

Review of COVID-19 disaster risk governance in Asia Pacific

Towards multi-hazard and multi-sectoral disaster risk reduction

13 October 2020

INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

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UNDRR

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



SENDAI FRAMEWORK
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030



Rationale and approach

A pandemic with multi-dimensional impacts highlights the importance of multi-sectoral and multi-hazard approaches to disaster risk management.

Disaster risk governance in wake of COVID

- To what extent do national disaster risk reduction strategies integrate biological hazards, especially health emergencies and pandemics?
- How have governments addressed health impacts, as well as socio-economic impacts, of COVID-19 and dual disasters?
- Which lessons can be applied to enhance multi-hazard and whole-of-society approaches for more effective disaster risk management?

Key findings

- **Dual disasters result in compounded impacts;** intensified human and economic losses and deepening inequalities.
- **Most DRR strategies focus on management of natural hazards;** limited attention on biological hazards (including health emergencies)
- **Limited info on roles and responsibilities of the sectors in implementation -** Planning entities had a limited role while they should be central for ensuring integration of risk reduction into sectors
- **Preparedness plans have single-hazard focus and localized or short term events**
- **Interoperability across regulatory and policy instruments** is critical to protect and prepare sectors against disasters, prevent and mitigate disaster risk.
- **Countries that had experienced past pandemics** and had pandemic plans in place were better prepared

Key messages

- **Approach risk in its totality**
 - Systemic risk cannot be assessed and managed by breaking it into its components
- **Disaster risk governance is a good investment**
 - Multiplier impact across sectors to enhance resilience.
- **A multi-hazard approach requires a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder risk governance**
 - Go beyond NDMOs and bridge “silos” between agencies with different mandates.
 - Disaster risk governance is not an NDMO task alone - a multi-sector responsibility with significant roles for the ministries of planning and finance
 - Address unpredictability through dynamic and multi-hazard scenarios.
- **Promote Sendai Framework-aligned disaster risk reduction strategies and implementation capacities**
 - Supported by a well-coordinated institutional architecture, legislative mandates, political will, funding and human resources.

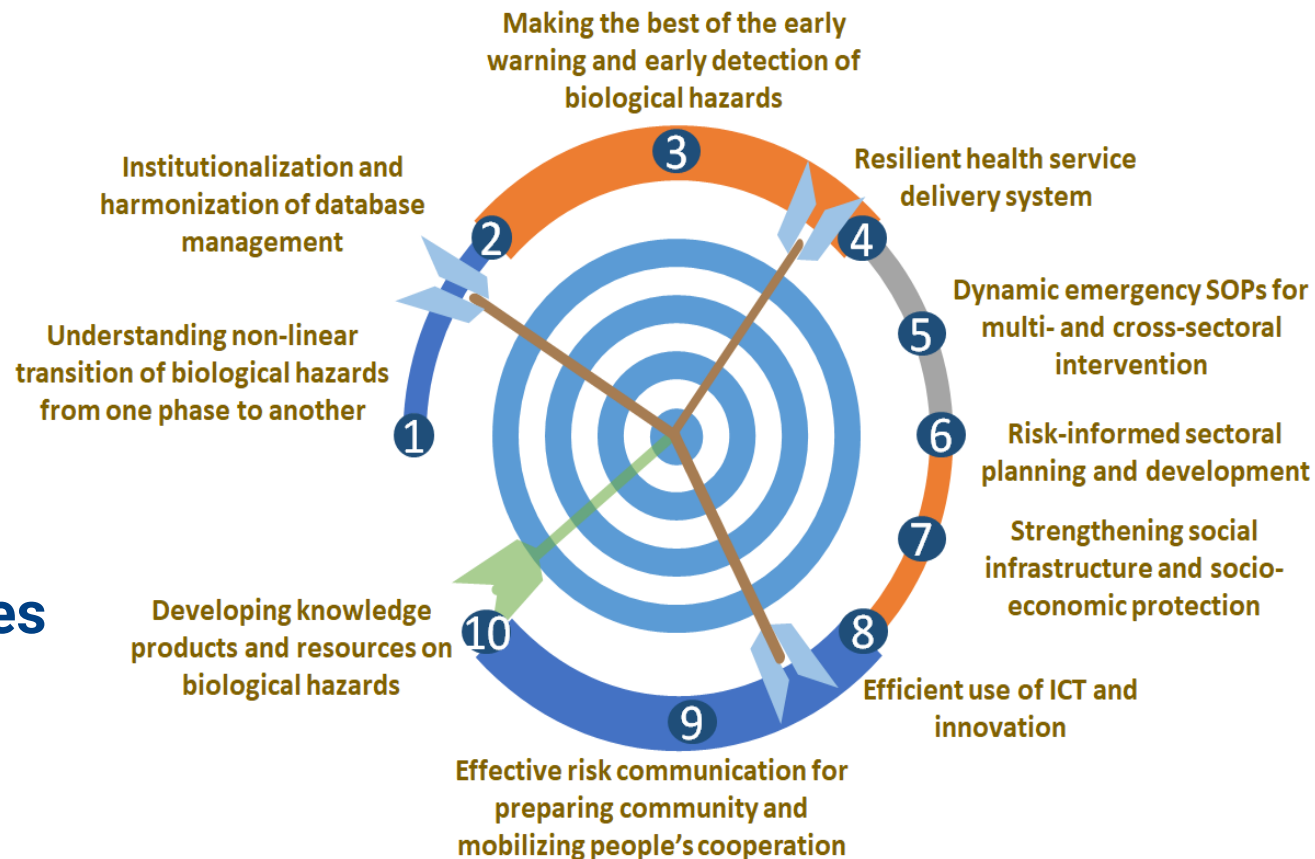
COVID-19 Recovery: An opportunity for systemic change

■ Strengthen disaster risk governance:

- Revisit policy landscape and clarify institutional mechanism
- Enhance decentralization and local action
- Leverage regional instruments and global frameworks

■ Implement Bangkok Principles and Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management (EDRM) Framework

- Align disaster risk management and sectoral (e.g. health) policy and institutional mechanisms





Thank you

