

Strengthening health-system emergency preparedness

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Toolkit for assessing health-system capacity for crisis management

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Part 1. User manual

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Supported by the European Commission, Directorate-General
for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO)



ABSTRACT



In preparing for health crises, health systems face the prospect of multiple hazards, limited resources for dealing with them and high expectations with regard to their performance. The WHO Regional Office for Europe is working with its Member States towards strengthening health-system capacity by providing technical assistance in developing and implementing crisis preparedness and management programmes. In 2008, with the aim of improving the preparedness of countries for public health emergencies, the European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Consumers and the WHO Regional Office embarked on a joint project entitled, “Support to health security, preparedness planning and crises management in European Union (EU), EU accession and neighbouring (ENP) countries”. The objectives of this project included the development of a standardized toolkit for assessing health-system capacity for managing crises.

This toolkit was developed and revised during the course of pilot assessments carried out in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine between 2007 and 2010. It comprises two parts: (1) the present document (user manual) and (2) the assessment form.

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ACRONYMS

AMP	Advanced medical post
BLS	Basic life support
CBRN	Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear
CERT	Community emergency response team
DG SANCO	Directorate-General for Health and Consumers
DVI	Disaster victim identification
EC	European Commission
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
EMS	Emergency medical services
EU	European Union
ENP	European neighbourhood policy
GIS	Geographical information system
IDP	Internally displaced people
IEC	Information, education and communication
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IHR	International Health Regulations
IMS	Integrated management system
IRA	Initial rapid assessment
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MISP	Minimum initial service package
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
NSDI	National Spatial Data Infrastructure
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PPE	Personal protective equipment
PHC	Primary health care
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations Refugee Agency
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WFP	World Food Programme

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