

Plan of action for ending the COVID-19 pandemic and preventing and controlling future health emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

No	Area of work	Actions	Timeframe	Responsible party	Deliverables
Ending the COVID-19 pandemic					
1	Maintain the engagement and ownership of senior government leadership	Closely monitor disease trends and the emergence of new variants, and make evidence-based course corrections as appropriate	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Evidence-based interventions are implemented to end the pandemic
		Ensure that the executive-level committee overseeing the national response includes senior representatives of all relevant ministries (i.e. health, transport, interior, finance, education, etc.)	Continuous	22 countries/territories	All relevant ministries have clear roles and responsibilities in the national response
		Communicate regularly and transparently with the public, including clear explanations of the situation, priorities, plans and adjustments	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Trust of government and leaders is gained among communities
		Engage with the executive leadership and the Ministry of Finance to secure adequate financing for the national response	Continuous	22 countries/territories	National response is appropriately financed
2	Accelerate scale-up of COVID-19 vaccinations	Update the national deployment and vaccination plan with costing	2021–2022	22 countries/territories	Updated and costed national deployment and vaccination plan with clear targets and milestones for vaccination coverage
		Ensure all elements are in place for effective vaccine roll-out (i.e. trained human resources, cold chain, micro-plans, monitoring mechanism, community engagement, operational costs, etc.)	2021–2022	22 countries/territories	Effective vaccine roll-out contributing to attainment of vaccination targets
		Monitor progress in vaccine supply, use and coverage, making course corrections as needed, with data disaggregated for vulnerable populations	Continuous	22 countries/territories	National monitoring system and dashboard functioning, and vaccine roll-out informed
		Undertake vaccine-effectiveness studies as needed, with the support of WHO	2021–2022	22 countries/territories	Effectiveness of vaccines documented, and vaccine roll-out informed
		Contribute to global solidarity efforts to increase equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and ancillary supplies by supporting the COVAX Facility and engaging in technology transfer	Continuous	6 countries/territories	More equitable allocation of vaccines
		Provide strategic/policy, technical and operational support to accelerate COVID-19 vaccine roll-out	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	Effective vaccine roll-out contributing to attainment of vaccination targets
		Advocate for dose-sharing and support countries in accessing more doses of the WHO Emergency Use Listing Procedure/Emergency Use Authorization COVID-19 vaccines	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	Sufficient vaccines allocated to countries in a timely manner to facilitate the meeting of coverage targets

Plan of action for ending the COVID-19 pandemic and preventing and controlling future health emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

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3	Promote and refine evidence-based public health and social measures	Undertake regular situational assessment to inform, implement and adjust public health and social measures, considering the special needs of vulnerable populations	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Acceptable, feasible and effective public health and social measures are implemented and adjusted over time
		Intensify efforts to promote mask wearing, physical distancing and access to well-ventilated places, including among vaccinated individuals	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Minimized risk of COVID-19 transmission and reduced risk of generation of new variants
		Establish a monitoring system to track implementation and effectiveness of public health and social measures	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Acceptable, feasible and effective public health and social measures are implemented and adjusted over time
		Undertake studies of the effectiveness of public health and social measures in suppressing transmission	Continuous	22 countries/territories and WHO Regional Office	Evidence-based interventions are identified and promoted
		Study the socioeconomic impact of public health and social measures to inform the design and implementation of balanced measures	Continuous	22 countries/territories and WHO Regional Office	Minimized impact of public health and social measures on the socioeconomic situation
		Support the documentation of the public health and social measures implemented in countries using the Regional Office tracking dashboard	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	Improved research and evidence generation

Plan of action for ending the COVID-19 pandemic and preventing and controlling future health emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

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4	Empower communities and promote behaviour change	Review and update the COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) strategy and action plan to integrate COVID-19-related scientific updates	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Improved response to COVID-19
		Map social listening and community feedback platforms and enhance capacities to streamline, analyse and address community insights, including from vulnerable populations	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Rumours, misinformation and disinformation addressed
		Conduct studies (such as surveys and focus groups) to collect behavioural insights to inform RCCE interventions, including from vulnerable populations	Continuous	22 countries/territories	RCCE interventions are evidence-based
		Strengthen and institutionalize engagement with community leaders/influencers (such as nongovernmental, community-based, faith-based and youth-based organizations) to maintain two-way communication at grassroots level and sustain long-term behaviour change	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Community engagement driven initiatives are established and two-way communication improved
		Expand and build the capacity of the health workforce for RCCE to support the implementation of RCCE strategies	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Health workers able to communicate more effectively and accurately regarding COVID-19 control measures
		Develop targeted and tested materials and messages on the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, and on how to reduce virus transmission and save lives	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Elevated levels of COVID-19 awareness among communities
		Enhance coordination among RCCE stakeholders	Continuous	22 countries/territories	National interagency RCCE working group established with terms of reference (TORs) and SOPs Streamlined efforts made to address RCCE needs
		Ensure that the most vulnerable groups (migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons) have access to crucial, practical and accurate information in a language and format they can access and understand	Continuous	22 countries/territories	RCCE messages and materials customized according to the needs of vulnerable populations
		Document RCCE best practices and lessons learnt and share with decision-makers, key stakeholders and the donor community	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	A series of thematic case studies is developed to enhance knowledge management and resource mobilization
		Enhance partnership and collaboration with RCCE key partners/media/private sector	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	Regional interagency RCCE working group established to ensure consistency of strategies and messages, and optimized allocation and use of resources

Plan of action for ending the COVID-19 pandemic and preventing and controlling future health emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

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5	Strengthen surveillance and related data-management measures	Review and update the surveillance strategy/plan as needed, including through the revision of case definitions	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Early detection of COVID-19 cases and improved characterization of pandemic at national and subnational levels
		Train and equip rapid response teams to investigate cases and clusters early in the outbreak, and conduct contact tracing	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Cases rapidly isolated, contacts identified and quarantined, and clusters controlled
		Overcome fragmentation of surveillance and data systems, including by linking epidemiological and laboratory data, and integration with other disease surveillance where possible	Continuous	22 countries/territories	COVID-19 surveillance becomes part of integrated disease surveillance
		Integrate COVID-19 surveillance into influenza sentinel surveillance	2021–2022	22 countries/territories	EMFLU updated with COVID-19 data
		Update the regional COVID-19 District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2) data management platform	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	Updated regional DHIS2 platform
		Analyse the regional COVID-19 surveillance data and identify lessons learnt	2021	WHO Regional Office	Priorities identified for enhanced COVID-19 surveillance and response
		Improve the WHO Regional Office mathematical model to respond to the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	National COVID-19 epidemiological situation forecasted and response plans adjusted accordingly

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6	Expand testing and sequencing	Review and update the national testing strategy informed by the evolving epidemiology and country context, including the possible introduction of rapid antigen tests	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Refined testing strategy to optimize detection, diagnosis and the use of resources
		Continue to decentralize testing capacity within the framework of national laboratory networks to local and district levels	December 2021	22 countries/territories	Equitable access to PCR testing services by vulnerable populations
		Establish/expand severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) genomic sequencing capacity	June 2022	22 countries/territories	Genomic sequencing capacity available
		Share genomic sequencing data (including from national public health laboratories, academia and the private sector) on a timely basis through regional and global platforms, in accordance with the provisions of the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) and Nagoya Protocol	December 2021	22 countries/territories	Regularly shared genomic sequencing data by countries with genomic sequencing capacity or arrangements via regional and global platforms
		Provide operational and logistical support to laboratory supply chains, and establish supply chain plans for procurement and distribution	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	Timely and sustained access to testing kits and other laboratory supplies
		Expand country participation in the WHO External Quality Assessment Project for SARS-CoV-2 testing	December 2021	WHO Regional Office	Improved performance in SARS-CoV-2 testing achieved in all national reference laboratories
		Improve access to genomic sequencing capacity by countries	December 2021	WHO Regional Office	All countries able to access genomic sequencing capacity – either nationally or regionally

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7	Points of entry and international travel	Adopt a risk assessment approach to calibrate mitigation measures, such as quarantine, testing for international travel and vaccination requirements	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Appropriate public health measures for international passengers put in place to contain the pandemic
		Facilitate information exchange and coordination among countries concerning health measures, passenger information and epidemiological surveillance	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Contacts of COVID-19 cases detected at points of entry (PoE) are rapidly traced to minimize domestic transmission
		Encourage the digitization of health information on COVID-19 tests and vaccination status to ensure robust metrics on passengers	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Validated testing and vaccination status by different countries to facilitate international travel
		Adopt a risk assessment approach to inform travel-related measures (such as closure, refusal of entry and visa denial) and continue to report these measures to WHO	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Avoidance of unnecessary interference with international travel
		Produce advice for travellers (including on self-monitoring for signs and symptoms) and disseminate widely	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Minimized risk of COVID-19 exposure and transmission at PoE and domestically
		Continue to strengthen capacity at points of entry (PoE) to manage potential risks of cross-border transmission and facilitate international contact tracing	Continuous	22 countries/territories	COVID-19 cases are promptly detected at PoE and rapidly investigated and managed
		Provide technical support and guidance to reopen and operationalize PoE	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	Safe reopening, and facilitation of international travel
		Review and update evidence-based guidance on international travel consistent with IHR (2005) provisions	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	Evidence-based recommendations implemented

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8	Advance research and innovation	Conduct at least one sero-epidemiological investigation using WHO Unity Studies protocols (for general population, health care workers, pregnant women, etc.) to generate evidence to guide public health decision-making	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Seroprevalence data available for defined group(s) and used to adjust response actions as appropriate
		Participate in and contribute to the global Solidarity clinical trials for COVID-19 therapeutics	December 2022	5 countries/territories	Evidence base on the use of various therapeutics expanded
		Conduct vaccine-effectiveness studies to inform vaccination strategies	December 2022	6 countries/territories	Informed vaccine strategies based on vaccine-effectiveness data
		Build local capacities for clinical research	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Enhanced national and regional clinical research capacities
		Promote and support specific research addressing knowledge gaps regarding One Health and zoonotic diseases	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Specific research on One Health and zoonotic diseases conducted

Plan of action for ending the COVID-19 pandemic and preventing and controlling future health emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

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Preventing and controlling future health emergencies					
9	Governance	Consider appointing a high-level National Pandemic/Health Security Coordinator and establishing an IHR national focal point centre within government with a clear reporting line to cabinet level	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Elevated authorities and accountabilities of those responsible for health emergency preparedness
		Establish a cabinet-level structure/mechanism for the oversight of health emergency preparedness, with clear roles and responsibilities for each line ministry	June 2023	22 countries/territories	Elevated political support and accountability for health emergency preparedness
		Fully integrate health emergency preparedness into national emergency management arrangements (policies, plans, structures), including clear operational linkages between the ministry of health and national disaster management agency	June 2023	22 countries/territories	Health emergency preparedness fully integrated into national multisectoral emergency management arrangements
		Strengthen essential public health functions (EPHF) capacities and governance prerequisites as a basis for health systems transformation, resilience and recovery	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Increased investment in strengthening EPHF as a basis for health systems transformation, development and implementation of relevant national and subnational policies and plans
		Establish national platforms to promote participatory governance in health decision-making (e.g. for universal health coverage (UHC), health security and transformation plans) including civil society, the private sector, parliamentarians, academics and political party representatives	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Customized technical support based on different country contexts, priorities and opportunities
		Support the reshaping of the stewardship functions, structures and capacities of the ministry of health and health authorities at national and subnational levels	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Customized technical support based on different country contexts
		Enhance the capacities of legislators to strengthen health systems governance for UHC and health security	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Enhanced regional and national capacities to effectively propose, review and implement supportive legal tools for UHC and health security

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No	Area of work	Actions	Timeframe	Responsible party	Deliverables
10	Strategy and planning	Adopt the incident management system as the national approach to structuring and managing the response to emergencies	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Predictable and effective management of emergencies
		Establish and fully resource national and subnational public health emergency operations centres (PHEOCs) according to international standards	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Improved strategic management and coordination of emergency responses
		Conduct intra- and after-action reviews in accordance with IHR (2005) as required to identify gaps and challenges in the response to COVID-19 (including health system response) taking into account disaggregated data (including on vulnerable populations)	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Improved response to emergencies
		Review and update national action plans for health security based on lessons learnt from the COVID-19 response to inform future preparedness and response activities integral to the health system, integrating a comprehensive emergency risk management approach	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Countries are better prepared for future emergencies
		Redesign and develop more adaptable and agile hospitals as part of building hospital resilience	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Hospitals are more adaptable and agile in responding to emergencies
		Develop all-hazard preparedness plans for hospitals (including preparedness for outbreaks), especially in lower middle-income countries, countries facing complex emergencies and/or countries with fragile health systems, and conduct regular training and simulation exercises based on the hospital preparedness plan	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Hospitals are more prepared for all hazards Increased hospital simulation exercises based on the hospital preparedness plan
		Provide support and guidance for the reviewing and updating of national action plans for health security and facilitate their implementation	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	Countries better prepared for future emergencies

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11	Sustained financing	Negotiate with the ministry of finance to increase fiscal space for health and flexible spending for emergencies	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Increased dedicated budget and flexible spending for emergencies
		Invest in increasing the adaptability of hospitals for emergency preparedness	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Increased investment in increasing the adaptability of hospitals for emergency preparedness
		Promote policy responses and fiscal instruments that can improve the macroeconomic situation and impact on health (such as health taxes, health investment in fiscal stimulus packages and inclusion of health in debt relief packages)	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Increased public spending on health
		Prioritize public investment in common goods for health	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Common goods for health are implemented and serve as a catalyst for UHC and health security objectives
12	Surveillance, alert and information management	Strengthen data management/analysis capacity at regional and country levels	2021–2024	22 countries/territories	Epidemiologists/data analysts trained
		Maintain and strengthen the seasonal influenza sentinel surveillance system to support the surveillance of other respiratory diseases	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Stronger influenza and other respiratory disease surveillance systems
		Integrate SARS-CoV-2 surveillance, testing and monitoring into the existing platforms for influenza and other respiratory diseases, for increased sustainability	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Enhanced surveillance for early detection of cases
		Extend the use of the WHO Regional Office mathematical model to other diseases	2021–2024	WHO Regional Office	Enhanced prevention of and early response efforts to signals and public health events
		Extend the use of the DHIS2 management platform to the management of all public health events	2021–2024	WHO Regional Office and at least 5 countries/territories	DHIS2 management platform updated and deployed in selected countries
		Consolidate the use of social media scanning tools (Sprinklr and Epiweetr) for the detection of all public health events and deploy in countries	2021–2023	WHO Regional Office and at least 5 countries/territories	Social media scanning tools regularly used at WHO Regional Office and in selected countries; and the Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources tool updated
		Define requirements for dashboards reporting data on public health events	2022	WHO Regional Office	Dashboard requirement document developed
		Increase the use of the Geographic Information System (GIS) for the monitoring of public health events and the dissemination of information	2022–2023	22 countries/territories	GIS utilized for monitoring of events
		Develop remote sensing to complement the collection of field data	2022–2023	WHO Regional Office and at least 5 countries/territories	Additional information collected through remote sensing

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13	Strengthened health workforce	Build surge capacities to respond to emergencies and develop policies/plans for rapid mobilization of surge capacities during emergencies	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Reliable surge of qualified staff in response to emergencies
		Integrate health emergency preparedness into undergraduate and postgraduate curricula for all cadres of health professionals	2022–2024	22 countries/territories	Health professionals better trained in health emergency prevention, preparedness, detection and response
14	Laboratory and sequencing capacities	Continue to build laboratory infrastructure, workforce and equipment capacities at national and subnational levels	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Improved laboratory capacities for detection, diagnosis and response during health emergencies
		Further increase and maintain capacities for molecular testing and genomic sequencing	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Adequate and reliable laboratory capacity to detect and monitor new variants
		Develop and implement a regulatory framework for the highest standards of laboratory biosafety and biosecurity	December 2022	22 countries/territories	High standards of biosafety and biosecurity established and maintained
		Continue to enhance the transparency and rapid sharing of genomic sequencing data and information through publicly accessible data platforms (e.g. GISAID) in collaboration with the medical and scientific community, and laboratory and surveillance networks	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Genomic sequencing data and information transparently and routinely shared and used to inform responses to disease outbreaks
		Participate in external quality assurance programmes for molecular testing	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Highly performing national reference laboratories for molecular testing
		Build local capacity through training and mentoring in genomic sequencing, bioinformatics, and diagnostic strategies and procedures (including the use of Ag-RDT kits, specimen collection, packaging and transportation)	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Trained personnel in genomic sequencing and bioinformatics to implement different diagnostic strategies and procedures (including specimen collection, packaging and transportation)
		Ensure the rigorous implementation of biosafety and biosecurity measures, especially in the context of genomic sequencing	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Rigorous biosafety and biosecurity measures for all reference laboratories
		Support and enhance the genomic sequencing capacity of the two regional reference laboratories to better support countries that currently lack this capacity	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Support provided to all countries in the Region by the two regional reference laboratories in the advanced laboratory diagnosis of high-threat pathogens

Plan of action for ending the COVID-19 pandemic and preventing and controlling future health emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

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15	Vaccination	Strengthen vaccine safety surveillance and pharmacovigilance systems to detect, investigate and analyse adverse events following immunization (AEFIs) and adverse events of special interest (AESIs), to validate safety signals and to recommend appropriate public health or other interventions	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Sharing of information on adverse events to improve vaccine safety
		Build capacity for the production of safe and effective vaccines	December 2023	Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates	Locally produced vaccines to meet an increasing proportion of national and regional demand
		Enhance and expand the capacity of national regulatory authorities	December 2023	22 countries/territories	Enhanced local capacity for regulatory approval and vaccine deployment
		Provide support and guidance to countries to improve vaccine production, regulatory approval, deployment and monitoring of safety	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	Improved availability of safe and effective vaccines for SARS-CoV-2 and other pathogens

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16	Points of entry and international travel	Map human resources for PoE applying a needs-based approach, and founded on a capacity framework for both health and non-health staffing	June 2022	22 countries/territories	Human resources capacities and gaps identified, with sufficient capacities in place to implement IHR (2005) at PoE
		Establish a professionalized training programme for PoE staff, complete with systematic refreshers and opportunities for continued professional development	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Public health threats at PoE are promptly detected, and rapidly investigated and managed
		Harmonize and enhance information systems at PoE to allow for the capturing of real-time health information on suspected cases, inclusive of cross-notification and feedback loops for all stakeholders, and able to feed into national surveillance	June 2023	22 countries/territories	Rapid tracing of contacts across borders
		Develop contingency planning for all-hazard public health threats and operationalization of SOPs at PoE-level to ensure standardized approaches and emergency management	June 2022	22 countries/territories	SOPs are in place for the management of public health emergencies at PoE as an integral part of national emergency management plans
		Facilitate cross-border dialogue among neighbouring countries, identify mutual public health concerns (as well as opportunities for information and resource exchange), undertake stakeholder analysis, generate memorandum of understanding/SOPs and conduct joint training events	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Shared and agreed-upon responsibilities to manage public health events and emergencies across borders
		Modify and restructure PoE premises to mitigate transmission risks during travel and to facilitate social distancing, crowd control, and proper health etiquette	December 2023	22 countries/territories	Minimized risk of COVID-19 exposure and transmission at PoE
		Coordinate PoE activities related to international travel with relevant partners at all levels	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	Partnership and coordination fostered with international partners (e.g. WHO, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Organization for Migration and International Maritime Organization)
		Provide support and guidance to develop IHR (2005) capacities at PoE and facilitate international travel	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	Enhanced preparedness and response at PoE

Plan of action for ending the COVID-19 pandemic and preventing and controlling future health emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

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17	One Health	Establish a national multisectoral One Health committee/hub/team comprising governmental and nongovernmental members with clear TORs	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Functional One Health Team established with clear TORs to manage and oversee all One-Health-related activities
		Undertake a joint multisectoral assessment of zoonotic risks, zoonotic control capacities and gaps	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Priority zoonotic risks identified and systems capacities documented to inform planning
		Develop and implement a coordinated national strategy and action plan for One Health that prioritizes the zoonoses of greatest concern, engaging all relevant sectors	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Joint action plan developed and implemented involving all One Health national stakeholders
		Establish/revise the system and mechanism for surveillance and information-sharing on zoonotic diseases and other threats at the human-animal-environment interface	December 2021	22 countries/territories	Improved event and disease detection systems in place, and mechanisms established for sharing data, including between sectors
		Coordinate One-Health-related activities with international partners at all levels	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	Partnership and coordination fostered with international partners (WHO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP))
		Contribute to the development and piloting of new tools, guidance documents and training materials in close collaboration with WHO (Regional Office and headquarters), FAO, OIE and UNEP	Continuous	WHO Regional Office and at country level	Improved capacity to implement One-Health-related activities to detect and respond to zoonotic diseases
18	Essential and critical health services	Leverage primary health care for vaccine roll-out and other essential health services	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Strengthened primary health care systems serving as the foundation for achieving UHC and health security objectives
		Identify the essential health services necessary for continuity of operations, under the pressure of possible high staff absenteeism and limited supplies due to a pandemic	December 2021	22 countries/territories	List of priority essential health services
		Strengthen the delivery of essential health services and identify options for remote support	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Interventions that can be remotely delivered identified
		Optimize the capacity of health workers through the use of telemedicine (digital health) approaches	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Improved capacity of health workers through the use of telemedicine (digital health) approaches
		Ensure vulnerable populations have access to essential and critical health services	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Improved access by vulnerable populations to essential and critical health services

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19	Supply chain	Develop/review a priority list of medicines, vaccines and health products consistent with national treatment guidelines	June 2022	22 countries/territories	National essential medicines lists (including priority list of medicines, vaccines and health products) formulated, evaluated and revised
		Strengthen national regulatory authorities, including to ensure that medicines and health products supplied during an emergency comply with national and international quality standards, and to guarantee good manufacturing practices in the local production of medicines and vaccines	December 2023	22 countries/territories	Effective implementation and monitoring of medicines regulations and good manufacturing practices guaranteed
		Comprehensively review the national supply chain system, and develop and implement a related corrective action plan, with a focus on the weakest links	June 2023	22 countries/territories	Supply chain assessed and recommendations to strengthen system implemented
		Ensure timely technical support for the development of procurement and distribution plans	Continuous	WHO Regional Office and at country level	Technical support in procurement and distribution planning provided as needed
		Establish SOPs in supply and procurement plans, including distribution plans/schedules to ensure the timely delivery of emergency health supplies to countries	February 2022	WHO Regional Office and at country level	SOPs for supply and procurement developed and applied

Plan of action for ending the COVID-19 pandemic and preventing and controlling future health emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

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20	Community trust and engagement	Create space for community and civic engagement in governance structure	December 2021	22 countries/territories	Legislation enacted to allow engagement of communities and civil societies in the governance structure
		Review existing national strategies and plans for health emergency preparedness and response and ensure the role of communities and civil societies is identified and integrated	February 2021	22 countries/territories	Defined role of communities and civil societies in preparedness for and response to emergencies
		Design and implement capacity-building programmes to empower communities and civil societies	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Engaged communities in needs assessment and decision-making on suitable interventions and their implementation
		Establish and build the capacity of formal and informal front-line workers, including community health and social workers	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Well-trained front-line community health and social workers engaged in preparedness and response
		Enhance social mobilization of a wide range of civil society partners and stakeholders at national and local levels through social dialogue to secure their inputs into governance, health policies and strategies	June 2023	22 countries/territories	Aligned and well-coordinated social mobilization efforts
		Apply anthropology and other applied social sciences to listen to and understand communities, and collect community insights on the sociocultural and political context to inform tailored and localized health programmes and interventions	December 2022	22 countries/territories	Health interventions are informed by community feedback
		Support community-based participatory research approaches for collecting evidence on community and civic engagement to inform policy-making and strategic planning, and to track progress, ensuring that vulnerable populations are included	June 2023	22 countries/territories	Evidence-based community and civic engagement interventions
		Establish a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the health outcomes of community-based interventions	December 2021	22 countries/territories	Improved health outcomes in line with national health strategies and plans
		Provide guidance on creating space for communities and civil societies in the governance structure at the national and subnational levels	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	Engaged communities and civil societies in the governance structure
		Support documentation processes and establish a regional platform accessible to community and civic representatives for sharing knowledge and best practices	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	Shared knowledge and best practices and improved modalities for engaging communities in emergency prevention, preparedness, readiness and response
Support community-based participatory research approaches to assess and monitor community and civil society engagement	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	Policies and interventions supported by research		

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21	Accountability and compliance	Undertake a review of the national action plan for health security, drawing on lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies	December 2021	22 countries/territories	Updated national action plan for health security
		Identify the leading sector and support sectors for the implementation of the national action plan for health security and allocate resources for its implementation	December 2021	22 countries/territories	Targeted and on-track implementation of the national action plan for health security
		Review and update the TORs for the national IHR focal point, drawing on lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies	February 2022	22 countries/territories	Enhanced monitoring and evaluation of IHR (2005) implementation
		Allocate resources to empower national IHR focal points in terms of organizational structure, space, personnel and authority to facilitate reporting to WHO	June 2022	22 countries/territories	Improved IHR (2005) implementation, including notification to WHO
		Enhance compliance with IHR (2005) and other international treaties	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Enhanced preparedness for and response to health emergencies
		Provide guidance on the TORs for national IHR focal points	December 2021	WHO Regional Office	Empowered national IHR focal points
		Design and implement capacity-building interventions targeting national IHR focal points	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	Well-trained national IHR focal points with active engagement in IHR (2005) assessment, implementation and monitoring,
22	Additional assessment procedures	Engage in new efforts to review and assess preparedness in light of the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Improved understanding of actual emergency preparedness levels in countries
		Engage with the global working groups set up by WHO to develop tools and procedures for preparedness assessment	Continuous	22 countries/territories	Country-informed tools and procedures for assessing emergency preparedness
		Develop guidance, tools and procedures to facilitate preparedness assessments and reviews	Continuous	WHO Regional Office	Efforts directed towards building resilient health systems