



WHO'S NEW HEALTH EMERGENCIES PROGRAMME

Worldwide, a record 130 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, and disease outbreaks are a constant global threat. Health is a top priority in emergencies of all kinds—natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and conflicts. The new WHO Health Emergencies Programme will help the world's most vulnerable communities by providing more flexible, rapid and effective responses to health crises.

Requested and approved by Member States, the new programme refines WHO's role in emergency responses, adding stronger operational capabilities to our traditional technical and standard-setting roles. Under the programme, WHO is helping countries to address the full risk management cycle of prevention, preparedness, response and early recovery.

The programme is governed by the following principles:



The health and well-being of people are at the core of WHO's work for all emergencies.

The WHO Health Emergencies Programme is expanding the way WHO operates in emergencies:

- WHO and partners supported the vaccination of at least 17 million people this year in response to the yellow fever outbreak in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in complex campaigns that came together in a matter of weeks.
- WHO developed and rapidly distributed guidance to help countries in all aspects of the Zika response, from caring for affected infants, to eliminating mosquitoes, to strengthening health services for pregnant women living in affected areas.
- In north eastern Nigeria, within six weeks of scaling up its emergency operations, WHO supported setting up a disease alert system in 160 health facilities which serve 85% of the 1.6 million displaced people in Borno state.
- In response to Hurricane Matthew in Haiti, WHO/PAHO quickly established two new field offices, deployed multinational teams of experts to support the government's efforts to provide health services to affected areas, and sent essential supplies and medicines. Anticipating increased numbers of cholera outbreaks, WHO/PAHO prepositioned cholera supplies in at risk areas. WHO/PAHO also evaluated health structures and services in Haiti to prioritize needs.

These actions were supported by the rapid release of financing from the Contingency Fund for Emergencies.

NEXT STEPS

The immediate next steps will be to increase resources, supplies and training in countries, develop standardized strategies and services for emergency response, expand our partnership arrangements and support country preparedness.



Photo: WHO/Febe/Emily Bernini

WHO IS SEEKING US\$ 485 MILLION TO SCALE UP OPERATIONS FOR 2016-2017