

PREPARE

PANDEMIC
PREPAREDNESS
PROJECT



STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY FOR
WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY MULTISECTORAL
PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

PREPARE

As the lead agency for the PREPARE project, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), International Medical Corps worked to strengthen the capacity of target countries in Africa and Asia for multisector disaster management and pandemic preparedness planning. In collaboration with the Pandemic Response Program (PRP) of the US Department of Defense, PREPARE aimed to promote the integration of pandemic preparedness into wider disaster management and preparedness initiatives utilizing an all-hazards approach.

International Medical Corps strengthened the capacities of host countries through PREPARE's whole-of-society paradigm, with involvement from all critical sectors of society. PREPARE built on previous pandemic and disaster risk reduction initiatives to improve broader pandemic disaster preparedness and resilience through training and simulation exercises which focused on interdependent systems and collaboration throughout business, civil, and government sectors.

WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY PARADIGM

Leveraging nearly 30 years of experience building relationships with groups and individuals at all levels of society, International Medical Corps is a leading innovator of the whole-of-society paradigm to pandemic disaster preparedness:

- ▶ National government is the most effective leader in the overall coordination of response and mitigation efforts, and this entity must work to institute the necessary legislation, policies, and resources for pandemic preparedness, as well as mandate and facilitate proactive preparedness planning efforts.
- ▶ The health sector (including ministries of health and healthcare providers) is the first line of defense in monitoring real-time epidemiological data and clinical information, and must be prepared to cope with high demand during a pandemic as well as enact mechanisms to reduce the spread of infectious disease.
- ▶ Beyond health, every society is comprised of several other essential service sectors which must be able to maintain operations and mitigate the secondary and tertiary impacts of a pandemic such as high employee absenteeism (up to 30%), drastic shifts in supply and demand, limited international trade, and economic and social impacts. These essential service sectors include: energy, finance & banking, food, law & order, telecommunications, transportation, and water & sanitation.
- ▶ Families and individuals must take steps to increase community resilience by initiating appropriate self-help preparatory measures and preventative health behaviors.

ALL-HAZARDS APPROACH

The pandemic threat is now greater than in any other time during human history. Although the occurrence of severe pandemics is relatively low compared to other disasters such as flooding and drought, its impact can be the most severe in terms of mortality, economic loss, and societal disruption. Fortunately, contingency planning for a pandemic will also prepare society for other hazards by strengthening coordination and response mechanisms, health systems, communication networks, and business continuity planning. International Medical Corps capitalizes on the success of other local disaster preparedness initiatives by building on previous plans and disaster management frameworks through the modeling of a severe pandemic as a 'worst-case-scenario' disaster – effectively equipping governments and societies to better cope with a range of hazards.



FIVE STEP IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

PREPARE used a five-step implementation process to achieve its results:

Step 1: Host Country Preparatory Work

- ▶ Identify a coordinating government counterpart (such as the Office of the Prime Minister) and establish relationships with key stakeholders within the essential service sectors and government line ministries. Additionally, the needs of the host country as it relates to disaster management/pandemic preparedness will be assessed in preparation for the planning of Step 2.

Step 2: Multisector Planning Meeting

- ▶ Organize a one-day meeting with selected officials from essential service sectors and key government agencies with the purpose of introducing the project, discussing the themes of pandemic preparedness, taking stock of previous planning efforts, and initiating the formation of sectoral Technical Working Groups (TWGs) for each sector.

Step 3: Plan Development

- ▶ Each sector forms a TWG comprised of local experts from various institutions (public and private) within that sector. The TWGs are provided a tailor-made template on which to develop a Sectoral Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPPRP), and through a series of individual and group consultations and three-day workshops facilitated by PREPARE, the result is a draft SPPRP for each essential service sector.

Step 4: Plan Validation/National Multisectoral Simulation Exercise

- ▶ A four-day intensive simulation exercise is conducted simultaneously with all essential service sectors and coordination and response agencies. This hybrid exercise incorporates both table-top and functional elements to simulate a realistic pandemic scenario from outbreak through recovery, and serves to identify any gaps in the SPPRPs.

Step 5: Senior Officials Meeting

- ▶ Finalized SPPRPs and any recommendations resulting from the exercise will be presented to senior officials and key decision makers for the purpose of advocating official institutionalization/uptake of the SPPRPs and designating permanent Crisis Management Teams for each sector.

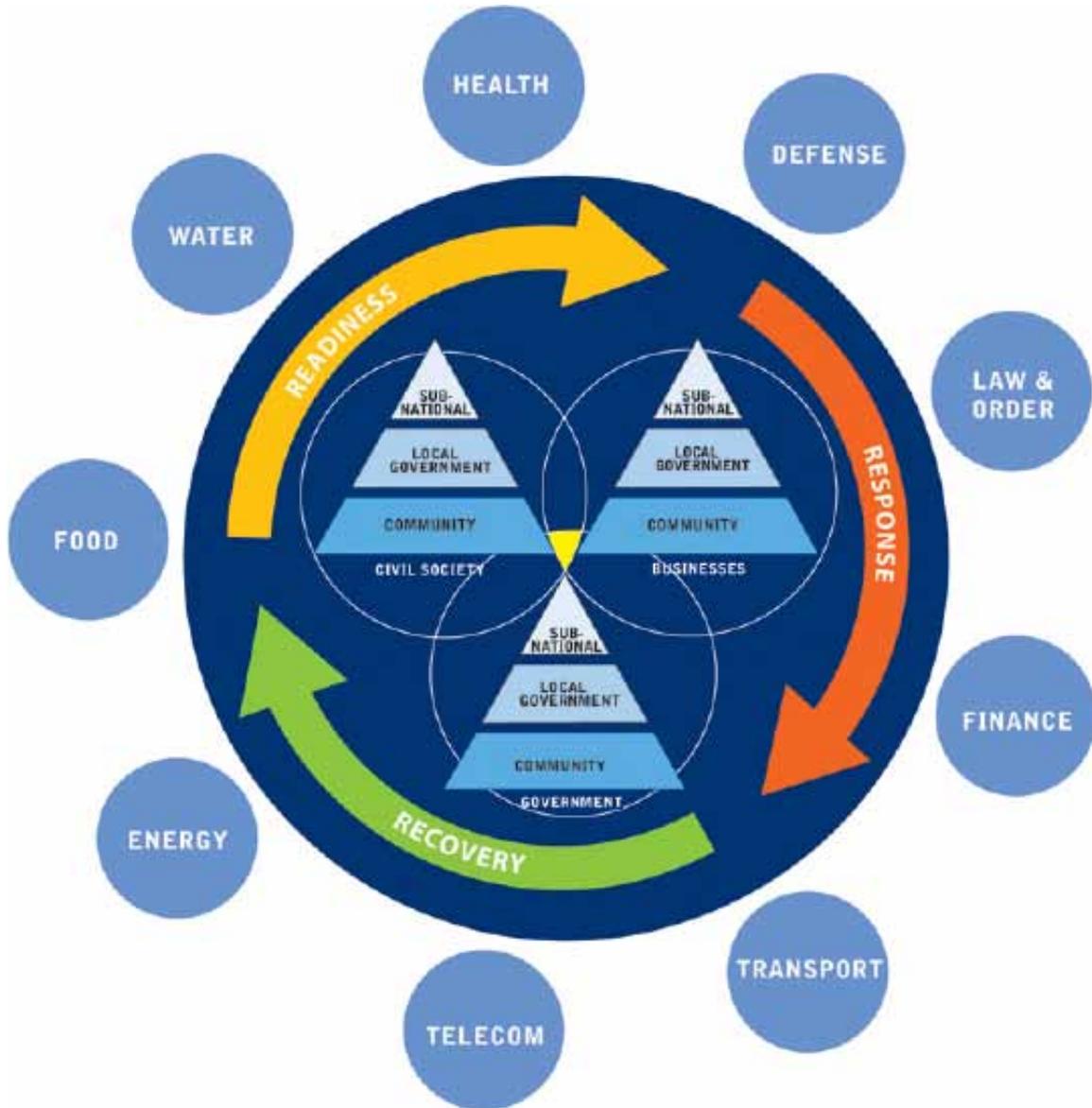
RESULTS

International Medical Corps has a proven track record of successfully implementing the PREPARE Project in six countries including Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Philippines, Tanzania, and Uganda, as well as regionally with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

- ▶ 33 individual Sectoral Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plans (SPPRPs) have been developed
- ▶ 47 private sector companies, 99 public sector entities, and 63 government agencies have been involved in the national planning processes to date
- ▶ 87% of participants AGREE or STRONGLY AGREE that the PREPARE Project meets its objectives
- ▶ 95% of participants AGREE or STRONGLY AGREE that that they possess a better understanding of the key principles of pandemic disaster preparedness as a result of the PREPARE Project
- ▶ As a result of PREPARE pandemic planning, the telecommunications sector in the Philippines was able to activate a coordinated response to an earthquake disaster
- ▶ The PREPARE Project has received recognition from the UN System Senior Influenza Coordinator and the World Health Organization for its innovating and cutting-edge approach to pandemic preparedness



WHOLE OF SOCIETY APPROACH



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS CONTACTS:

Dennis Walto
Senior Advisor – Innovations & Revenue
International Medical Corps
Email: dwalto@InternationalMedicalCorps.org

Jacob Schafer
Program Manager - PREPARE Project
International Medical Corps
Email: jschafer@InternationalMedicalCorps.org

1313 L Street, NW, Suite 220
Washington, DC 20005
Phone 202-828-5155
Fax 202-828-5156