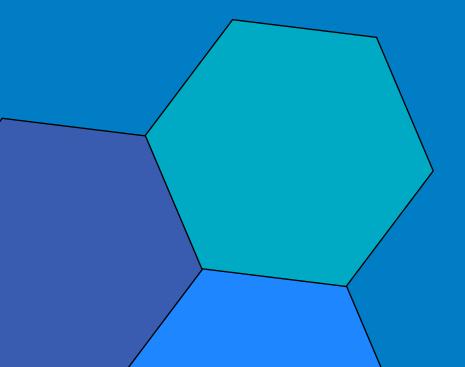


Health service continuity planning for public health emergencies

A handbook for health facilities

Interim version for field testing





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Abbreviations

DFID	United Kingdom Department for International Development
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
PHE	public health emergency
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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Glossary

These definitions of terms are a synthesis of various resources, including WHO publications, academic literature and internal technical documents and expertise adapted to the context of health service continuity planning.

After-action review (AAR)

An AAR is a qualitative review of actions taken in response to an event of public health concern. An AAR is a means of identifying and documenting the best practices and challenges demonstrated by the response to the event. The review seeks to identify actions that need to be implemented immediately, to ensure better preparation for the next event. It also aims to identify medium and long-term actions needed to strengthen and institutionalize the necessary capabilities of the public health system (1).

Contingency planning

Contingency planning is a management process that analyses specific potential events or emerging situations that might threaten society or the environment and establishes arrangements in advance to enable timely, effective and appropriate responses to such events and situations. Contingency planning results in organized and coordinated courses of action with clearly identified institutional roles and resources, information processes and operational arrangements for specific actors at times of need. Based on scenarios of possible emergency conditions or public health emergency events, it allows key actors to envision, anticipate and solve problems that can arise during crises. Contingency planning is an important part of a much broader emergency preparedness process and recovery planning. This process often results in the development of a contingency plan.

"Contingency planning" and "continuity planning" are sometimes used interchangeably in literature and technical guidelines. They are similar regarding their purpose; both are intended to enable organizations to continue essential operations and functions in the event of emergencies. Generally, continuity planning is centred around the core question: how to maintain essential functions as usual in face of an emergency: continuity planning is intended

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