



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Africa**

AFR/RC62/R1
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REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

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RESOLUTION

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT: A HEALTH SECTOR STRATEGY FOR THE AFRICAN REGION (Document AFR/RC62/6)

The Regional Committee,

Having examined the document entitled “Disaster Risk Management: a Health Sector Strategy for the African Region”;

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA58.1 on health action in relation to crises and disasters, WHA59.22 on emergency preparedness and response, WHA64.10 on strengthening national health emergency and disaster management capacities and resilience of health systems, and Resolution AFR/RC61/R3 on the Framework document for the African Public Health Emergency Fund (APHEF);

Cognizant of the report of the Regional Director on “Emergency Preparedness and Response in the African Region: Current Situation and Way Forward” presented at the Sixtieth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa;

Concerned by the increasing frequency and magnitude of emergencies and disasters in the African Region, with direct and indirect impact on the disease burden, health care delivery and mortality, thus negatively affecting economic growth and the attainment of most national development goals;

Mindful of the need for countries to protect the health of their people, and ensure that their health systems are resilient and self-reliant, which is critical for minimizing health hazards and vulnerabilities, and for delivering effective response and recovery in emergencies and disasters;

Conscious of the need to focus not only on responding to emergencies and disasters, and the mitigation of their consequences, but also on preventing them through strengthening risk management;

Noting that Member States need to formulate policies and legislation, and develop capacities in order to institutionalize disaster risk management in the health sector;

1. **ADOPTS** the Regional Strategy on Disaster Risk Management for the Health Sector, as proposed in Document AFR/RC62/6;
2. **URGES** Member States:
 - (a) to provide leadership and mobilize partners and resources (technical, financial and logistical) for the development of national road maps for the implementation of the interventions in the regional strategy in order to institutionalize disaster risk management (DRM) in the health sector, focusing on preparedness for, and response to, emergencies and post-emergency recovery;
 - (b) to mobilize and allocate the necessary human, material and financial resources in the ministries of health to coordinate all health actions before, during and after emergencies and disasters in accordance with the decisions and actions of the national multisectoral committee on disaster risk management;
 - (c) to institutionalize the participation of, and the responsibilities assigned to, the various sectors and levels of government as well as the criteria for decision making;
 - (d) to establish mechanisms for networking and cross-border collaboration, under the aegis of regional and subregional bodies;
 - (e) to adapt existing national guidelines or develop new ones to assist in the implementation of the interventions, including monitoring and evaluation;
 - (f) to support and contribute to the African Public Health Emergency Fund (APHEF).
3. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director:
 - (a) to provide the necessary technical guidance and support, including tools, to Member States and partners for the implementation of the DRM Strategy;
 - (b) to support national capacity building for DRM including strengthening the evidence base;
 - (c) provide leadership in the creation of regional networks on DRM;
 - (d) to communicate to Member States on early warning alerts and on best practices on DRM implementation in the Region;
 - (e) to advocate for resource allocation to DRM in the African Region, especially for contribution to the APHEF;
 - (f) to report on progress to the Regional Committee in 2014, 2017 and 2022.