



**WHO SEA Regional
Collaborative Framework
for coordinated response
to Mental Health and
Psychosocial Support
in emergencies**

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Contents

- vi** Foreword
- 1** Introduction
- 2** Operational definitions
- 3** Guiding principles
- 5** Operationalization
- 6** Domains
- 10** Resources
- 13** Annex
- 14** Bangladesh
- 17** Bhutan
- 20** Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- 23** India
- 26** Indonesia
- 29** Maldives
- 32** Myanmar
- 35** Sri Lanka
- 38** Thailand



FOREWORD



Public health emergencies are a significant risk to health and well-being across the WHO South-East Asia Region. Among other risks, the Region is vulnerable to emerging and re-emerging diseases, diseases associated with climate change, and natural disasters such as floods, cyclones and earthquakes. These and other humanitarian crises can have a significant short- and long-term impact on mental health, which can be mitigated through the provision of appropriate mental health and psychosocial support services.

This Regional Collaborative Framework for a coordinated response to Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in emergencies will guide the scale up of appropriate services across the Region,

which is especially needed in the context of the emergence and spread of COVID-19.

The framework can be integrated with existing WHO recommendations on emergency preparedness, including the Emergency Response Framework and the Strategic Framework for Emergency Preparedness. The framework identifies six domains of action through which Member States can strengthen services for mental health and psychosocial support, and documents Member State progress in each area.

I urge Member States and partners in the Region to leverage this framework to ensure that the adequate provision of mental health and psychosocial support services is included in emergency preparedness and response planning. Since 2014, scaling up emergency risk management has been a regional Flagship Priority, leading to sustained progress across the Region. With WHO's support, Member States can leverage this framework to accelerate progress and strengthen mental health and psychosocial support services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Khetrapal".

Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh
Regional Director
WHO South-East Asia Region



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