



Progress on emergency preparedness and response

Agenda item 2(c)
62nd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the
Eastern Mediterranean
5–9 October 2015, Kuwait

Critical functions for emergency response

To deliver on its core commitments, WHO must fulfil four critical functions:

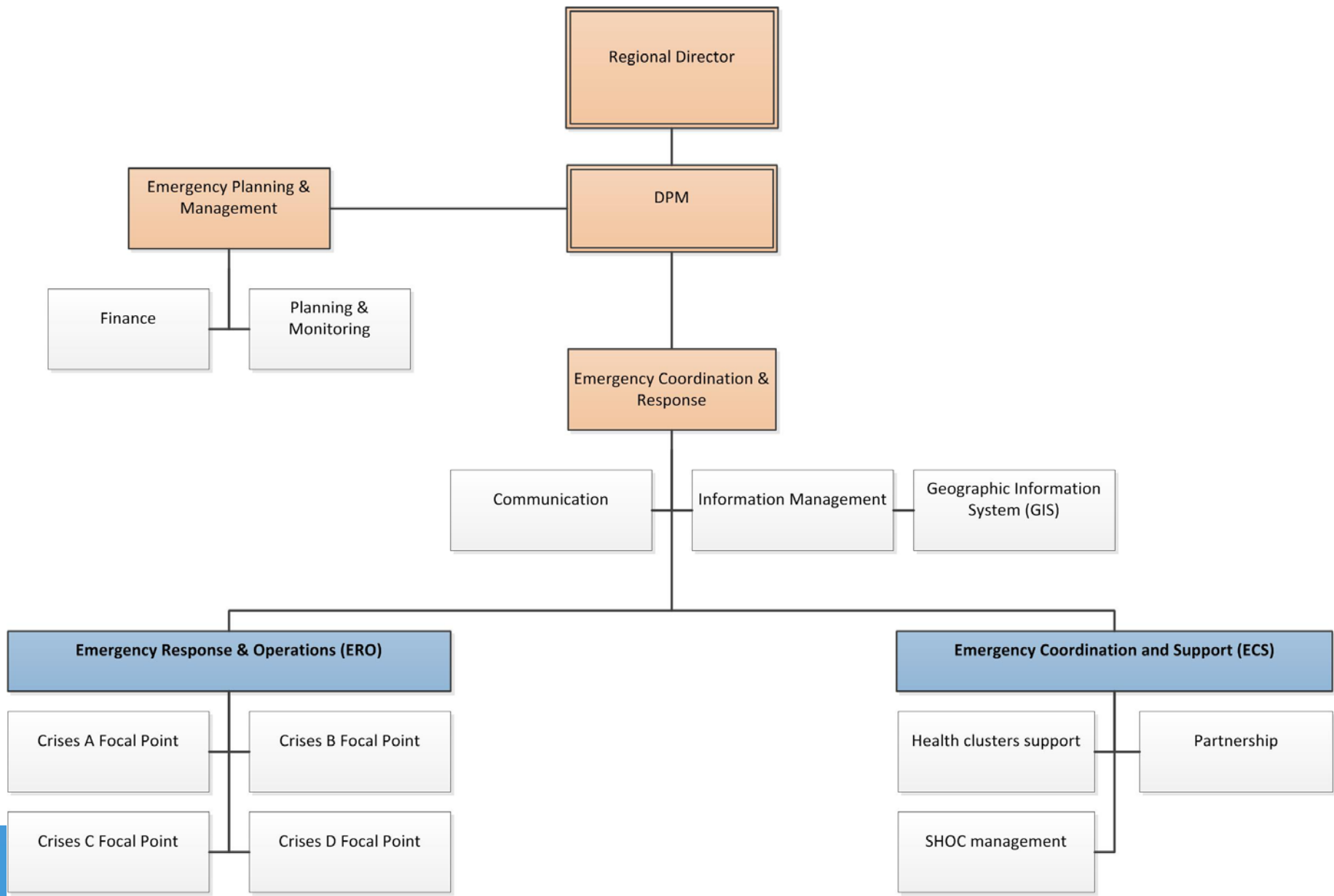
- **Leadership:** coordinate health sector/cluster response
- **Technical expertise:** ensure provision of technical guidelines, implement/strengthen disease surveillance systems, provide health services through partners; cover critical gaps
- **Information:** coordinate collection, analysis and dissemination of essential data on health risks, needs, gaps and performance
- **Core services:** ensure logistics, office establishment, surge and personnel management, procurement and supply management, administration, finance and grant management

Organizational challenges

- Limited coordination with departments in the Regional Office, resulting in lack of qualified surge expertise
- Weak leadership and coordination / limited partnerships with nongovernmental organizations in some countries, resulting in an inadequate response on the ground, especially in hard-to-access areas
- Lack of / unimplemented streamlined WHO rules and regulations for expedited workforce, administration, logistics in emergencies
- Limited health information and intelligence to guide an effective response

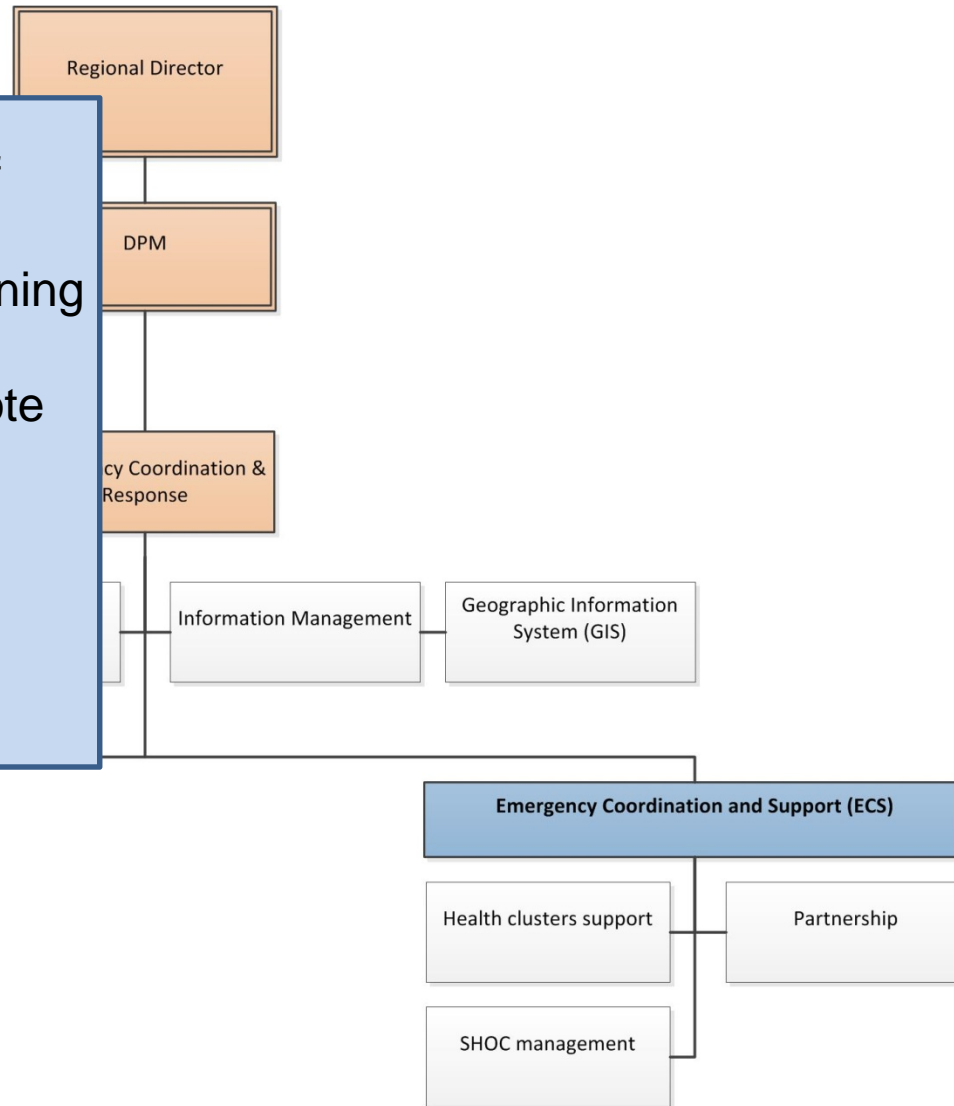
Organizational reform

- To ensure organizational capability and flexibility to respond in an evolving environment, WHO is reviewing the way it works in emergencies so that it is better equipped to respond and save lives

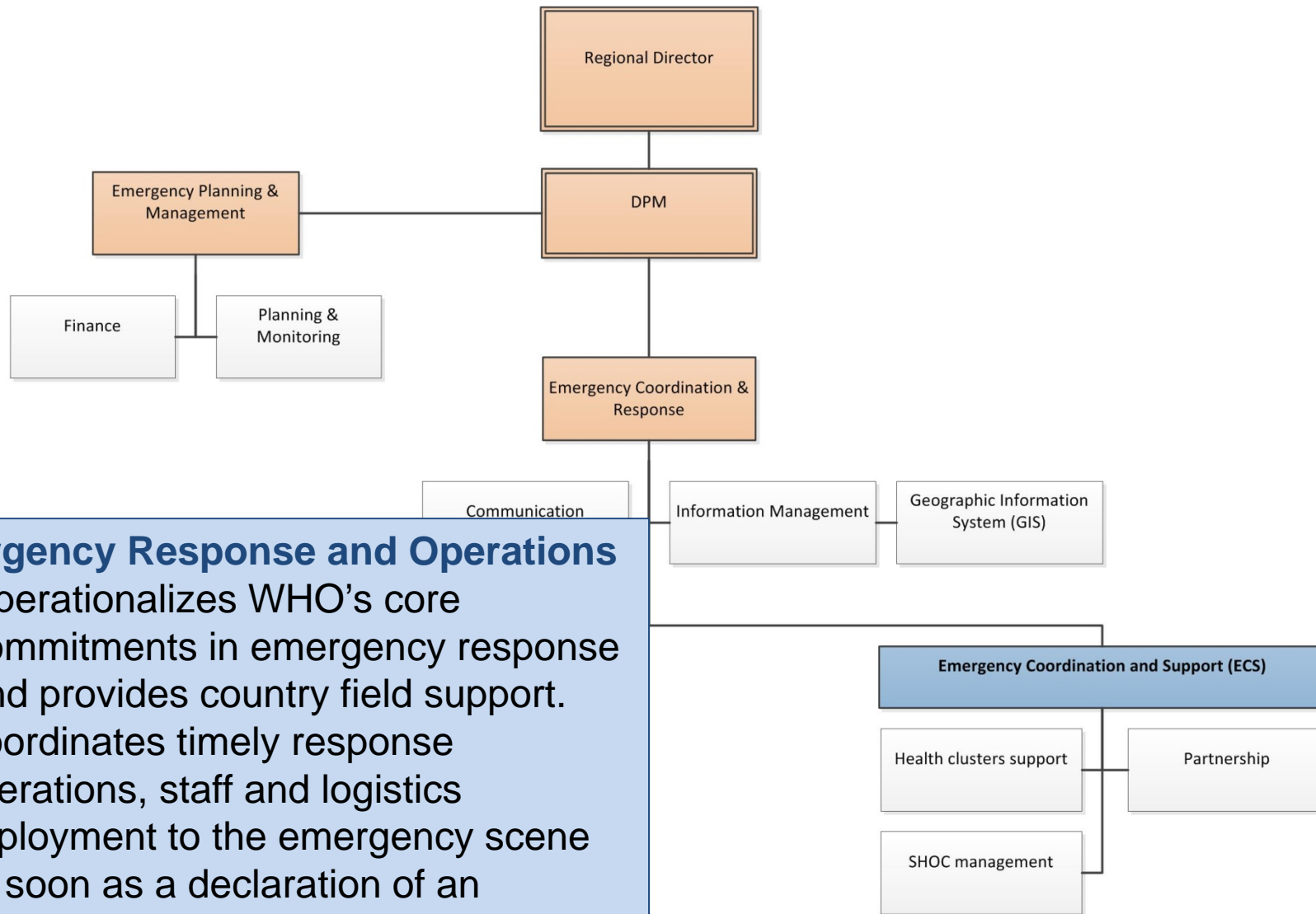


Emergency Planning and Monitoring

- Reports directly to the Director of Programme Management
- Strengthens the operational planning process in line with the outbreak crises and response guidance note
- Aligns donor reports with WHO's mandatory reports
- Ensures regular monitoring and evaluation of our work to identify gaps and capture lessons learnt



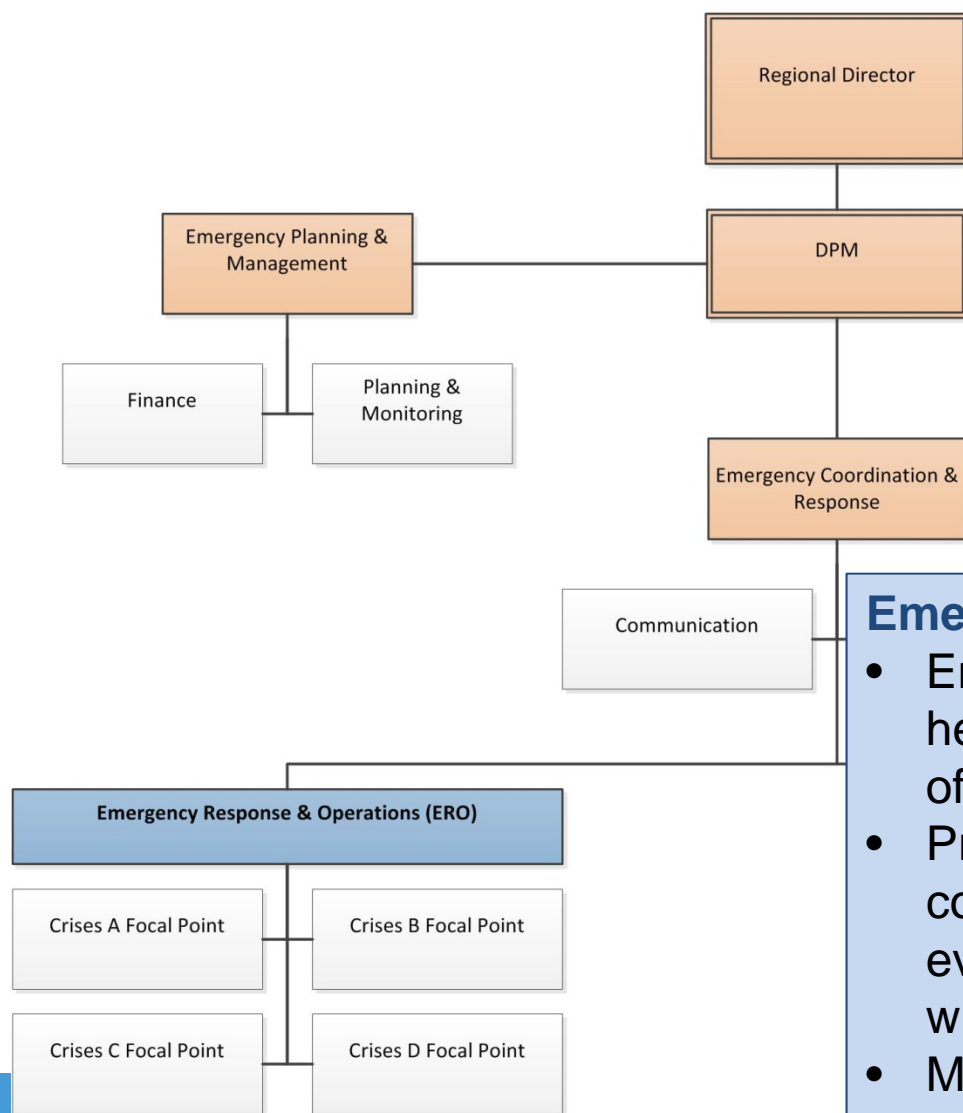
Emergency Coordination and Response Cluster



Emergency Response and Operations

- Operationalizes WHO's core commitments in emergency response and provides country field support.
- Coordinates timely response operations, staff and logistics deployment to the emergency scene as soon as a declaration of an emergency takes place, including Grade 2 and 3 emergencies

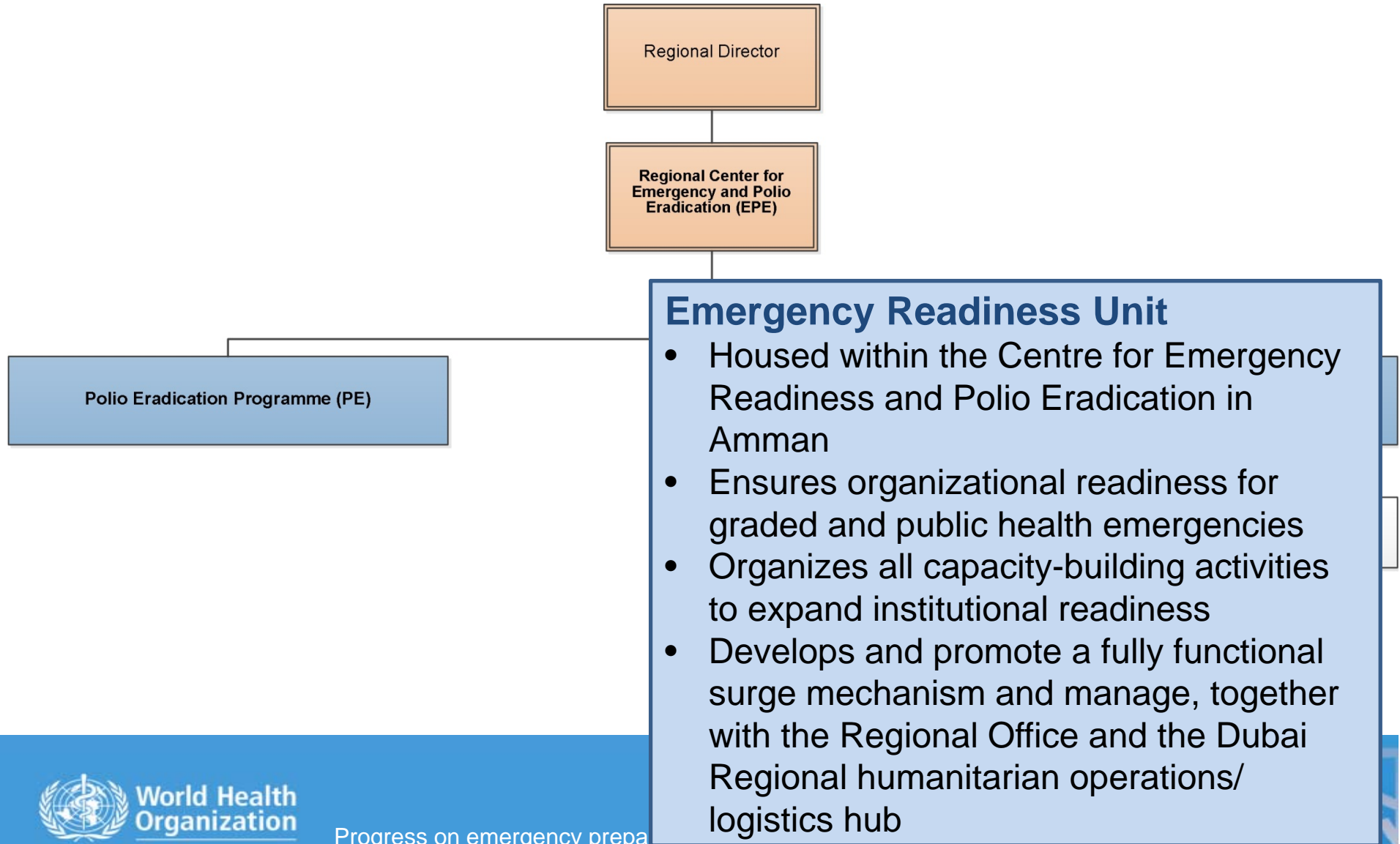
Emergency Coordination and Response Cluster



Emergency Coordination and Support

- Ensures that WHO is ready to lead the health sector and promote the visibility of its work in emergencies
- Provides support to leadership, coordination and performance evaluation of the health cluster/sector when activated
- Maintains partnerships with stakeholders and donors within the humanitarian arena

Polio Eradication and Emergency Readiness



Resolution EM/RC61/R.1

- A **Regional Emergency Solidarity Fund** to ensure a more predictable and reliable funding mechanism (*January 2016*)
- A **Regional Emergency Advisory Group** to provide independent advice and assistance to the Regional Director on policy and strategic matters related to emergencies (*September 2015*)
- An **expanded roster of trained experts** to ensure the availability of surge expertise at the onset of an emergency.
- A **dedicated humanitarian logistics hub** to ensure adequate stockpiling of critical medical supplies and support a timely response to emergency events in the Region and beyond