

Key considerations for public health:

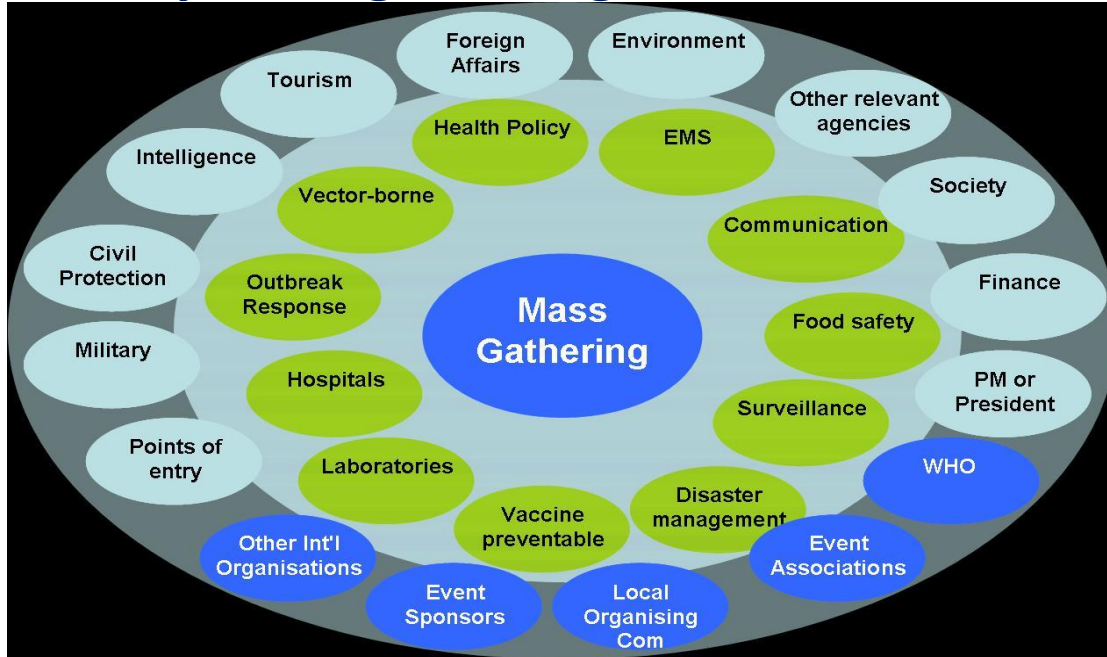
The full cycle of mass gathering management

Dr. Ninglan Wang, MD, MSc, MA
Unit Head
Border Health and Mass Gathering Unit
Country Readiness and Strengthening Department
WHO Health Emergency Programme



WHO Role on Mass Gatherings

Why mass gathering health matters



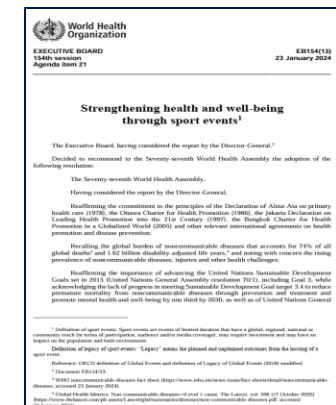
- WHO's key role in **provision of technical guidance and support** to Member States and Event organizers on MG events
- **WHO does not have the mandate to enforce any action with regard to a mass gathering** (modification, postponement, cancellation, etc.) or to authorize that it may proceed.
- **Strategic risk assessment** throughout the cycle of event for planning and operations, including the identification of hazards, assessment of their likelihood of occurring, and their potential impact



EB paper 2012



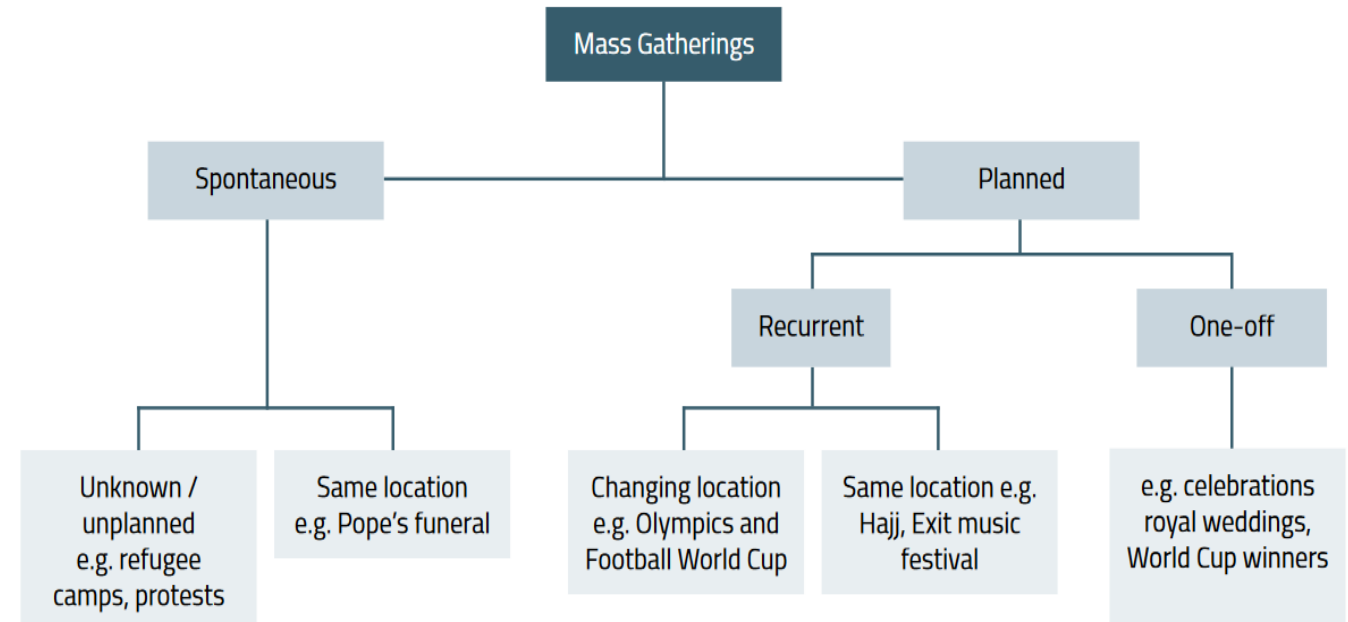
WHO-IOC, WHO-FIFA MoUs



WHA resolution 2024

What Are Mass Gatherings?

- Events characterized by large concentration of people for a defined period of time
- Potential to strain the planning and response resources of the host nation or defined community
- Potential health impact:
 - amplification of the transmission of the disease
 - potentially disrupt the host country's response capacity



No universal threshold (in terms of the number of attendees) for mass gatherings

A risk-based approach for mass gathering health risk management



Risk evaluation, which aims at identifying and quantifying the baseline risks associated with the gathering;



Risk mitigation, which proposes a series of precautionary measures aimed at decreasing the baseline risk of the gathering; and



Risk communication, which prompts the timely and proactive dissemination of information on the process, rationale, purpose and limits of the precautionary measures adopted, with the aim of enhancing adherence by event attendees.



WHO Mass Gatherings All Hazards Risk Assessment Tool available from here:

<https://partnersplatform.who.int/all-hazards-mass-gatherings-risk-assessment>

Mass gathering management: Before, During and After

Before

- Conduct risk assessment using an all-hazard risk approach
- Develop, test, and evaluate contingency planning
- Enhance surveillance for domestic and international signal detection
- Promote collaboration with relevant partners, institutions, and authorities
- Build capacity through technical guides and training sessions

During

- Monitor and evaluate signals and data, subsequently disseminate reports
- Respond to emergent alerts
- Identify and document challenges for future improvement and successes

After

- Evaluate health outcomes
- Document lessons learned and provide insights to improve future mass gathering planning, health infrastructure and capacities

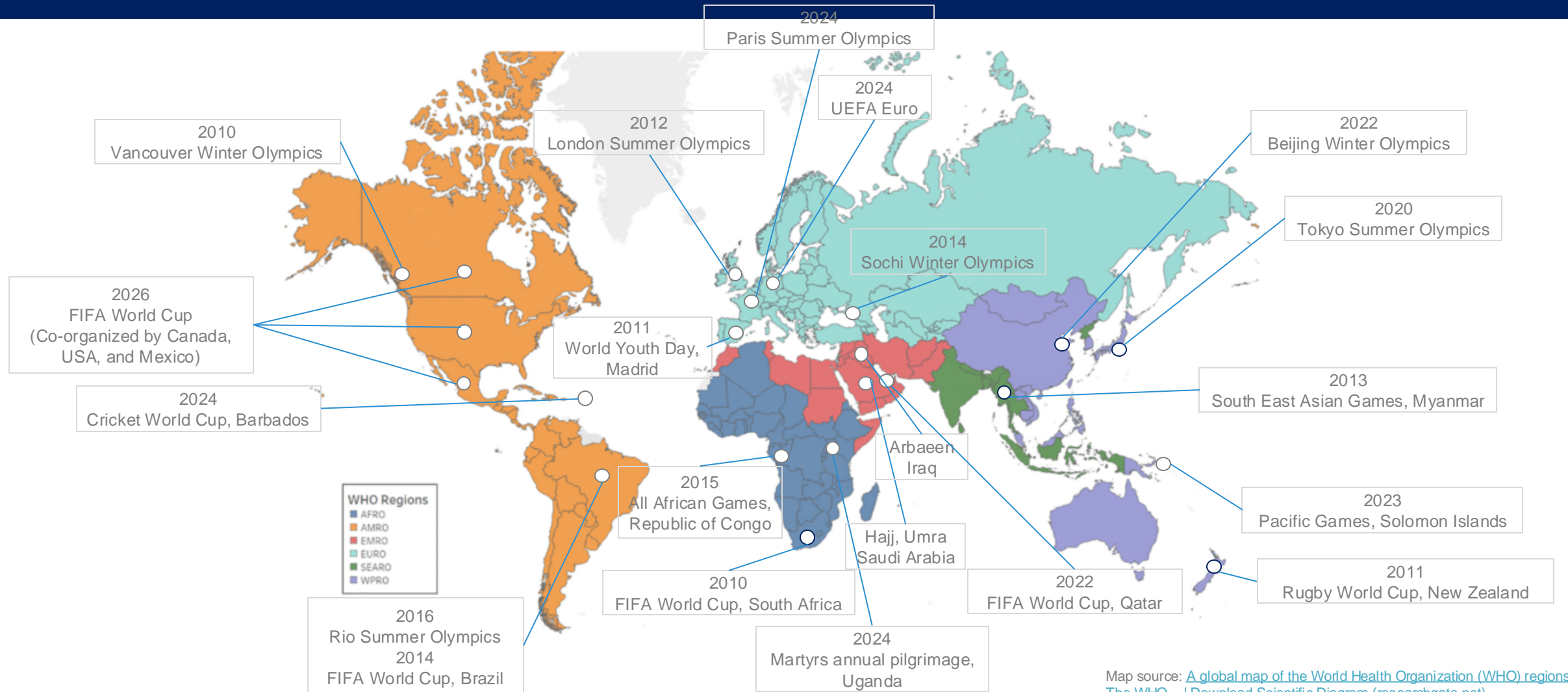
Areas of WHO's overarching support available for mass gatherings host countries and event organizers:
BEFORE, DURING, AFTER
the event

Key Messages

- ❑ Effective health planning is crucial for ensuring the safety of mass gathering events
- ❑ Potential health risks during mass gatherings vary depending on the event context
- ❑ A key element in planning for mass gatherings includes the risk-based approach: (1) risk evaluation, (2) risk mitigation, and (3) risk communication.
- ❑ A well-coordinated and proactive approach is essential to the success of mass gatherings and the protection of attendees from disease spread.
- ❑ WHO is committed to supporting relevant stakeholders and authorities in ensuring the health and safety of mass gatherings, contributing to lasting health legacies and various benefits for host countries, participants, and spectators.



WHO's support on mass gathering events



Map source: [A global map of the World Health Organization \(WHO\) regions. The WHO... | Download Scientific Diagram \(researchgate.net\)](#)

Thank you