UNICEF collaborative work with WHO on signals
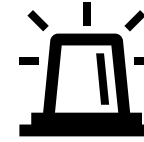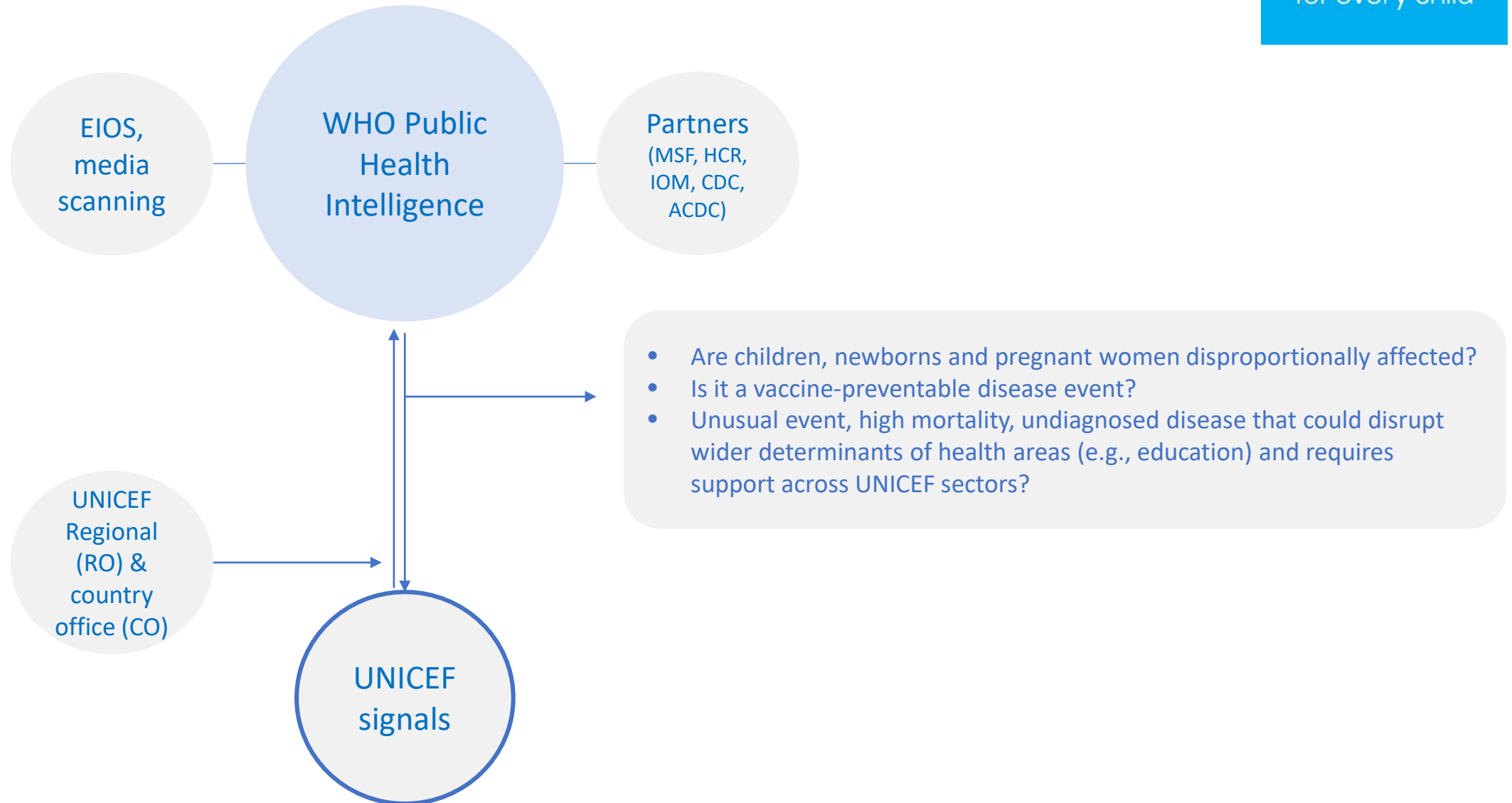
31 October 2024

UNICEF – Signal/alert sources and triage

PHE Alert communication within UNICEF

	Action	Headquarter
Within 24 hours	Notification	• Alert/signals received and entered into the UNICEF signal tracker for monitoring • Depending on source of alert, notify RO/CO, HQ relevant section, Emergency Programmes (EMOPS), UNICEF senior management, WHO or Global Outbreak Alert Response Network (GOARN) and request for additional information if available. • UNICEF provides RO and CO with relevant technical guidance as required.
Within 24-48 hours	Assessment	• As required, UNICEF Associate Director HEPR (Health Emergency Preparedness and Response) updates Office of Executive Director. • Based on discussion with RO, HQ PHE Unit to propose a 3-level technical call (CO, RO, and HQ)

Within 7 days	If a response is warranted (Scale, Urgency, Complexity and Country Capacity)	• The event is reviewed with the PHE extended team during weekly epi update. The level of UNICEF's engagement may also depend on the emergency level attributed by WHO.
		If the response requires enhanced HQ support:
		   o The Associate Director HEPR to identify a coordinator for the event at HQ for global coordination.
		   o Implement a surge based on needs, mobilize funding, preposition supplies
		   o As required, based on the assessed risk of the public health threat, the Associate Director of HEPR convenes an advisory group to determine the level of emergency for UNICEF.

If event is discarded		PHE unit to notify relevant colleagues and partners. Event is closed in the PHE signal tracker.

Example - Diphtheria outbreak
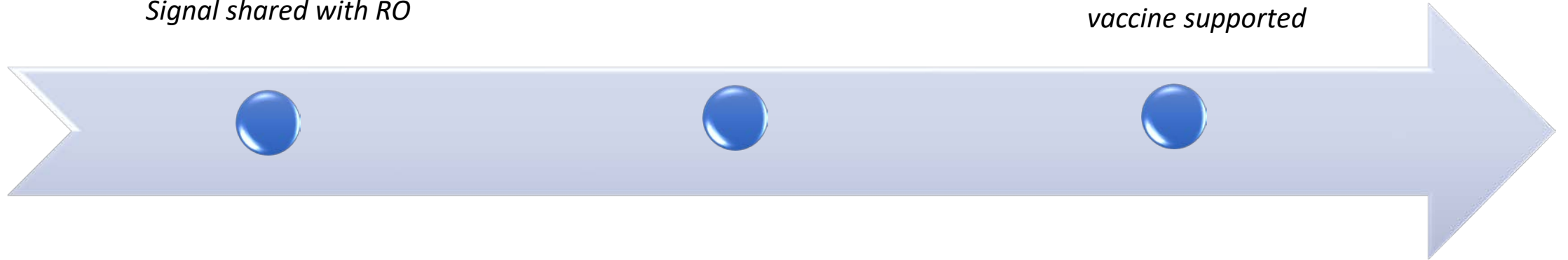## *Mauritania October 2023*

26 Oct: *Activation of 383 community health workers to support Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE). Ongoing funding to support vaccination of zero dose children in the area. Logistical support for vaccine supported*

24 Oct: *Signal received from WHO PHI*

Diphtheria outbreak
Mauritania/Fassala.

Signal shared with RO

25 Oct: *RO shared signal with CO. CO set Meeting with MOH and WHO*

Added value for UNICEF

By working closely with WHO Public Health Intelligence (PHI) team, UNICEF:

- ✓Timely access to signals everyday
- ✓Timely information to senior management, RO and CO, and across all UNICEF sectors
- ✓Reactivity and timely response and coordination UNICEF-WHO at field level
- ✓Better focus on our mandates, which are different from WHO

Working towards better coordination between UNICEF and WHO at regional and country level for signal monitoring and follow-up

Thank you

unicef
for every child