



From Preparedness Policy to Action: Anticipate, Align, and Act for Health Security Preparedness

BACKGROUND

The Health Emergency Preparedness Department in the **WHO Health Emergencies Preparedness Department** together with **Global Health Security Fund** is holding a side event in the margin of Global Health Security Conference (GHSC). The side event will focus from preparedness policy to action where all stakeholders and cross sector needs to align, anticipate, and act for stronger health security preparedness.

Global health security is under sustained pressure from demographic change, chronic disease, workforce shortages, fiscal constraints, and geopolitical changes, while also being expected to absorb rapid technological innovation and respond to new health emergencies, climate, and security risks.

As debates intensify around global capacity for health emergency preparedness, it is increasingly clear that current health systems models are no longer fit for purpose. Health security preparedness must be recognized not only as prevention services but as critical investment for economic stability, resilience, growth and security and policy and financial decision-makers need to recognize this shift and invest accordingly.

This side event will bring together policymakers, system leaders, private sectors, and civil society and member states to explore how we can move beyond simply being prepared, instead together with cross sector stakeholder to align, anticipate, and act for stronger health security preparedness, from governance to system, from financing to scaling capacities and capabilities. maintaining existing preparedness systems and instead future proof them for the long term. The focus will be on alignment, anticipation, and action in response to future international public health threats.

Through a mix of high-level policy debates and more focused spotlight sessions, the 2026 WHO and Global Health Security Network side event in the margins of GHSC will examine how prevention, interoperability of system, technology innovation, and financing can be aligned to act and support the overall sustainable health systems.

Multisectoral collaboration is central to the department's mandate, advancing whole-of-government and whole-of-sector engagement, including through a One Health approach and global health preparedness reviews. The active involvement of senior policymakers is critical to driving cross-sectoral policy development and coordinated capacity-building efforts for sustainable health security.

ANTICIPATE, ALIGN, AND ACT FOR HEALTH SECURITY PREPAREDNESS

In a world marked by accelerating geopolitical uncertainty, digital disruption, and the persistent threat of pandemics and climate disasters, the side event provided a platform to examine how global health security can strengthen its collective capacity to anticipate, align, and act in emergency preparedness and response.

The discussion at this side event will examine how health security preparedness fits into broader debates on cross sectoral policy and long-term investment, and what governance and political choices are required to ensure a wide-systems approach and interoperability of cross sector health systems remain capable of supporting innovation while delivering equitable care.

The following are key objective of the side event:

OBJECTIVES

1. To share latest update and progress on WHO's work related to Health Emergency Preparedness following the WHA and ongoing global discussion
2. To demonstrate the value of health security preparedness for the national security and economy.
3. To improve the anticipation, alignment, and coordinated action among health security stakeholders.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The key expected outcomes from this side event are:

1. Progress update on WHO's planned activities in scaling up health security preparedness
2. Identification and alignment of key priorities, together with technical partners and donors, for action for the improvement of the future of health security preparedness
3. Key recommendations by participants and health security stakeholders on how they can align, anticipate, and act in support of the WHO in moving forward with a future health security preparedness strategy.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Panelists will highlight the recent outbreaks and the broader geopolitical context have demonstrated that preparedness gaps are most visible where financing remains fragmented, governance and coordination mechanisms are weak, urban, and community-level vulnerabilities are underestimated, and multisectoral systems—including human, animal, and environmental health—are insufficiently integrated. Addressing these gaps requires coordinated action across sectors, levels of government, and partners, as well as sustained political commitment. Against this backdrop, there is increasing recognition that effective preparedness must be advanced across sectors. Technology innovation is essential for future health emergency preparedness, particularly as climate-related disasters and pandemics increase in frequency and severity. By 2026, advances such as AI-native diagnostics, laboratories and new surveillance are transitioning from innovation showcases to necessary operational tools. This development will be vital for the

future of country capacity to detect, prevent, and response. Some questions will highlight key important issues such as;

- How can we ensure health emergency preparedness remain a priority despite the decline in country capacity due to geopolitical changes.
- What is the key evidence of progress on global health security preparedness capacity?
- Why should health security preparedness capacity be treated as a critical development for the national security, economy, and resilience?
- How can health security preparedness be better integrated into the overarching government's development plan?
- How can health security preparedness stakeholders better align, anticipate, and act together in the future?

Health security preparedness is foundational to global stability, ensuring economic resilience, social cohesion, and the protection of essential supply chains. By anticipating risks, aligning cross-sector policies, and taking decisive action, governments and organizations can mitigate crises before they paralyze societies and threaten human security.

Recent public health events — including Ebola outbreaks in Africa, the multinational Hantavirus cluster linked to cruise travel, climate-related emergencies, and the continued risk of zoonotic spill over — underline that the world is still not adequately prepared to prevent increasingly complex, mobile, and interconnected health security threats. Preparedness must therefore be treated as a sustained investment in national security, economic continuity, social stability, and public trust, not as a short-term crisis response function.

At a time of increasing geopolitical uncertainty, climate pressures, and evolving health threats, preparedness is no longer a technical exercise—it is a strategic imperative for economic stability, national security, and resilient societies. The discussions aim to move beyond commitments and frameworks toward practical, collaborative actions that connect global policy with country implementation, innovation with equity, and preparedness with sustainable investment. It is for this reason we need to Anticipate together, Align our efforts and work in synchronized Actions.

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Monday, 8th June 2026 – 12.30 – 18.00
Kuala Lumpur Convention Center, Malaysia

Time	Session
Registration	
12:00 – 12.40	Registration and Luncheon
Welcome and Opening	
12:45 – 13:30	<p>Master of Ceremony: Dr Ong Prasarnphanich</p> <p>The MC welcome all participants and highlight the key objective of the side event. After a brief introduction to the objective of the meeting, the MC will introduce each key speaker below:</p> <p>Keynote speakers will set the scene on the overall theme of the side event which is anticipate align and act for stronger health security preparedness. and establishing the shared objective of moving from preparedness to actionable health security across sectors.</p> <p>Suggestion for keynote speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent public health events — including Ebola outbreaks in Africa, the multinational Hantavirus cluster linked to cruise travel, climate-related emergencies, and the continued risk of zoonotic spill over — underline that the world is still not adequately prepared to prevent increasingly complex, mobile, and interconnected health security threats. Preparedness must therefore be treated as a sustained investment in national security, economic continuity, social stability, and public trust, not as a short-term crisis response function.

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Strengthening Global Health Security – Global Perspective

13.30 – 13:40	<p>Presentation by Dr Stella Chungong</p> <p>Framing the discussion and debate of the side event. Dr Chungong will share the outcome of the WHA 79th, the outcomes of Member States discussion on health security preparedness such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress update on health security preparedness Multisectoral Collaboration for Health Security: civil military Community protection and health system UHPR – country’s journey from assessment to investment
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	<p>Presenter: Dr Stella Chungong, Director, Health Emergency Preparedness Department, the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, HQ</p>
<p>Strengthening Global Health Security – Regional Perspective</p>	
<p>13.40 – 13.50</p>	<p>Presentation by Dr Gina Samaan Framing the discussion and debate of the side event. Dr Samaan will provide the regional perspective on global health security and its priorities such as risk assessment, disease outbreak, natural disaster, and conflict in the region.</p> <p>Presenter: Dr Gina Samaan, Director, Regional Emergency Department, the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, WPRO</p>
<p>Panel 1: Translating Preparedness policy into global and local action</p>	
<p>13:50 – 14:35</p>	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Ludy Suryantoro Translating preparedness policy into scalable global and local actions requires shifting from reactive crisis management to proactive, people-centred resilience. This involves aligning high-level, science-led global frameworks with grassroots execution by empowering municipalities, and strategic alignment between health security preparedness with primary health care.</p> <p>This panel should also explore how recent events have shown that global policies only become effective when they are translated into operational local capacities, including laboratory networks, municipal preparedness, port and border health systems, community surveillance and rapid response mechanisms.</p> <p>Key Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can global and local preparedness policies be translated into practical local action, particularly at municipal, laboratory, border and community levels?

2. What are the main barriers preventing countries from moving from policy commitments to operational capacities, and how can these barriers be addressed?
3. In the current context of outbreaks, geopolitical uncertainty and constrained financing, what should be prioritized to ensure that global and local preparedness capacities remain scalable, sustainable and connected to national strategies?

Speakers:

- **Dr Leo Poon Lit man, the Head of the Division of Public Health Laboratory Science of the University of Hong Kong**
The future vision of virology, particularly as it relates to One Health and biosecurity, focuses on a proactive, “layered defence” strategy designed to detect, track, and mitigate biological threats—whether natural, accidental, or deliberate. Highlight national and local capacities for health security preparedness.
- **Dr Isaac Bogoch, Infectious Disease and Public Health Physician, University of Toronto**
Highlight example on translating policy into global and local action and how the two are completing each other.
- **Dr Xin Yuan, Senior Engineer, certified urban rural planner, supervisor of Shanghai Human Settlements Science Research Association, Shanghai Government, China**
Urban planning and preparedness are critical for health emergencies because cities are hubs of high-density interaction, economic activity, and rapid connectivity, making them epicentres for disease transmission and disaster impact.
- **Dr Sookhyun Lee, Global Network for Peace and Sustainable Progress (GNPSP), South Korea**
Highlighting the example work on cross border health security preparedness and the importance of South-South peer learning, including the Global Sustainable Preparedness Network.

Panel 2: Sustaining local health security preparedness – community protection, primary health care, and resilient health systems

14:35 – 15:20

Panel discussion

Moderator: Dr Ong Prasarnphanich

Highlight that Local health security preparedness requires community protection at its core, including emergency-ready PHC, essential public health functions and enabling local, it also requires to leveraging cross border health and community-focused research, ultimately building health system resilience before the next crisis hits.

The panel will describe how communities, primary health care and essential public health functions are often the first to detect, absorb and respond to shocks.

Key Questions:

1. How can national preparedness policies be translated into stronger community protection, emergency-ready primary health care and resilient health systems?
2. What are the main barriers preventing local health systems from detecting, notifying and responding rapidly to emerging threats, and how can tools such as JEE, NAPHS and 7-1-7 support implementation?
3. In a context of recurrent outbreaks, climate shocks and resource constraints, how can countries sustain preparedness capacities at community and primary health care levels between crises?

Speakers:

- **Ms Amanda McClelland, Senior Vice President, Prevent Epidemics and Primary Health Care, U.S., Resolve to Save Lives (assessment, NAPHS, 7-1-7, challenges)**
Highlight the importance of risk assessment from the JEE to NAPHS and 7-1-7 strategy which is a global health framework designed to rapidly detect, notify, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.
- **Dr Jitphanu Sridet, public health officer innovation and research section office of international cooperation, Ministry of Health of Thailand**
Country experience o response and risk communication supported by ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Mir Rahimzai, MD, MPH, Technical Director, Infectious Diseases and Global Health Security, FHI 360 (health system and CSO perspective) Primary health care (PHC) requires a direct, functional connection with health emergency preparedness and detection capacities—highlights that community's first point of contact and is the frontline for identifying, managing, and reporting health threats. Highlight the important of cross sectoral collaboration and how interoperability between health security and primary health care is vital. Dr Marc Ho, Director of the Contact Tracing and Epidemiology Centre of Ministry of Health of Singapore (contact tracing, capacity building, health system resilience) Immediate post-response windows are critical for institutional learning, asset reallocation, and rapid capacity building. Turning lessons from the crisis into scalable programming reduces recovery time and strengthens resilience for future threats.
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Coffee Break

15:20 -15:40	Coffee Break
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Panel 3: Advancing multisectoral collaboration for health security preparedness

15:40 – 16:25	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Ludy Suryantoro Advancing multisectoral collaboration for health security preparedness requires deliberate coordination across government agencies, including civil and military collaboration. It breaks down silos by integrating public health with fields like defence, agriculture (One Health), finance, and medical counter measures to comprehensively prevent, detect, and respond to public health emergencies.</p> <p>Recent outbreaks and biological risks demonstrate that health security requires structured collaboration between health, defence, agriculture, environment, finance, transport, border management and security sectors. Civil–military collaboration, One Health coordination and medical countermeasure governance should be framed as practical components of national preparedness, not exceptional arrangements.</p>
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Key Questions:

1. How can preparedness policies be translated into effective multisectoral action across health, defense, agriculture, environment, finance, transport, and other sectors?
2. What governance mechanisms are needed to move from ad hoc coordination during emergencies to sustained whole-of-government collaboration before crises occur?
3. Considering recent biological, zoonotic, and cross-border threats, how can civil–military collaboration, One Health and medical countermeasure coordination be strengthened while maintaining public trust and clear accountability?

Speakers:

- **Dr Elizabeth Cameron, Senior Adviser to the Brown Pandemic Center, Professor of the Practice of Health Services, Policy, and Practice at the Brown University School of Public Health (collaboration with academic not One Health)**

Highlights the importance of multisectoral Preparedness Coordination particularly involving those who are non-traditional health actors to address health security. Highlight One health as key strategic momentum to address global health security.

- **Mr Laurent Muschel, Director HERA General Health Emergency, Preparedness and Response**

Effective collaboration between country and cross-sectoral ministers regarding Medical Countermeasures (MCM)—vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics for health threats—requires a "whole-of-government" approach, moving beyond health ministries to include finance, trade, and defence

- **Colonel (Kes), Dr Sapto Prasetyo, S.Si., Apt, Health Security preparedness Indonesian Army Forces**

CBRN governance in Indonesia is decentralized and distributed across several specialized agencies, with the MoH specifically handling biological threats, disease surveillance, and medical responses. Highlights collaboration between civilian sectors and ministry of health remains a priority. Highlight that most of CBRN in Indonesia is through a defence-focused model managed by the Indonesian National Armed Forces.

Panel 4: Enhancing health security preparedness through innovation, technology, and partnership

<p>16:25 – 17:05</p>	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Dick Chamla, Program Area Manager (Emergency Preparedness) WHO AFRO</p> <p>Strengthening health security preparedness requires coordinated action across governments, private sector organizations, healthcare systems, and communities. Public-private partnerships play a vital role in enhancing resilience by combining resources, expertise, and innovation to address emerging health threats. Advances in digital technologies, data systems, and artificial intelligence are transforming disease surveillance, early warning mechanisms, diagnostics, and emergency response capabilities. AI-driven analytics can improve decision-making, predict outbreaks, and optimize resource allocation during crises. By fostering collaboration, investing in innovation, and leveraging advanced technologies, countries can build more adaptive, efficient, and inclusive health security systems capable of responding effectively to future pandemics and global health emergencies.</p> <p>Key Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can innovation, digital tools, AI, laboratory systems and data platforms help better translate preparedness policies into faster detection, better decision-making, and more effective response? 2. What partnership platforms and mechanisms are needed between governments, private sector actors, academia, professional associations and communities to ensure that innovation strengthens national preparedness systems? 3. In a context of unequal access to technology and constrained financing, how can the global community and national authorities better ensure that innovation remains equitable, trusted, interoperable and aligned with public health priorities? <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Jean Richard, Biosecurity Director, SICPA Swiss technology specializing in global security. Highlight on public health and zoonotic disease policy, leveraging her background as a veterinarian, to share the current work on integrate multisectoral collaboration across environment, animal, and human health to prevent and respond to biological threats.
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	<p>Highlight key priorities on action to strengthening global health security.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Mr Tristan Arnold, Co-founder of Cro-Tech, Dubai. Highlight CroTech current public private collaboration with Dubai Authority on emergency preparedness particularly on digital infrastructure for safe and security in cities and urban settings. Highlight the public private partnership for public goods and sustainability for public private partnership collaboration with key focus on safe and security.</p> <p>Dr Audrey Clarissa, representative International Pharmaceutical Federation Highlights International pharmaceutical federation’s public private and share the prioritized based on public health risk and emphasize robust, rapid generation of high-quality evidence for efficacy and safety during emergency. Highlights the importance of financing preparedness to MCM.</p>
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Panel 5: Securing and investing in health security preparedness

17:05-17:50	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Lisa McDonald, President, Global Health Security Fund Key issues: Securing future health security requires transitioning from reactive crisis management to operational, integrated systems. Driven by lessons from COVID-19 and escalating pathogen threats, global health leaders emphasize enhanced surveillance, equitable access to technologies, and platform for collaboration.</p> <p>Financing remains one of the greatest barriers to sustained preparedness. This session will examine how countries and partners can transition from fragmented, reactive funding to long-term, predictable investment frameworks that recognize preparedness as a core component of economic stability, national security, and development.</p> <p>This panel will emphasize that preparedness financing must be predictable, catalytic, and aligned with national priorities as well as investment should be future looking with innovation and technologies.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What financing models can ensure sustainable, long-term investment in preparedness rather than crisis-driven funding?
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2. How can global initiatives like the Pandemic Fund better align with national priorities and implementation realities?
3. What evidence and arguments are most effective in convincing governments to treat preparedness as a strategic economic and security investment?

Speakers:

- **Valentin Dishashi, Technical Manager of BSL-3 Laboratory, National Institute of Biomedical Research (INRB), Democratic Republic of Congo**

Highlight the importance of country to invest on diagnostic. Will share the experience on Diagnostic laboratories in the Ebola Response as well as highlight the importance to invest in this area of work.

- **Dr Beza Tekleyohanes, Project Manager for EPPR Ethiopian Pandemic Fund Project.**

Highlighting Ethiopia's pandemic preparedness and response initiatives underpinned by high level coordination, strategic planning, and multisectoral engagement. Elaboration on the Pandemic Fund projects' current implementation challenges and achievement so far.

- **Eduardo Flores Mendoza, Program Manager, Global Health Security Fund, Mexico**

BioPREVAIL Foundations - the participatory methodology in action for a new generation of public health stakeholders.

- **Robert Salerno World Bank Pandemic Fund Secretariat**

Highlight the pandemic fund current progress including the fast track of financing for the current Ebola. Emphasizing the need for country to invest in health emergency preparedness.

Closing

<p>17:50 – 18:00</p>	<p>Mr Ludy Suryantoro, Head of Multisectoral Engagement for Health Security Unit Building Partnership for all stakeholders to align, anticipate and act together for sustainable health security preparedness. Effective health security preparedness requires sustained commitment, coordinated action, and shared responsibility across sectors and stakeholders. The path forward is not only about strengthening systems, but about aligning priorities, anticipating risks, and acting collectively—before crises unfold.</p> <p>Dr Andrew Nerlinger, Executive Director – Global Health Security Fund – Strengthen cross sectoral collaboration and partnership in Bio-Prevail. Bio-PREVAİL is revolutionizing the way that we design, build and operate diagnostic containment laboratories. We need to drive to innovation movement focused on practical, scalable solutions that enable laboratories to function sustainably rooted in local context, resilient to future challenges, and capable of supporting global biosafety and biosecurity over the long term.</p> <p>Dr Stella Chungong, Director, Health Emergency Preparedness, Department of WHO Emergency Programme - Closing remarks: Reflections and way forward</p> <p>Through the Pandemic Fund with the World Bank, WHO supported 70 countries to develop and implement 41 projects to strengthen surveillance, laboratory networks, workforce capacity and multisectoral coordination. Twenty-one countries completed joint external evaluations, 195 states parties submitted their annual IHR reports, and 25 countries completed their National Action Plan for Health Security. Multisectoral collaboration and engagement is key to address country capacity for health security such as civil military collaboration, parliament etc.</p> <p>The Global Health Emergency Corps ran its second simulation exercise, Exercise Polaris II, involving 600 health emergency experts and 25 partner organizations from 26 countries and territories. recently we launched the Global Health Emergency Strategy, with a target to have 10 percent of the world’s health workforce ready to respond to emergencies by 2030. Part of this process the Global Sustainable Preparedness Network has been established since 2022 where 77 institutions is ready to support country preparedness capacities. We recognized that we are in a crucial time for innovation. Thus, technologies will drive our future preparedness.</p>
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