

# **Preventing and Responding to Emerging IDs – the role of WHO**

**Mark Jacobs  
Director, Division of Communicable Diseases  
Western Pacific Region  
WHO**

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- Introduction
- Core functions of WHO
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# Introduction

- Preventing and responding to emerging (and re-emerging) IDs is core business of WHO
- Across broad mandate of WHO, is single highest profile area of work, and area with highest expectations re performance (communities, Member States)
- Core business of all 3 levels of WHO (HQ, RO, CO), and until recently 2/5 technical categories
  - Category 1- communicable diseases (disease specific focus, eg VPD, HIV/hepatitis/STI, TB, malaria, vectorborne, NTD)
  - Category 5- preparedness, surveillance and response (generic emergency preparedness and response focus)
- Cat 5 recently replaced by centralised Health Emergencies Program

# Core Functions of WHO

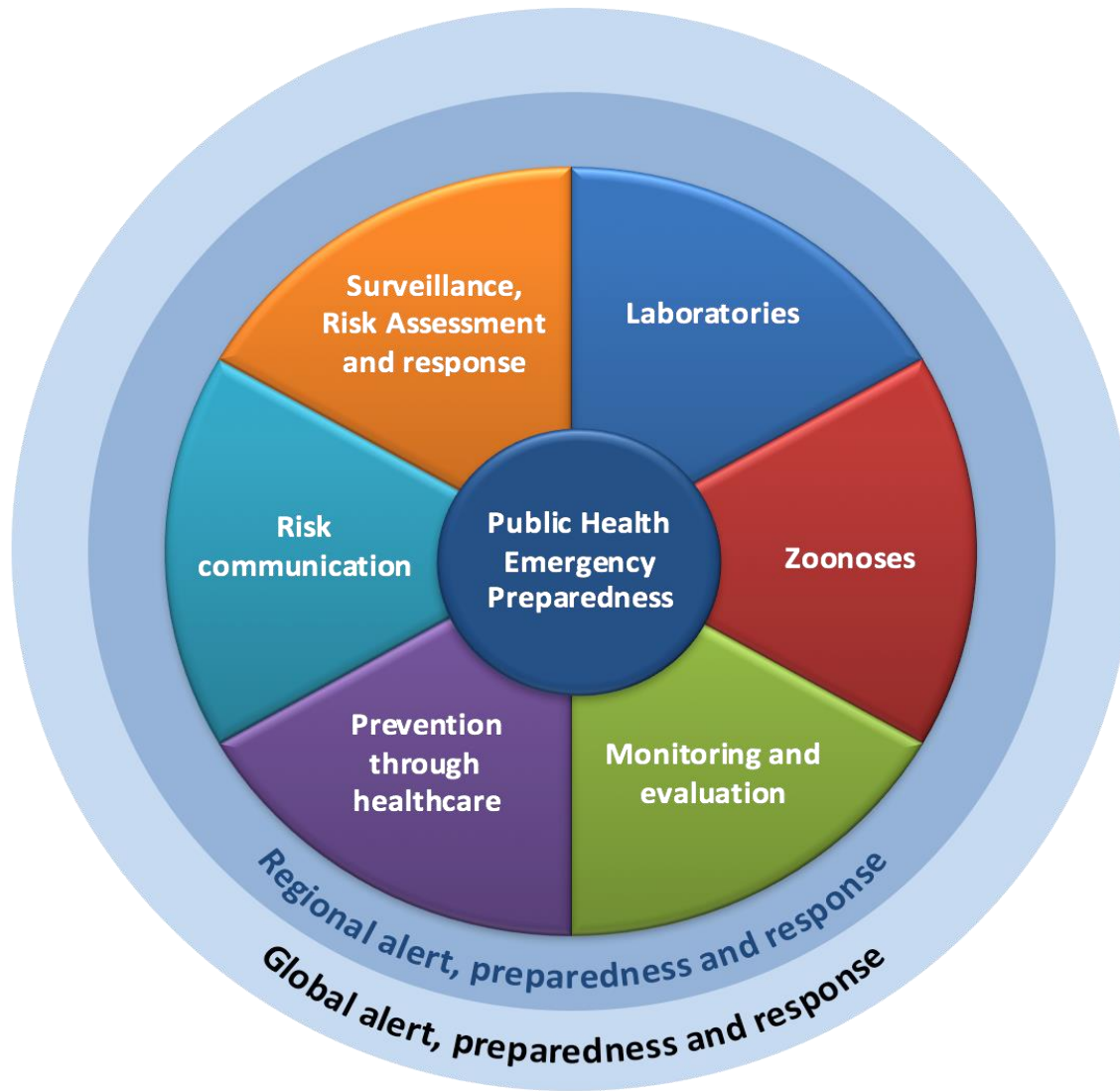
- *providing leadership* on matters critical to health and engaging in partnerships where joint action is needed;
- *shaping research agenda* and stimulating generation, translation and dissemination of valuable knowledge;
- *setting norms and standards* and promoting and monitoring their implementation;
- articulating ethical and evidence-based *policy options*;
- *providing technical support*, catalysing change, and building sustainable institutional capacity; and
- *monitoring health situation* and assessing health trends.
- Apply to all areas of WHO's work, but particular focus varies- depends on nature of issue, and needs of member State(s)

# Examples

Mix of emerging/reemerging, global/regional/subregional, focus

# 1. IHR and APSED

- International Health Regulations- responsibilities and capacities to prevent and respond to public health threats with capacity to spread beyond international borders. Current version formally agreed in 2005, process led by WHO
- Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases (APSED) provides framework for achieving and strengthening core capacities required under IHR, as well as identifying agreed priorities (for countries and for WHO), and systems for coordination of efforts, in WPR and SEAR.
- Key core functions have been *providing leadership, setting norms and standards, providing technical support , monitoring health situation*



## 2. PIP Framework

- Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework adopted in 2011, after lengthy negotiations supported by WHO
- Developed in response to concerns from number of countries about limited access to influenza vaccines and antivirals, and resulting threats to sharing of influenza virus isolates
- Aimed to establish "fair, transparent, equitable, efficient, effective system" for sharing virus isolates, and for access to vaccines etc
- Also increased funding for national capacity strengthening, via formal agreements with vaccine, antiviral and diagnostics manufacturers (partnership contributions).
- Main core functions have been *providing leadership, articulating policy options, providing technical support*



### 3. Outbreak response

- Frequently required, can include-
  - dispatch of experts in response to government requests;
  - providing supplies and equipment;
  - providing information on diseases and disease control measures;
  - coordination of international response teams;
  - dissemination of information to Member States and public
- Mix of *providing leadership, articulating policy options, providing technical support, monitoring the health situation*

## 4. ACT-resistant malaria

- Artemisinin-based combination therapies integral to huge reductions in global malaria burden. However, ACT-resistant falciparum malaria emerged in countries of Greater Mekong (Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam)
- Response designed and led by WHO, initial focus on containment. Major emphasis on eg
  - Coverage of high quality prevention/diagnosis/treatment
  - Eliminating monotherapies
  - Surveillance and M/E
  - Research including TES
  - Coordination of effort
  - High level support

# ACT-resistant malaria

- To date no spread beyond GMS, but strategic focus now on elimination
- Has involved focus on all 6 core functions, *providing leadership, shaping research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating policy options, providing technical support, monitoring health situation*

# 5. Drug resistant TB in the Pacific

- Number of PICs have moderate or high TB prevalence, and although absolute numbers remain small, drug resistance is growing concern
- WHO focus on both strategic approaches and practical challenges
  - Leading planning with PICs on how best to implement global and regional strategies, and achieve SDG target
  - Maintaining regional common services-
    - Regional second line drug stockpile
    - Regional laboratory network
    - Clinician peer support mechanism for complex cases
  - Continuum of care for TB amongst migrants
- Mix of *providing leadership, shaping research agenda, articulating policy options, providing technical support, monitoring the health situation*

Helping countries prevent and respond to emerging and reemerging infectious diseases is major priority for WHO at all 3 levels of organization

Our role can vary from high level/strategic to very hands on, depending on nature of issue, and country needs