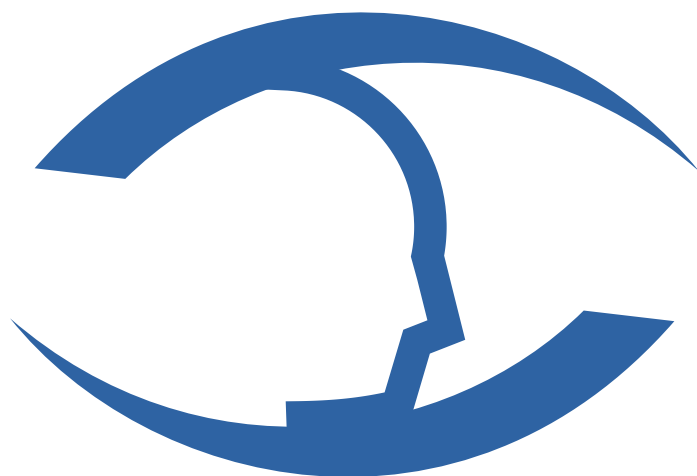


# From Vulnerability to Preparedness



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IN THE WHO SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

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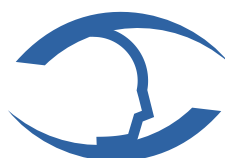
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## The Cover

The icon represents the elements of nature – the earth below, the sky above and all that lies in between. The arched curves are representative of a pair of hands that offer safety, security and protection from life-threatening health consequences – whether from natural, social, political or cultural causes – in a caring and compassionate manner. The silhouette of the face symbolizes the work in emergencies and humanitarian action – to look ahead, and move forward with resolve, hope and confidence towards making the world a safe place for the human race at all times, and ensure better health outcomes before, during and after crises.

# Preface

The basic information management practice in disaster management is profiling of hazards and risks that countries face. This information needs to be collected periodically and reviewed in the context of the development of various issues, sectors and disciplines.

Through a meticulous process, this publication contains updated profiles of countries with respect to hazards and disaster management systems vis-à-vis the work of WHO in the South-East Asia Region. It facilitates preparation of a baseline for disaster preparedness in order to chart the path towards its improvement. The ongoing support provided by all partners including Ministries of Health and National and Sub-National Disaster Management Authorities is described in the context of each Member State. Various mechanisms and best practices are outlined and will be useful in addressing resource gaps, delivery of technical guidance, advocacy for political commitment and developing strategies and plans.

The regular updating of relevant information and analysis enables emergency management managers to define their actions based on evidence, which also conforms to the long-term strategic objective of WHO: **To reduce the health consequences of emergencies, disaster, crises and conflicts, and minimize their social and economic impact.**



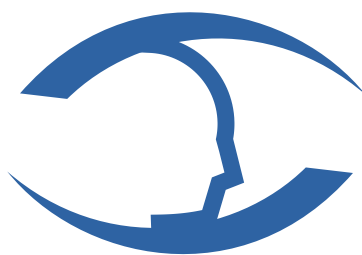
Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh  
Deputy Regional Director



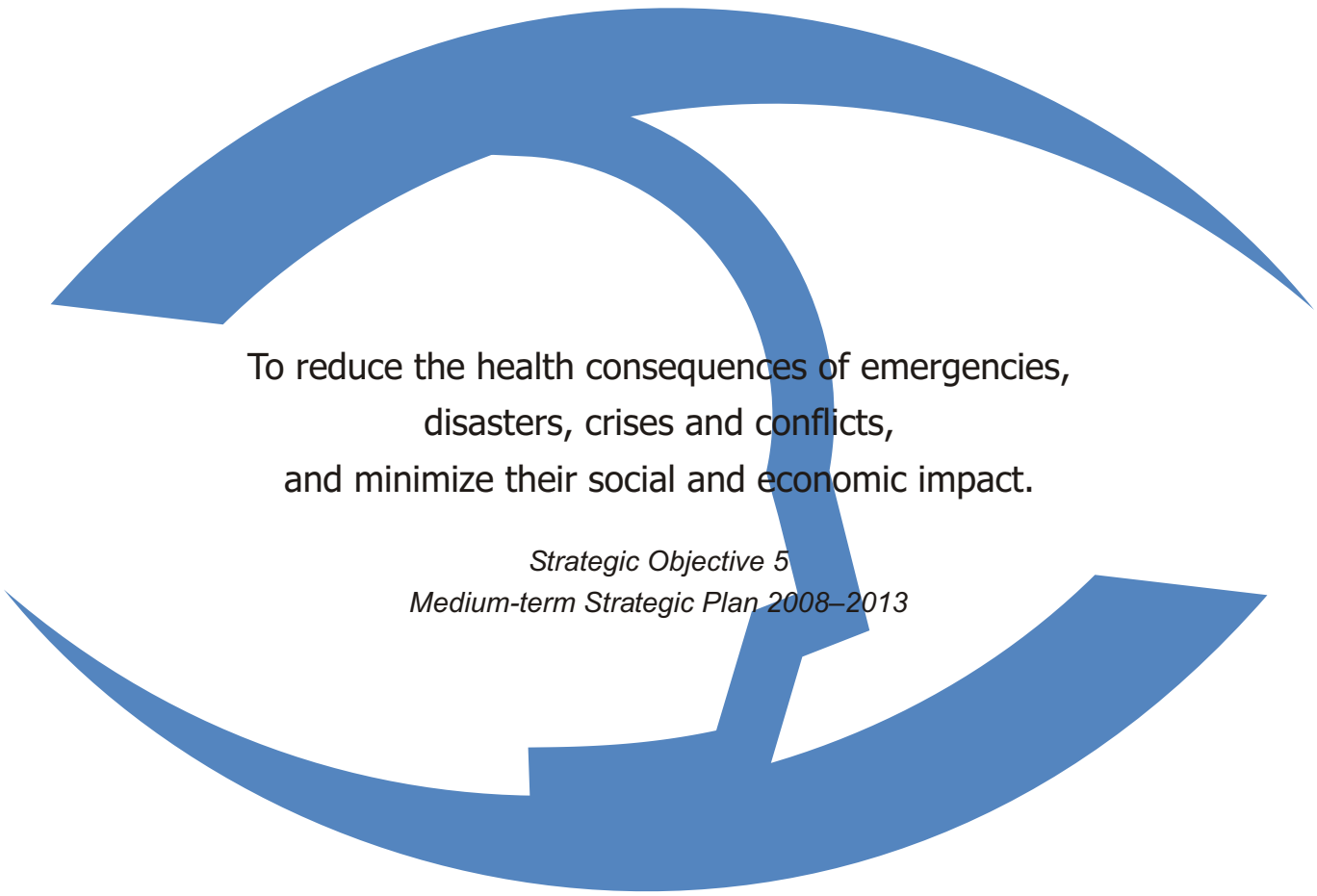


# WHO South-East Asia Region:

## Hazard profile and disaster preparedness



Emergency and Humanitarian Action  
WHO SEARO



To reduce the health consequences of emergencies,  
disasters, crises and conflicts,  
and minimize their social and economic impact.

*Strategic Objective 5  
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