Health security and health systems strengthening - an integrated approach

Why integrate?
The integration of health security into health systems promotes sustainability, efficiency and effectiveness of a country’s preparedness efforts, while also strengthening the wider health system. Strengthening preparedness for prevention, detection, and response protects essential health services, contributes to health systems resilience and avoids fragmentation of health systems and health security.

Prevent
Working together to prevent the likelihood of outbreaks and other public health hazard events through, for example, vaccination programmes.

Detect
Early detection of public health emergencies depends on resilient health systems with functioning and trusted health facilities, laboratories, surveillance systems, etc.

Respond
Effective response requires activities & infrastructures such as functioning health facilities, public health EOCs & case management to mitigate the impact of the emergency.

Strengthening health security and health systems

Global health security agenda
International health regulations
Joint external evaluation tool

Essential public health functions
Health systems financing
Essential package of services

Health workforce
People-centred services
Community engagement

Information & communication technology

Health Security
UHC
Resilient Health Systems

Strong comprehensive health systems are essential for health security;
Health security strengthens health systems;
Quality universal health coverage is fundamental to global health security.

How are we integrating?

Country missions to assess existing policies, strategies & practice in support of health security

Harvest country experience to inform development of WHO resources to support health security - health systems integration

Supporting effective policy and competencies in infection prevention & control

Mapping of donor support through the Strategic Partnership Portal

Early findings of the first country missions
Joint scoping missions at country level have been initiated to incorporate health systems perspective.

1. Health security and health system structures are functioning as disconnected vertical silos.

2. Strong appetite and support for integrating different “health security” strategies within wider national health system strengthening.

3. Support for the proposed two pronged approach for integrating “health security” strategies:
   -Integrating the national “health security” strategies into the national health policy & strategic documents;
   -Strengthening of selected health service delivery and health system aspects essential to health security.

4. Presently most national health policy & strategic documents do not address health security aspects.

5. “Operational” partner coordination mechanisms for capacity building require further strengthening.


7. Different countries utilizing specific approaches or entry points for engaging stakeholders on integration work
   -Burkina Faso: Mid term review of the national health strategic plan;
   -DRC: Finalization and validation of different national health security plans as an essential first step;
   -Malawi: Partner coordination & leadership by quality department at the Ministry of Health.