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IMPACT
ACTION
CHANGE
FUTURE



World Health
Organization

Regional Office for South-East Asia



ten years after
the tsunami of 2004

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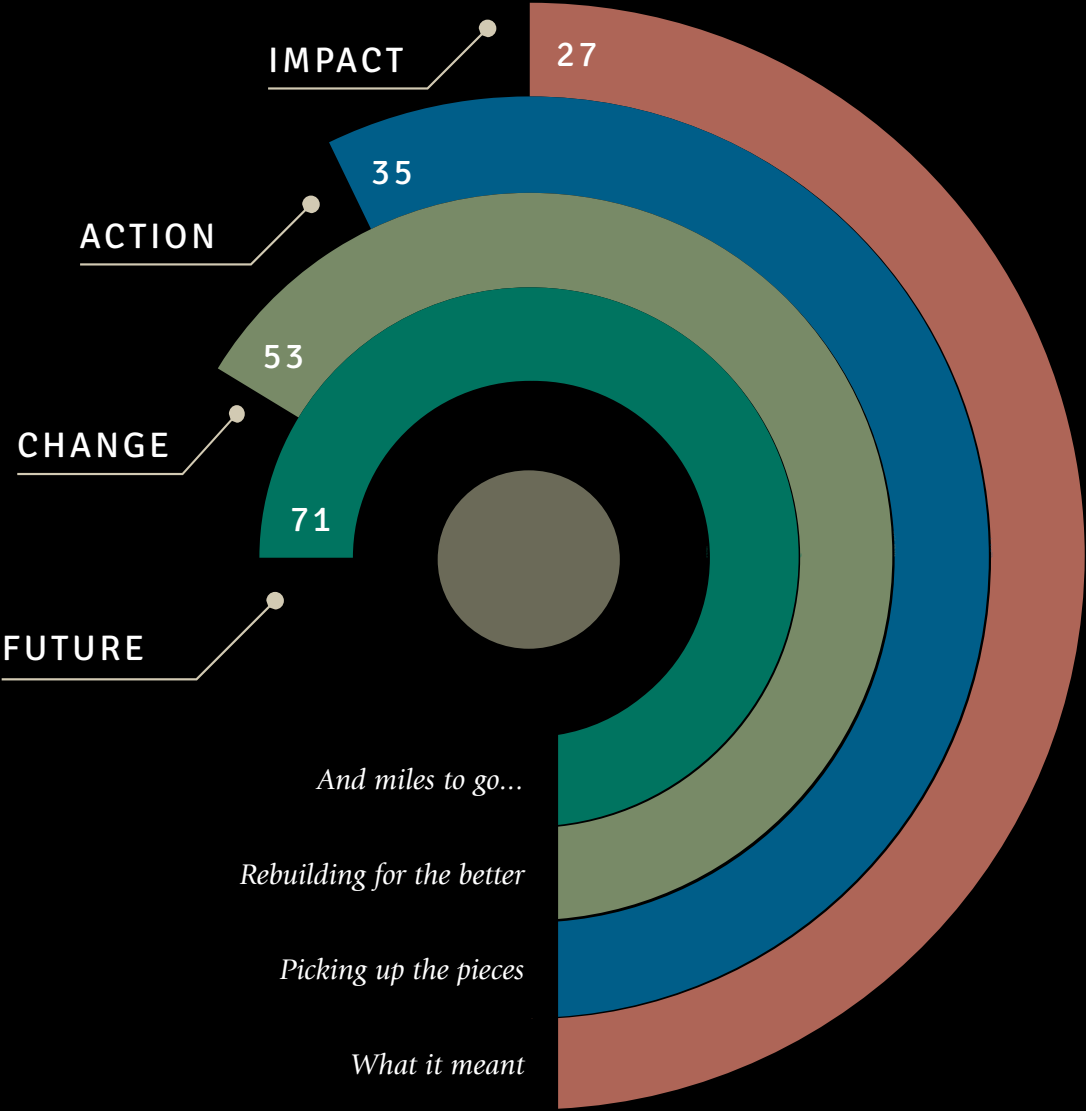
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PREFACE

Why another book on the tsunami? This question came up repeatedly during the planning of this book. There were several important reasons:

- The tenth anniversary of the tsunami is a good time to look back at lessons learnt and acted upon, both of which need to be documented.
- It is a stock-taking exercise of current capacities so that work on further improving the present status can be better planned.
- This book also aims to provide a strategic map for the future to scale up capacities in emergency risk management for health in countries of the South-East Asia Region.

The day of 26 December 2004 will be forever etched in history and people's minds, especially of relatives and friends of the 227 000 who perished, the large majority of whom were from the five most affected countries in this Region – Indonesia, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. From a public health perspective, the tsunami of 2004 was a reminder that health is a critical component of any action towards prevention, preparedness, response or recovery from any emergency –

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