WHO six-year strategy for the health sector and community capacity development. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2007, p. 8

<https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-policy/sustainable-development-goals/publications/2017/fact-sheets-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-health-targets/fact-sheet-on-the-sdgs-health-emergency-risk-management-2019>

Readiness

WHO/PAHO Readiness checklist (emergency services) COVID-19

Readiness is basically the interface between preparedness actions and the immediate response to any emergency, i.e., the action and effect of being ready or prepared and/or being ready to respond.

Prehospital Emergency Medical System Readiness: Checklist for COVID-19. Draft document, Version 2.3 (9 March 2020), p. 4. <https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/52169>

(Emergency) Response

WHO/Europe Health emergency Factsheet

Actions taken directly before, during or immediately after an emergency in order to save lives, reduce health impacts, ensure public safety and meet the basic subsistence needs of the affected population. Effective, efficient and timely response relies on disaster risk-informed preparedness

measures, including the development of the response capacities of individuals, communities, organizations, countries and the international community.

<https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-policy/sustainable-development-goals/publications/2017/fact-sheets-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-health-targets/fact-sheet-on-the-sdgs-health-emergency-risk-management-2019>

Recovery

WHO/Europe Health emergency Factsheet

Restoring or improving in an emergency-affected community or society livelihoods and health, as well as economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets, system and activities, aligning with the principles of sustainable development and “build back better”

<https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-policy/sustainable-development-goals/publications/2017/fact-sheets-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-health-targets/fact-sheet-on-the-sdgs-health-emergency-risk-management-2019>