

# Annual progress report 2023–2024: WHO European Centre for Preparedness for Humanitarian and Health Emergencies





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## ABSTRACT

This report provides a summary of the main activities carried out by the WHO European Centre for Preparedness for Humanitarian and Health Emergencies in Istanbul, Türkiye, between 1 October 2023 and 30 September 2024. The Centre, established in September 2020, is aimed at assisting Member States to improve their emergency preparedness through the acceleration of implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) core capacities. By building capacity and facilitating intergovernmental partnerships, the Centre strengthens operational capabilities and readiness for responding to health emergencies and disasters in the WHO European Region and beyond.

## KEYWORDS

CAPACITY BUILDING; DIGITAL HEALTH; DISASTER PLANNING; EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES; GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS; HEALTH SERVICES NEEDS AND DEMAND

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## FOREWORD BY DR HANS KLUGE, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, WHO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE

Five years ago, as I began my first term as Regional Director, the COVID-19 pandemic struck—exposing deep inequalities and overwhelming even the strongest health systems. Since then, overlapping crises have continued to test our resilience and transcend borders and sectors: conflicts, health emergencies, climate change, ageing populations, health disinformation, to name a few.

Now, as I begin my second term, the health landscape in the WHO European Region, a vast region spanning Europe and Central Asia, continues to be reshaped by powerful megatrends. In this time of uncertainty, one thing is clear: health security is not a luxury. It is a prerequisite for stability, development, and peace.

Health security is about protecting people—from disease outbreaks, natural and human-made hazards, and systemic vulnerabilities that ignore borders. It demands strong, inclusive preparedness and response systems that leave no one behind.

Preparedness is our strongest defence.

For too long, gaps in coordination and readiness have left our Region exposed. The revised International Health Regulations (2005) were a first step, but the threats we face today demand more.

It was in this spirit that, in 2013, Member States established the WHO European Centre for Preparedness for Humanitarian and Health Emergencies (PHHE), hosted by the Government of Türkiye. PHHE is part of WHO/Europe's Health Emergency Programme in Copenhagen, a modality that anchors PHHE into the critical work being done regionally to prepare for, prevent, detect and respond to disease outbreaks and other health emergencies. Inaugurating the Centre in Istanbul in 2020, alongside Minister of Health Dr Fahrettin Koca, we envisioned a dynamic hub of excellence driving forward health security in our Region.

That vision is now a reality.

PHHE's work today is advancing concrete, regional solutions:

1. Pan-European Network for Disease Control (NDC): A proactive network to mitigate health risks before they escalate, complementing a proposal for the WHO Pandemic Agreement to be presented to the 78th World Health Assembly in May 2025, and contributing to the implementation of the Preparedness 2.0 Regional framework.

2. WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub: A hub supporting Member States with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and innovative technologies using Artificial Intelligence. The growing number of requests made to the hub highlights the critical need it addresses.

3. Earthquake Preparedness and Response Coordination: Strengthening earthquake preparedness, first in Türkiye, and now expanding efforts to neighboring countries following the 2023 Türkiye-Syria earthquakes.

4. Emergency Training and Human Resource Platforms: Providing easy access to WHO emergency training and connecting skilled human resources to support Member States.

All of this supports WHE's health security framework—Preparedness 2.0, WHO Europe's regional strategy and action plan—endorsed by all 53 Member States under the second European Programme of Work.

PHHE's work thrives on collaboration with governments, academia, and UN partners.

This progress would not be possible without the Government of Türkiye's steadfast commitment or the dedication of the PHHE's team. I thank them—and our many partners across governments, UN agencies, and academia—for making this centre a living example of what multilateralism can achieve.

Now more than ever, let us invest in preparedness, protect health in times of crisis, and build a safer, more resilient Region for all.

**Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge**

WHO Regional Director for Europe

## FOREWORD BY DR PIERRE NABETH, HEAD OF OFFICE, WHO EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR PREPAREDNESS FOR HUMANITARIAN AND HEALTH EMERGENCIES

This report presents the achievements and activities of the WHO European Centre for Preparedness for Humanitarian and Health Emergencies (PHHE) from October 2023 to September 2024—a year that marked a significant turning point for the Centre.

Established in 2020, PHHE was created to support Member States in strengthening preparedness for humanitarian and health emergencies, in line with the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and regional health security goals.

While foundational work was carried out in the early years, it is only over the past year—with the recruitment of dedicated staff and full operational capacity—that the Centre has entered a new phase of delivery and impact.

During this reporting period, PHHE significantly scaled up its activities and affirmed its role as a key player in the WHO European Region's emergency preparedness landscape. Several milestones illustrate this momentum:

- The launch of the Pan-European Network for Disease Control (NDC) brought together 31 institutions from 17 countries. The Network, officially launched in London in April 2024, is guided by a Steering Group composed of 16 representatives from across the Region. It is fostering a new model of preparedness based on collaboration, joint planning and shared learning—anchored in a culture of trust, transparency and solidarity.
- Support for emergency workforce development was consolidated and structured across the Region. Through a coherent framework, PHHE helped coordinate training, capacity development, and knowledge-sharing efforts, including the delivery of high-impact learning programmes such as the Leadership in Emergencies Programme.
- The WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub, hosted at PHHE, is now widely recognized as the regional entity coordinating GIS activities in the WHO European Region. The Hub has provided tailored technical support to Member States, strengthened their capacity through trainings, webinars, and peer exchange, and convened the first regional workshop to define governance and geospatial priorities. It plays a vital role in helping countries leverage geospatial data for more informed public health planning and response.

- Following the devastating 2023 earthquakes in Türkiye, PHHE supported the Turkish Government's efforts to learn from the event and to update and test the national disaster plan. In parallel, preparations began for a high-level international ministerial conference on health sector earthquake preparedness, uniting countries from the Mediterranean and Balkan regions to address shared risks through joint actions.
- PHHE also organized or supported 42 WHO events in Türkiye—leveraging Istanbul's strategic location to enable collaboration across three WHO regions and reinforce regional capacity in a cost-effective and impactful way.

These achievements were made possible thanks to strong collaboration with Member States, the continued support of the Government of Türkiye, and partnerships with WHO country offices and technical units, and regional and global stakeholders. They reflect the trust placed in PHHE as a strategic and technical hub, and the growing demand for its expertise.

As countries across the WHO European Region continue to face complex and interconnected emergencies, PHHE will remain a committed partner in strengthening preparedness, advancing innovation and promoting resilience. Much has been achieved—but this is only the beginning.

**Dr Pierre Nabeth**

Head of Office, WHO European Centre for Preparedness for Humanitarian and Health Emergencies

# ABBREVIATIONS

EMT	Emergency Medical Team
GHFD	Geolocated Health Facility Data (initiative)
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
IHR	International Health Regulations (2005)
MoH	Ministry of Health
NDC	Pan-European Network for Disease Control
PHHE	WHO European Centre for Preparedness for Humanitarian and Health Emergencies
Preparedness 2.0	Strategy and action plan on health emergency preparedness, response and resilience in the WHO European Region
RCCE-IM	Risk communication, community engagement and infodemic management
REECH	Regional European Emergency Medical Team Capabilities Hub
TFP	Training Focal Points
WHE	WHO Health Emergencies Programme



## 1. INTRODUCTION

In September 2012, the 62nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe mandated the Secretariat to develop business models for a new geographically dispersed office in the area of health emergency preparedness and response. During its 63rd session, the Regional Committee for Europe adopted a decision mandating the Secretariat to establish this geographically dispersed office in Istanbul, Türkiye.

The WHO European Centre for Preparedness for Humanitarian and Health Emergencies (PHHE) was inaugurated in September 2020.

This report summarizes the activities of PHHE from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024. During this period, PHHE has consolidated the areas of work identified during the previous year, expanded the number of activities, and recruited staff to achieve its objectives.

## 2. PHHE GOAL, AIM AND OBJECTIVES

PHHE's goal, aim and objectives are as follows:

**GOAL:** to strengthen capacities of WHO European Region Member States in preparedness for humanitarian and health emergencies through innovative, collaborative and sustainable approaches, including research aimed at building capacities and skills for emergency and disaster risk reduction.

**AIM:** to support WHO European Region Member States' health emergency preparedness, response and resilience.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- strengthen workforce competencies for emergency preparedness;
- improve coordination of preparedness activities through the development and implementation of coordination platforms and networks;
- provide technical support to Member States in PHHE's areas of expertise; and
- organize or host events aimed at enhancing the capacities of both WHO and its Member States in preparing for emergencies.

### 3. PHHE PROJECTS

This document summarizes the main activities and achievements of PHHE under the seven key initiatives of PHHE:

1	Strengthening of workforce competences for preparedness and response to emergencies
2	Management of the Pan-European Network for Disease Control (NDC)
3	Management of the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub
4	Digital tools and innovative technologies for emergency management
5	Enhancement of preparedness for disasters resulting from natural hazards
6	Integration of risk communication, community engagement and infodemic management (RCCE-IM) capacity-building into emergency preparedness and response
7	Advancement of the Emergency Medical Team (EMT) agenda in the WHO European Region.

Additionally, PHHE serves as a hub for WHO offices, providing logistical and administrative support for organizing meetings, workshops, trainings and other events in Türkiye, specifically in Istanbul. The city's strategic location makes it a cost-effective and convenient site for hosting participants from multiple regions and countries. By hosting these events, PHHE enhances the capabilities of WHO Member States and WHO itself across a range of competencies.

Finally, PHHE also continues to provide administrative and logistical support for the establishment of the WHO Regional Office for Europe Enabling Hub in Istanbul and facilitates administrative procedures for the welcoming of its new staff.

## 4. ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF PHHE'S KEY INITIATIVES

### 4.1 Strengthening of workforce competences for preparedness and response to emergencies

The overarching goal of PHHE's capacity-strengthening activities is to enhance emergency preparedness and response across the WHO European Region. To achieve this, PHHE promotes collaboration among Member States and institutions, including academia, medical communities and local organizations, to build capacities that benefit both WHO and the health workforce of Member States. Located in Istanbul, Türkiye, at the crossroads of three WHO regions – African, Eastern Mediterranean and European – PHHE organizes, facilitates and hosts training courses that foster interregional collaboration.

The Centre contributes to the coordination of training activities within the WHO Regional Office for Europe Emergencies Programme. It assists Member States and WHO technical programmes in developing tailored training courses and leveraging innovative learning solutions. To ensure the impact of these training courses and to continue supporting former trainees, PHHE also supports the establishment of thematic communities of practice that bolster preparedness and response capabilities across the WHO European Region.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) of Türkiye, PHHE is working on creating an administrative and logistical platform in Türkiye for conducting simulation exercises. The PHHE training and learning solutions team was further strengthened in June 2024 with the recruitment of a team lead, followed by the recruitment of two training officers in September 2024.

#### 4.1.1 Establishment of WHO training focal points (TFPs) from the WHO country offices and technical teams

Following communication from PHHE, the heads of the WHO country offices in the European Region have nominated TFPs. These TFPs play a critical role in offering Member States technical guidance, strategic communication and advocacy support for capacity-building activities. Additionally, they act as key links for conveying Member States' needs, which PHHE, in collaboration with other relevant WHO units and partners, works to address effectively. To date, 20 out of the 33 country offices in the European Region have nominated a TFP.

#### 4.1.2 Organization, management or hosting of training courses

##### **Leadership in Emergencies Phase 2 workshops, Istanbul, Türkiye, 3–7 March 2024 and 6–10 May 2024**

The Leadership in Emergencies Programme offers an accredited formal learning journey for participants from Member States, WHO and health partner organizations. It aims to enable leaders at all levels to develop essential non-technical skills needed to manage and lead teams in emergency response settings.

Composed of over 70 hours of blended learning across two phases, Phase 1 covers self and social awareness through 8 weeks of online classes. Phase 2 culminates in a 5-day, face-to-face training exercise that allows participants to enhance and practice their leadership skills in a response setting by working in teams to:

- coordinate with team members to deliver tasks and maintain team effectiveness
- solve problems and make decisions in complex environments
- communicate complex ideas effectively, both in writing and verbally
- negotiate agreements with stakeholders.

Since 2022, PHHE has hosted three Leadership in Emergencies workshops in Istanbul, providing financial, organizational, logistical and operational support. In 2024, PHHE organized two additional workshops, attended by 52 professionals from authorities in 18 WHO Member States and WHO staff from five WHO regions.

Notably, the workshop in May 2024 was the first country-focused Leadership in Emergencies course. It brought together professionals from the MoH of Member States within the Organization of Turkic States – namely, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan – along with staff from the WHO country offices in these countries. This training course marked the first joint activity between the Organization of Turkic States and the Regional Office for Europe under the 2024–2025 action plan signed in October 2023 (7).



Participants of the Leadership in Emergencies Phase 2 Workshop in May 2024, with professionals from the health ministries of Member States of the Organization of Turkic States

#### 4.1.3 Databases, mappings and platforms for strengthening and monitoring capacity-building in the WHO European Region

##### Humanitarian and health emergencies training repository

PHHE has developed a comprehensive database of training courses for emergency preparedness and response that have been created or conducted by the WHO Health Emergencies Programme (WHE). The database was initiated with information from a mapping exercise started in 2022 by WHO headquarters. It contains key information about each training, including the technical area, the threats addressed, training modalities and links to relevant training resources.

Training materials developed by WHO headquarters, WHO Regional Office for Europe technical teams and WHO country offices in the European Region are regularly added and reviewed by the PHHE training team.

The database enables WHO Regional Office for Europe colleagues to effectively leverage existing resources to meet the needs of Member States while preventing the duplication of efforts. The resource is available online and provides access to WHO TFPs and colleagues interested in training across regional and country offices. The database is continuously updated with the latest training resources from all three levels of WHO.

##### WHE Training and Capacity-Building Dashboard

In collaboration with WHO country offices and WHO Regional Office for Europe technical teams, PHHE is developing a comprehensive database that maps personnel trained in various International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) technical areas and core capacities, either by WHO or in partnership with it. This database is designed to track the workforce in Member States that have participated in IHR-related capacity-building activities. By categorizing these activities according to the IHR core capacity requirements, the database provides valuable insights into the capacities being developed and highlights areas that require further attention. Ultimately, this mapping will enable WHO to identify trained personnel who can be mobilized during surge responses.

To visualize the available data, an internal dashboard has been developed (Fig. 1).





## Training and meeting resources repository

To enhance capacity-building activities for Member States of the WHO European Region, PHHE is developing an internal, comprehensive repository of curated tools and resources for organizing and delivering trainings and meetings (Fig. 3). This repository provides easy access to essential resources for planning, delivering, following-up on and evaluating capacity-building initiatives. It includes WHO guidelines, templates, protocols and support services related to language and translation, accessibility, communications and logistics, among others. By consolidating best practices and expertise, the repository aims to support WHO TFPs and staff in both the Regional Office and WHO country offices, ultimately improving the effectiveness of their capacity-building efforts.

Figure 3. Exemplary screenshot of the Training and Development Resources repository



## 4.2 Management of the NDC

PHHE has taken a significant step towards enhancing health emergency preparedness and response in the WHO European Region with the launch of the NDC. The NDC was born out of one of the key recommendations made by the Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development (2) – the “Monti Commission”, convened by the WHO Regional Director for Europe, in September 2021. Acknowledged as a priority initiative by the 29th Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe in March 2022, the NDC was officially launched in April 2024.

The NDC is an informal network of networks, currently comprising ministries of health, national public health institutions and regional and subregional entities. Its mission is to enhance the WHO European Region preparedness by identifying and mitigating risks before they evolve into regional or global threats (3). To support this mission, the NDC focuses on three main objectives: 1) fostering collaboration between ministries of health, national public health institutes, existing disease control networks, academia, research institutes and international health nongovernmental organizations; 2) generating and sharing knowledge on disease control and; 3) promoting common standards and coordinated systems for response efforts.

The NDC serves as a cornerstone for collaborative efforts, knowledge exchange and the advancement of standardized, yet locally tailored, emergency preparedness and disease control measures. The NDC includes ministries of health and national public health institutes from 17 countries, along with international and subregional networks and organizations, collectively forming its 31 members.

In the coming months, the NDC will expand to include non-state actors and academia as additional stakeholders from the countries that are currently members of the network.

The NDC, strategically mandated, contributes to the implementation of the strategy and action plan on health emergency preparedness, response, and resilience in the WHO European Region (Preparedness 2.0) (4). In doing so, the NDC plays a pivotal role in fortifying the global health emergency architecture.

Two technical officers supporting the management of the Secretariat of the NDC joined PHHE in June, and September 2024.



#### 4.2.1 Launch of the NDC

The inaugural meeting of the NDC was held in London, United Kingdom, on 22–23 April 2024 (5).

Hosted by the UK Health Security Agency, the event brought together representatives from 24 of the 31 NDC member organizations and the NDC Secretariat as well as the Preparedness 2.0 Technical Advisory Group Chair and Working Group leads, who attended the meeting as observers to ensure alignment with Preparedness 2.0, which is under development (6).

The meeting was opened by Dr Hans Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe; Professor Sir Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer England; Professor Dame Jenny Harries, Chief Executive of the UK Health Security Agency and Chair of the NDC Steering Group; Professor Mario Monti, Chair of the Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development; and Dr Raji Tajudeen, Deputy Director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. They provided valuable insights on the critical role of coordinated health strategies in disease control across Europe and beyond.

Video messages from health ministers and heads of organizations contributing to the network expressed strong support for the NDC's objectives. They emphasized the network's importance in enhancing regional preparedness and response to health emergencies and highlighted the need for collaborative efforts and shared resources to effectively address public health threats.

The Secretariat made a presentation of the NDC, introduced its structure and the workstreams: Emergency coordination, Access to countermeasures and Collaborative surveillance.

Throughout the meeting, participants were updated on the status of NDC development, reviewed the Terms of Reference of the three Working Groups responsible for the workstreams and developed a 1-year roadmap outlining key milestones, after identifying the priority activities. Additionally, they completed the steering group in electing six additional members. Discussions also covered the NDC's structure and the Secretariat's support for the working groups. A dedicated session explored applying to the Pandemic Fund to support the NDC activities.



Members of the NDC at the London Inaugural meeting, April 2024.

## 4.2.2 Implementation of the workplans

In the months following the launch of the NDC, each of the three Working Group held their kick-off meeting to finalize their workplans and initiate the implementation of activities, as given in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Planned activities for each of the three NDC Working Groups**

Emergency coordination	Access to countermeasures	Collaborative surveillance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping networks and mechanisms for emergency preparedness and response (geographical and thematic coverage)</li> <li>• Reviewing current practices in emergency response coordination at national and regional levels</li> <li>• Supporting analysis of IHR States Parties' Self-Assessment Annual Reporting data to assess country capacities and identify needs for improvement</li> <li>• Supporting the development of common cross-organizational standards (e.g., European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and WHO Emergency Operation Centre)</li> <li>• Consolidating key lessons from After Action Reviews/Intra-Action Reviews</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing methodological report outlining stakeholder engagement and procurement processes for medical countermeasures during emergencies</li> <li>• Supporting the implementation of Interim Medical Countermeasures Network framework and strategy</li> <li>• Raising awareness of the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (known as rescEU), including identifying common access for countermeasures and organizing a joint webinar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defining the concept of operational considerations for collaborative surveillance</li> <li>• Developing a flexible business case for increased investment in surveillance</li> <li>• Contributing to initiatives of regional bodies including the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control in identifying gaps and cross-cutting priorities for collaborative surveillance</li> </ul>

The Collaborative Surveillance Working Group held a hybrid meeting from 26–27 September 2024, at the WHO Hub in Berlin, where 22 participants from 14 organizations shared insights and experiences. They reviewed the development of the deliverable titled “Operational Considerations for Collaborative Surveillance”, and discussed next steps for integrating and aligning efforts, including with the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and other regional bodies.

The remaining Working Groups were scheduled to meet in-person in the coming months.



Members of the NDC Collaborative surveillance Working Group at their meeting at the WHO Berlin Hub, September 2024.

#### 4.2.3 Ad-hoc NDC meetings to discuss acute health threats, 25 June and 22 August 2024

The NDC Secretariat organized two ad-hoc online meetings focused on acute health threats due to outbreaks with potential impact on WHO European Region populations, specifically addressing H5N1 and mpox. Notably mpox was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern under the IHR in August 2024 (7).

Each meeting, attended by over 80 participants from national public health institutions, WHO, European Union directorates, and regional networks, provided a valuable platform for exchanging insights, strategies and practices, as well as updates on the outbreaks. The discussions focused particularly on joint risk assessments, surveillance and elimination strategies. Several NDC members shared their national preparedness strategies and actions.

The rich exchange of information led participants to agree on sharing relevant documents and feedback moving forward, further strengthening collaborative efforts. NDC members recommended continuing to organize ad-hoc meetings on specific topics, along with more regular meetings on emerging cross-border threats in the Region.

## 4.3 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to support decision-making

### 4.3.1 Management of the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub

#### Launch of the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub

The WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub was launched on World GIS Day – 15 November 2023. The WHO Regional Director for Europe, Dr Hans Kluge, provided a keynote speech during the event (8).



The WHO Regional Director for Europe Dr Hans Kluge giving a keynote speech at the launch event of the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub

The WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub is envisioned as a comprehensive resource centre for geospatial technology, data, capacity-building and training, serving all European Region Member States. It provides GIS training, analytical services, and technical assistance to strengthen their capacities. By building GIS expertise within the Member States, the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub supports their ability to leverage spatial data for evidence-based decision-making and informed planning, enabling timely and effective public health interventions.

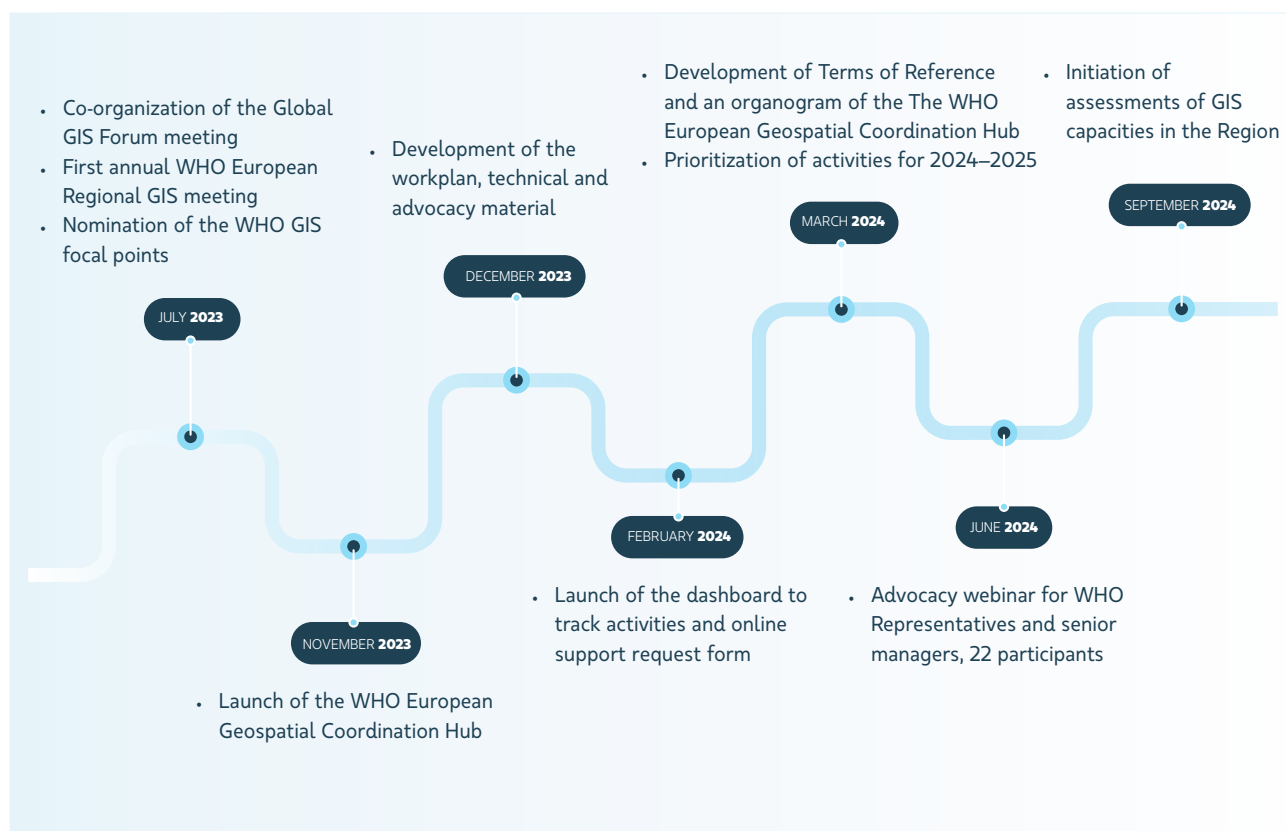
As the host of the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub secretariat, PHHE has dedicated staff and consultants supporting its activities. The focus has been on establishing the Hub, developing its strategic framework and workplan, and coordinating with regional and country offices as well as global stakeholders. The WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub has also developed a portfolio of offerings tailored to the needs of individual countries and established regional GIS standards of practice.

The WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub brings together GIS experts and GIS focal points from the WHO Regional Office and country offices, and Member States' national health authorities. It is expanding to strengthen collaboration and knowledge exchange: a technical officer was recruited in May 2024, followed by the Team lead in July 2024.

The WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub's main activities from July 2023 to September 2024 are summarized in Figure 4.



Figure 4. Activities of the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub



## Identification of the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub priorities and activities, and development of a workplan

In March 2024, PHHE organized the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub Workshop in Istanbul for two days, bringing together GIS specialists to develop a workplan, establish priorities, outline activities and define governance for the Geospatial Coordination Hub.



GIS specialists discussing the 2024 Geospatial Coordination Hub workplan

The workshop marked a significant step towards enhancing the role of the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub through collaborative efforts. Key outcomes included the development of the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub's Terms of Reference, a comprehensive workplan, and essential technical and advocacy materials to guide its operations. Furthermore, the event outlined a detailed roadmap for 2024, positioning the Hub as a leader in the Geolocated Health Facility Data (GHFD) Initiative. This initiative aims to support Member States in utilizing

geospatial technologies to effectively manage health facility data, ensuring better resource allocation and decision-making in the health-care sector (9).

## Development of the GIS Network and community of practice

The GIS Network and community of practice within the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub is a key initiative aimed at strengthening country-level support across the Region. To advance this goal, the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub has appointed GIS focal points in 23 WHO country offices, ensuring a structured approach to enhancing the delivery and coordination of geospatial services.

To further support this initiative, PHHE organized an informational session in December 2023 to introduce these focal points to the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub's support mechanisms, address key inquiries and establish effective communication channels. These channels now play a crucial role in facilitating knowledge exchange and in providing technical GIS support, thereby fostering enhanced collaboration and capacity-building across WHO country offices in Europe.

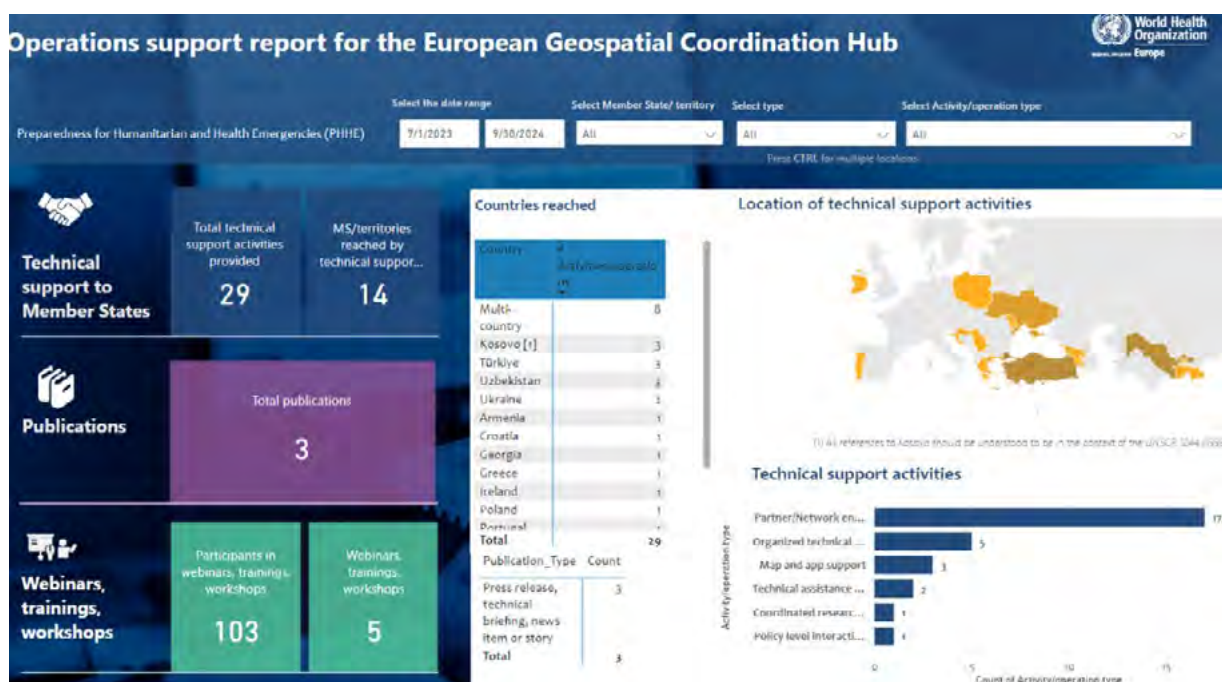
## Preparation for the second annual WHO European Region GIS meeting

In preparation for the second annual WHO European Region GIS meeting, scheduled for 1–2 October 2024, the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub initiated and distributed a pre-meeting assessment of GIS capacities across 23 countries. The objective of this assessment was to better understand GIS capabilities, needs and challenges of ministries of health. The findings revealed varying levels of GIS implementation, with some countries having advanced systems utilizing tools like ArcGIS, QGIS, DHIS2 and other open-source platforms for sophisticated data analysis and utilization, while others are not using GIS at all.

## Development of the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub dashboard

The WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub has developed an internal dashboard (Fig. 5) to track its technical support to Member States and territories. Since its launch, the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub has responded to 29 support requests from 14 Member States and territories, with 60% of these requests focusing on partner engagement, organizing technical workshops and providing mapping support. To enhance efficiency, the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub has introduced a digital platform to streamline support requests and is currently developing a geospatial database and real-time dashboard for tracking support requests.

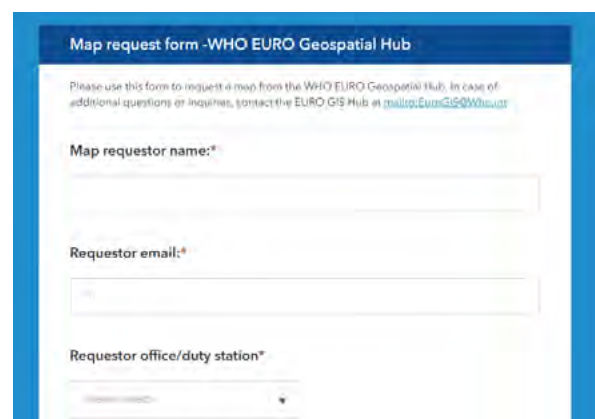
Figure 5. Exemplary screenshot of the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub support dashboard, mapping among other information, the number and origin of support requests





The WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub has also developed an internal map request form (Fig. 6) which can be submitted by any personnel employed at WHO offices in Europe for a wide range of purposes, including internal or external presentations, publications and informational materials. This form captures essential details, such as the map's title, required deadline, specific data needed and the preferred format of the final product. This enables the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub to meet the unique needs of each request in a timely and precise manner.

Figure 6. Exemplary screenshot of a map request form



#### 4.3.2 Providing technical support on GIS

The WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub has made significant progress in GIS support and capacity-building initiatives through consultations and active engagements with national focal points across multiple Member States. These collaborations have fostered tailored solutions to address specific national needs while strengthening geospatial capacities.

The WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub conducted the following activities:

**Armenia:** Collaborated with the Armenian MoH to explore mapping partnerships.

**Croatia:** Initiated participation in the GHFD initiative.

**Georgia:** Continued its collaboration with the WHO Country Office in Georgia and the Data and Digital Health Team at the WHO Regional Office for Europe. This partnership included the creation of a story map of GIS implementation, covering capacity assessments, data infrastructure establishment and training. The WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub supported these efforts by providing technical assistance to the MoH in planning, developing a GIS working group, and maintaining the GIS infrastructure and database. This effort followed a 2022 GIS capacity assessment and selection of ArcGIS software to map the country's health facilities.

**Poland:** Initiated participation in the GHFD initiative.

**Türkiye:** Delivered presentations on GIS to the MoH, the Istanbul Provincial Health Directorate and the WHO Country Office Türkiye. The WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub supported the MoH with the review of a concept note on GIS for the health effects of climate emergencies and circulated an official letter for expressing interest in participating in the GHFD initiative. On 14 and 15 February 2024 in Ankara, the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub team held face-to-face discussions with the MoH. There was mutual interest in sharing lessons learned and case studies from the MoH Türkiye GIS team with other WHO European Region Member States.

**Ukraine:** Developed a capacity strengthening programme to enhance health emergency preparedness and response through GIS. Activities included preparation for GIS capacity assessments, development of a concept note for capacity strengthening and an e-Surveillance system, and map production.

**Uzbekistan:** Coordinated and supported awareness raising and capacity strengthening for the MoH and Ministry of Digital Information, focusing on geo-enabled and integrated health information systems in alignment with the country's existing digital health infrastructure.

### 4.3.3 Capacity strengthening and training for GIS

#### **WHO Regional Office for Europe webinar on demystifying GIS for health, 4 June 2024**

A webinar entitled “Demystifying Geographic Information Systems for Health” was held in June 2024 for WHO European Region country representatives and senior management. The webinar raised awareness about GIS and its applications in health, while also introducing the newly established WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub. It provided information on the WHO European Geospatial Coordination Hub’s technical assistance and capacity-building support to Member States and WHO.

#### **Strengthen GIS utilization to improve health**

Two webinars, co-organized with the WHO country offices in Ukraine and Uzbekistan, provided 53 MoH and WHO personnel with an overview of GIS applications in public health. The webinars highlighted the Geospatial Coordination Hub’s work and activities, showcasing GIS use cases in surveillance, emergency response and decision-making.

## 4.4 Digital tools and innovative technologies for emergency management

PHHE is advancing digital health initiatives to enhance emergency preparedness, response and resilience. These efforts align with the Digital Health Action Plan for the WHO European Region 2023–2030, to strengthen the capacity of Member States and WHO to address health emergencies using innovative technologies (10). During the reporting period, PHHE made significant progress in shaping the strategic direction for digital health in emergencies. A key achievement was the development of the draft Digital Health Concept Note for Health Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Resilience in the WHO European Region. This document focuses on the creation and enhancement of digital health tools for emergency preparedness and supports the implementation of Preparedness 2.0 initiatives. Through these efforts, PHHE aims to strengthen the ability of Member States and WHO to respond effectively to emergencies using innovative digital solutions.

In addition to an upcoming strategy described in the Concept Note, PHHE is actively designing and refining operational tools to address immediate needs in emergencies. This includes developing and updating digital data collection tools, and creating an integrated dashboard for managing data related to WHO-graded emergencies and acute events. These efforts are closely coordinated with the Emergency Operations team at the WHO Regional Office for Europe to ensure seamless data integration, real-time visibility and actionable insights during crises.

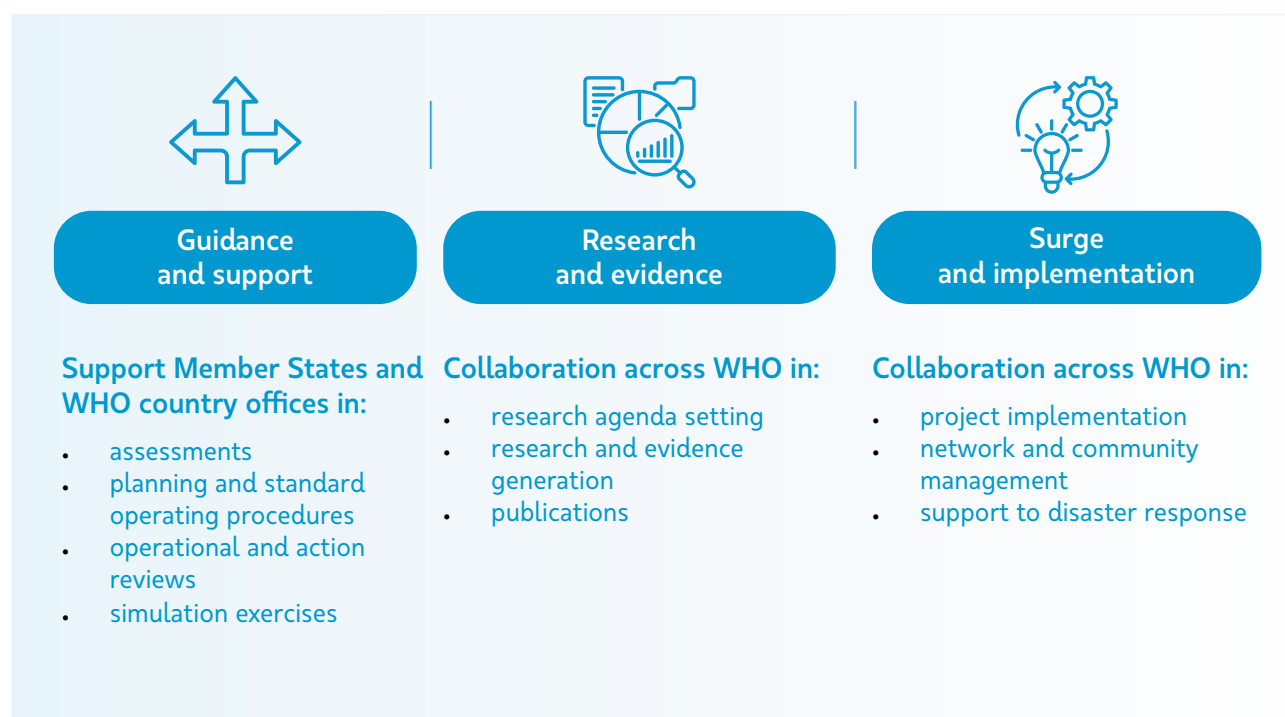
Looking ahead, PHHE will continue to focus on scaling up digital health solutions, fostering regional collaboration and supporting Member States in integrating digital health into their emergency preparedness frameworks. These initiatives underscore PHHE’s commitment to leveraging digital innovation to protect and enhance public health across the WHO European Region.

## 4.5 Enhancement of preparedness for disasters resulting from natural hazards

Disasters resulting from natural hazards pose significant threats to population health, causing high mortality and often leaving long-lasting impacts, including those due to the disruption of essential health services, displacements and post-disaster financial and societal challenges. Reducing the risks associated with such disasters is one of WHO's priorities (11, 12). To support WHO Member States facing an increasing number of disasters resulting from natural hazards, partly attributed to climate change, PHHE is contributing to efforts to mitigate the health impact of such events, in collaboration with other WHO teams at both regional at global levels, including the WHE teams at the Regional Office and WHO headquarters, the WHO headquarters Centre for Health Development in Kobe, Japan, and the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health in Bonn, Germany. PHHE's work focusses on the provision of guidance and technical support, on conducting research and generating evidence, and on surge and implementation support for WHO Member States (Fig. 7).

During the reporting period, PHHE focused particularly on earthquakes. Globally, earthquakes account for approximately one-fifth of the annual loss of life due to natural hazards (13). In the WHO European Region, the most recent major event occurred on 6 February 2023, when two powerful earthquakes with magnitudes of 7.7 and 7.6 struck southern Türkiye and the northern Syrian Arab Republic, resulting in over 100 000 injuries, more than 50 000 deaths, and persisting displacement and mental and psychosocial health challenges (14).

Figure 7. The core areas of PHHE's work in preparedness for disasters resulting from natural hazards



#### 4.5.1 Support to review Türkiye's health sector response to the February 2023 earthquakes

Following the 2023 earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, PHHE provided surge support to the health response in the affected areas (Fig. 8). Subsequently, PHHE and the MoH of Türkiye collaborated to develop and implement a multi-tiered programme to strengthen health sector earthquake preparedness and response through joint learning and evidence generation.

Figure 8. PHHE support to the MoH of Türkiye's earthquake response and subsequent preparedness efforts



#### Desk review of Türkiye's response to the 2023 earthquakes, 15 October–2 November 2023

PHHE provided technical support to the MoH in conducting an internal desk review of the health response to the 2023 earthquakes. The objective was to collectively identify lessons learned from the response to strengthen health actions for future disasters.

The response to the earthquake was systematically analysed to identify challenges and highlight best practices. The methodology was based on the WHO IHR After Action Review (15), adapted to the country's context. The following response pillars were reviewed:

- Emergency response coordination
- Pre-hospital health services, medical evacuation and transfer
- Hospital services
- Health workforce and financial resource management
- Primary health services and water, sanitation and hygiene
- Health information systems
- Logistics and supply chain management
- Health facilities and infrastructure assessment
- Risk communication
- International coordination

For each pillar, information on existing capacities, timeliness of the response, challenges, best practices, and potential improvements were collected.

### **National workshop on lessons learned from the Türkiye health sector response to earthquakes, 6–8 December 2023, Adana, Türkiye**

The objective of this workshop was to consolidate the findings of the above-described desk review and devise recommended actions to strengthen Türkiye's health sector preparedness and response to future events. A total of 149 responders from both technical and managerial functions, representing the MoH and the 11 affected provinces, attended the workshop.

Participants were divided into 10 groups, with each group focusing on a specific pillar and including at least one representative from every Directorate-General.

Discussions were summarized and translated into action points during a plenary session. The last day of the workshop was attended by representatives from non-health sector responders.



Plenary session on the last day of the Earthquakes Health Response Review Workshop. Participants developing action points based on the workshop discussions, 6–8 December 2023, Adana, Türkiye

### **National workshop to prioritize recommendations for improving preparedness and response capacities, 31 January–2 February 2024, Istanbul, Türkiye**



Group work of MoH decision-makers during the National workshop to prioritize recommendations for improving preparedness and response capacities, 31 January–2 February 2024, Istanbul, Türkiye.

This workshop was attended by 85 decision-makers from the MoH of Türkiye. Organized with the support of PHHE, the workshop leveraged the lessons identified and recommendations developed during the desk review of Türkiye's response to the 2023 earthquakes, as well as insights from the National workshop on lessons learned from the Türkiye health sector response to earthquakes. The discussions led to a clarification of roles and responsibilities among health and disaster response actors and contributed to updates to the National Disaster Health Action Plan, fostering a more resilient health system in Türkiye.

### **Preparation of a simulation exercise to test preparedness for an earthquake in the Marmara Sea**

Since June 2024, a joint team from the MoH of Türkiye and WHO has been developing a discussion-based simulation exercise aimed at testing and validating the National Disaster Health Action Plan and its associated standard operating procedures. A planning meeting for the event was held at PHHE in Istanbul on 24–26 June 2024, to discuss the scope, objectives, methods and resources needed for the exercise. During the meeting, the MoH summarized over 120 recommendations from the 2023 response review workshops, enabling participants to specify the elements of the response to be tested during the exercise.

The meeting also led to the establishment of an Exercise Management Team and the draft of a roadmap for preparation, outlining the tasks and timelines from June to December 2024. The simulation exercise will test the health response to an earthquake in the Marmara region, covering relevant aspects of governance, coordination, information management, logistics and supplies management, and the delivery of health services. It is scheduled to take place on 14–15 December 2024, in Istanbul, Türkiye.

## **4.5.2 Strengthening health sector preparedness and response to disasters resulting from natural hazards**

### **Preparation of the International Ministerial and Technical Conference to strengthen health sector earthquake preparedness and response across countries around the Mediterranean Sea and the Balkans**

Across the Mediterranean Sea and the Balkans, encompassing parts of the WHO African Eastern Mediterranean and European regions, several countries are exposed to the risk of earthquakes which are recognized as significant threats in their national health risk assessments. To strengthen health sector preparedness and response to earthquakes in WHO Member States across these regions, PHHE, in collaboration with the Government of Türkiye, is organizing an International Ministerial and Technical Conference scheduled for 2025.

PHHE has developed a concept note and established an organizing committee, which includes the MoH of Türkiye and various WHO offices at the country, regional and headquarter levels, to enhance project design and implementation. The first meeting of the organizing committee took place on 12 August 2024.

PHHE is also recruiting a supplier to assist with the preparation, organization and facilitation of the conference, guided by the above-mentioned committee. Furthermore, PHHE conducted a mapping exercise supported by an extensive literature review and consultations with the organizing committee, to identify thematic areas for discussion during the conference, pending further research by the supplier and agreement by the organizing committee.

## **4.6 Integration of RCCE-IM capacity-building into emergency preparedness and response**

Through its capacity-building efforts, the WHO Regional Office for Europe is strengthening countries' capacity in RCCE-IM by establishing strategies and activities across the Region that are not only standalone but, more importantly, integrated within WHO's Health Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Resilience mechanisms and teams.

RCCE-IM is an essential public health intervention that is key to a successful emergency response throughout the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery phases. It enables tailored and targeted emergency interventions that address risk perceptions of populations at risk and build trust between communities and health authorities, address rumors and misinformation, promote the acceptance and uptake of protective measures and ultimately, save lives. Health emergencies, such as the coronavirus disease pandemic, mpox, humanitarian crises such the war in Ukraine, the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic have all underscored the vital role of RCCE-IM, putting it higher than ever before on the political agenda.

The WHO Regional Office for Europe's capacity-building officer in RCCE-IM was recruited in August 2024 and works



from the PHHE office.

#### 4.6.1 Support to the MoH of Türkiye in strengthening RCCE-IM capacities

A RCCE-IM capacity-building workshop and RCCE-IM Plan Creator session was held in Istanbul with the WHO Country Office Türkiye and the WHO Regional Office for Europe in February 2024. The focus of the national level workshop for MoH of Türkiye was to enhance the country's RCCE-IM emergency response capabilities in response to seismic events and to elevate Türkiye's preparedness for earthquake emergencies. As a result, more than 50 participants from the MoH have improved their skills to craft effective communication strategies and manage information flows during earthquake emergencies.



Workshop with the Government of Türkiye regarding RCCE-IM and Türkiye's preparedness and responsiveness to earthquake emergencies, in February 2024

A Training of Trainers workshop for health-care workers in Türkiye was held in coordination with the MoH to train 72 health workers through September and October 2023 on how to train their peers in building RCCE-IM capacities and capabilities. Participants learned how to teach colleagues and partners on effective use of RCCE-IM in preparedness and emergencies.

### 4.7 Advancement of the EMT agenda in the WHO European Region

Hosted at PHHE in Istanbul, the Regional European Emergency Medical Team Capabilities Hub (REECH) is one of the key driving forces of the EMT Initiative in the WHO European Region and beyond (16).

#### 4.7.1 Regional EMT governance

The REECH strategy, defining its main objectives, was published in February 2024 after a broad discussion within the Regional EMT community of practice (17). This strategy aligns with the WHO EMT Initiative and the WHO global and regional EMT agendas.

REECH played a significant role in the development of the EMT regional action plan 2024–2030 (18) which was endorsed by Member States at the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe on 29–31 October 2024 (19). REECH will serve as a platform for the implementation of the action plan across all Member States in the European Region, with a focus on WHE Priority countries: those identified by WHO in the European Region where support for strengthening IHR (2005) core capacities should be a top priority (20).

#### 4.7.2 Support at regional and country levels

During the reporting period, from October 2023 to September 2024, REECH was involved in conducting EMT scoping missions and EMT awareness workshops throughout the WHO European Region aimed to support the establishment of the national EMTs. The missions were conducted in Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Serbia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. As a result, a new concept for EMT awareness/development/coordination training was developed. The concept and elements of the new training were tested during the workshops conducted. As a result of these workshops, countries are building their national EMT capacity to provide timely, context-specific and high-quality health care to populations in emergencies at home and abroad.

REECH has been involved in the development of the Quality Assurance System for the Knowledge and Information Management Emergency Platform – a digital environment for EMT community of practice. REECH's contribution included the development of the Quality Assurance Framework and Standard Operating Procedures for the Platform. REECH also developed an EMT training resources baseline survey to assess the training needs of the teams, to gain first-hand knowledge of their training capacity, and to provide REECH with a solid basis for planning and implementing capacity strengthening through better coordination of EMT training resources and processes across the WHO European Region.

As a part of an EMT advocacy campaign, REECH was presented at the Humanitarian Network Partnership Week in May 2024, at the Central Asia International Health Investment Forum held in Bishkek on 26–27 June 2024 (21).



An EMT awareness workshop in Azerbaijan

## 5. SUPPORT TO THE WHO EUROPEAN REGION ENABLING HUB IN ISTANBUL, TÜRKİYE

PHHE has continued to provide support to the operations of the WHO European Region Enabling Hub in Istanbul, Türkiye. The Hub was established following the WHO Regional Director for Europe's decision to relocate it, along with the Business Operation Division from Copenhagen, Denmark to Istanbul.

The support provided included:

- assisting with the procurement process for all necessary items and services required for the new office setup; and
- aiding in the recruitment of local staff and facilitating the admission process for international staff in Türkiye.

PHHE will continue to offer this support until a specific host agreement is signed between the Government of Türkiye and WHO.

## 6. HOSTING/ORGANIZATION OF EVENTS

In addition to organizing events for its own activities, PHHE serves as host for the activities of various WHO offices, including workshops, trainings and other events in Türkiye, mostly in Istanbul. This is rooted in the logistical advantages offered by Istanbul, making it a cost-effective and convenient location for accommodating participants from multiple regions and countries.

By hosting these events, PHHE aims to enhance the capabilities of WHO, Member States and their human resources across diverse competencies, with the overarching goal of strengthening collaborative efforts and capacity-building within WHO. During the reporting period, a total of 42 events were hosted, organized and supported (Table 2).

**Table 2. WHO face-to-face events in Istanbul, organized or supported by PHHE, the WHE Programme in Türkiye and by WHO, October 2023–September 2024 (a-c)**

**a. WHO events organized or supported by PHHE**

Name of the Event	Dates	City	Organizer
WHO Leadership for Health Transformation Programme	30 October–2 November 2023	Istanbul	PHHE, WHO Regional Office for Africa, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, WHO Regional Office for Europe
National IHR Focal Point workshop	2–3 November 2023	Istanbul	WHO Regional Office for Europe
Third meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on the development of the Strategy and Action Plan on health emergency preparedness response, and resilience (Preparedness 2.0) in the WHO European Region	9–10 November 2023	Istanbul	WHO Regional Office for Europe
Project management training	20–22 November 2023	Istanbul	PHHE, WHO headquarters, WHO Regional Office for Africa, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
Lessons learned from the earthquake response in Türkiye	6–8 December 2023	Adana	PHHE, MoH of Türkiye
Enhancing the National Health Systems Preparedness to Earthquakes in Türkiye	1–2 February 2024	Istanbul	PHHE, MoH of Türkiye
Leadership in Emergencies Phase II training	4–7 March 2024	Istanbul	PHHE, WHO headquarters, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
WHO European Geospatial Hub – Roadmap Workshop in PHHE	12–13 March 2024	Istanbul	PHHE, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Name of the Event	Dates	City	Organizer
<b>Regional Steering Committee for the EMT Initiative</b>	25–27 March 2024	Istanbul	PHHE, WHO Regional Office for Europe
<b>Inaugural Meeting of the Pan-European Network for Disease Control (22)</b>	22–23 April 2024	London	PHHE, UK Health Security Agency
<b>Leadership in Emergencies Phase II training for Organization of Turkic States Member States</b>	6–10 May 2024	Istanbul	PHHE, WHO headquarters, Organization of Turkic States
<b>Pan-European Network for Disease Control: Operationalizing the Framework on Collaborative Surveillance – A Working Group meeting</b>	26–27 September 2024	Berlin	PHHE

#### b. WHE events in Türkiye

Name of the Event	Dates	City	Organizer
<b>WHO, World Organization for Animal Health and United Nations Environment Programme joint sub-regional workshop on public health surveillance and control of zoonotic influenza and SARS-CoV-2 at the human-animal interface for the Western Balkans, Moldova and Türkiye</b>	28–30 November 2023	Istanbul	WHO headquarters, World Organization for Animal Health, United Nations Environment Programme
<b>RCCE-IM Capacity Building Workshop with Earthquake Focus on Türkiye</b>	21–23 February 2024	Istanbul	WHO Regional Office for Europe, WHO Country Office in Türkiye, MoH of Türkiye
<b>Fourth meeting of the European Regional Laboratory Task Force for emerging and re-emerging pathogens</b>	14–15 May 2024	Izmir	WHO Regional Office for Europe, WHO headquarters
<b>Project Management foundations for Pandemic Influenza and other Respiratory Diseases Preparedness Programme Management</b>	3–6 June 2024	Istanbul	WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
<b>Training on enhancing public health emergency operation centre functionality for Member States</b>	1–3 July 2024	Istanbul	WHO Regional Office for Europe, WHO headquarters, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific

#### c. Other WHO events in Istanbul

Name of the Event	Dates	Organizer
<b>Measles and Rubella Laboratory Network meetings</b>	9–13 October 2023	WHO Regional Office for Europe
<b>Gearing up towards ending TB in Europe: Regional workshop on prevention and systematic screening (23)</b>	30 October–1 November 2023	WHO Regional Office for Europe, WHO headquarters
<b>Global Scales for Early Development</b>	1–4 November 2023	WHO headquarters

Name of the Event	Dates	Organizer
Health System Response to the Obesity Epidemic: Integrating Prevention and Management Services	7–9 November 2023	WHO Regional Office for Europe
Antimicrobial medicines consumption network meeting	6–7 December 2023	WHO Regional Office for Europe
Noncommunicable disease risk factor surveillance STEPS survey data analysis and report writing workshop for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Türkiye	11–14 December 2023	WHO Regional Office for Europe
Training for child monitoring services staff	11–15 December 2023	WHO Country Office in Türkiye
National genomic strategies and costing tool meeting	14–15 December 2023	WHO headquarters, WHO Regional Office for Europe
Türkiye tobacco control meeting	31 January–6 February 2024	WHO Country Office in Türkiye
Early Adolescent Skills for Emotions capacity strengthening meeting	4–16 March 2024	WHO headquarters
15th Annual Meeting of the WHO International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines network (24)	16–20 April 2024	WHO Country Office in Türkiye, International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines, MoH of Türkiye
Workshop on the traditional and complementary medicine practices guidelines and establishment of the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Strategy	17–20 April 2024	WHO Country Office in Türkiye, MoH of Türkiye
Advisory Group meeting for the first WHO Global Status Report on Drowning Prevention	18–19 April 2024	WHO headquarters
Digital Transformation in Health social event	7–9 June 2024	WHO Regional Office for Europe
Field Epidemiology Training Programme Fellows Outbreak Investigation	5–10 August 2024	WHO Country Office in Türkiye
WHO workshop on Implementation guidelines on regulatory preparedness for the oversight of pandemic or other emergency use vaccines in importing countries	7–9 August 2024	WHO headquarters, WHO Regional Office for Europe
Community Mental Health Centre training	14–17 August 2024	WHO Country Office in Türkiye, MoH of Türkiye, Ministry of Family and Social Services Türkiye
Ensuring Quality in Psychosocial and Mental Health Care	11–13 September 2024	WHO headquarters, United Nations Children's Fund, George Washington University (United States)

Notes: STEPS: STEPwise approach to NCD risk factor surveillance; TB: tuberculosis.

## 7. COLLABORATIONS

PHHE has engaged with a range of collaborations, both within and beyond WHO, to carry out the above-described work. These collaborators are listed below.

### WHO Regional Office for Europe

- Office of the Regional Director
- Communications Office
- Information and Communications Technology Unit
- All WHE programmes including the Western Balkans and South Caucasus hubs
- WHO European Centre for Environment and Health, Bonn, Germany

### WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

- WHE

### WHO country offices

- WHO Country Office in Azerbaijan
- WHO Country Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- WHO Country Office in Kazakhstan
- WHO Country Office in Kyrgyzstan
- WHO Country Office in North Macedonia
- WHO Country Office in Tajikistan
- WHO Country Office in Turkmenistan
- WHO Country Office in Türkiye
- WHO Country Office in Ukraine
- WHO Country Office in Uzbekistan

### WHO headquarters

- GIS Centre for Health
- Learning and Capacity Development, WHE
- Geneva Project Management Centre of Excellence
- Centre for Health Development, Kobe, Japan
- Global Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence, Berlin, Germany
- Other WHE programmes

### Member Institutions of the Pan-European Network for Disease Control

- Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Welfare and Public Health, MoH, Uzbekistan
- Coordinating Centre for Health Alerts and Emergencies, MoH, Spain
- Directorate General for Health and Food Safety
- Estonian Health Board
- Eurasian Economic Commission

- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
- General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Moldova
- Health Emergency Response Authority
- Hellenic National Public Health Organization Greece
- High Council for Public Health of France
- Institute of Public Health, Croatia
- Institute of Public Health, Montenegro
- Institute of Public Health “Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut”, Serbia
- Institute of Virology, Vaccines and Sera “Torlak”, Serbia
- Istituto Superiore di Sanita, Italy
- MoH, Croatia
- MoH General Directorate of Public Health, Türkiye
- National Agency for Public Health, Republic of Moldova
- National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, Georgia
- National Center of Public Health, Kazakhstan
- National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Netherlands (Kingdom of the)
- National Public Health Institute, Slovenia
- Organization of Turkic States
- Robert Koch-Institute, Germany
- Santé publique France
- South-Eastern Europe Health Network
- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries – Organization of Islamic Cooperation
- UK Health Security Agency, United Kingdom

### Other Partners

- Escola Superior de Comunicação Social, Portugal
- Hacettepe University, Türkiye
- University of Pisa, Italy
- University of Washington, United States of America
- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, United States of America
- WHO Collaborating Centre at Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
- WHO Collaborating Centre at Tel Aviv University, Israel



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## The WHO Regional Office for Europe

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations created in 1948 with the primary responsibility for international health matters and public health. The WHO Regional Office for Europe is one of six regional offices throughout the world, each with its own programme geared to the particular health conditions of the countries it serves.

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