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# Global Overview of the Strategic Toolkit for Assessing Risks (STAR)

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# What?

*A participatory, inclusive (gender and human right), multisectoral, all-hazards approach for countries at national, subnational, local levels*

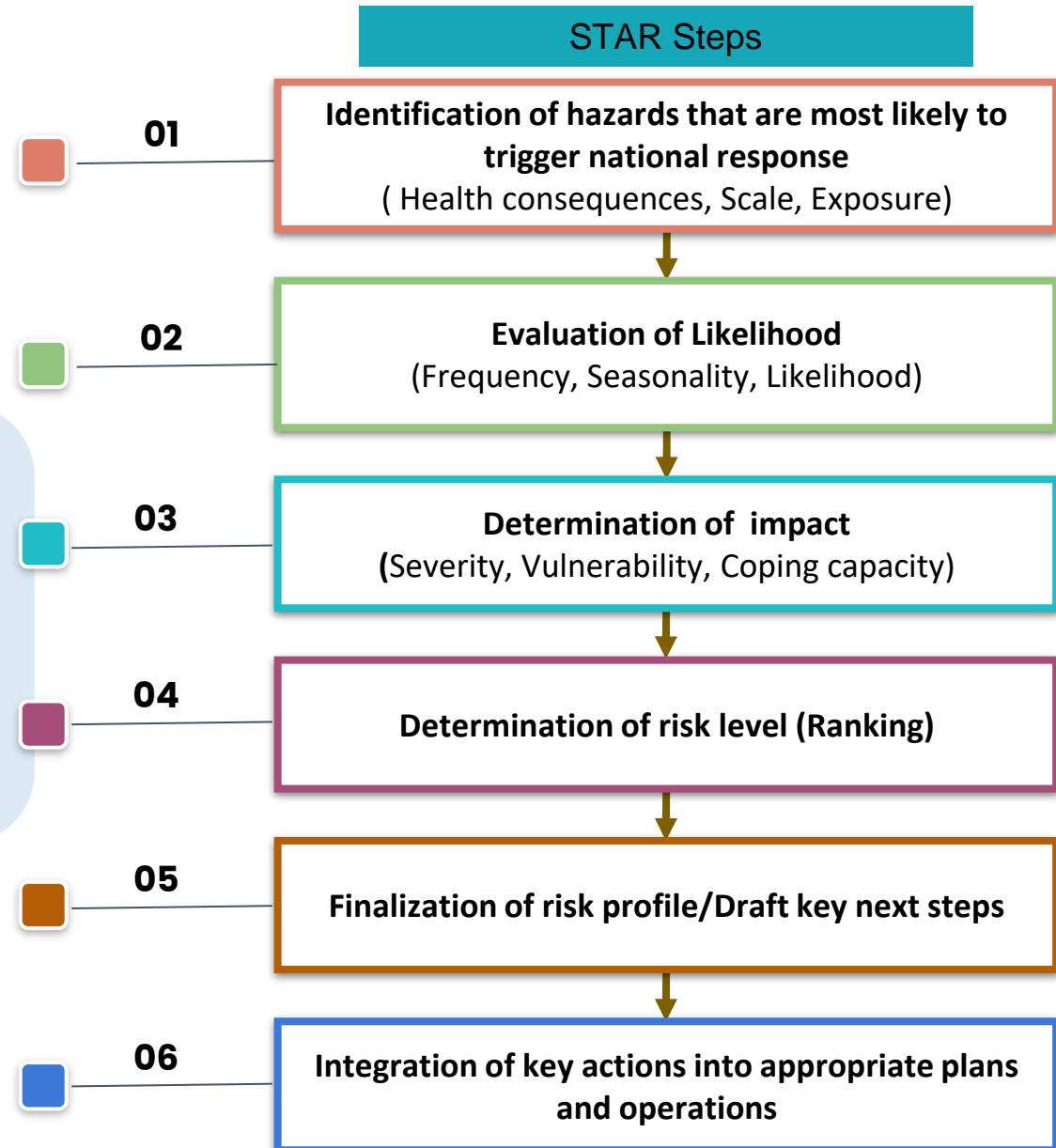


*... rapidly **conduct a strategic and evidence-based assessment** of public health risks*

- Characterizes and describes risk, including identifying vulnerabilities + coping capacities
- Identify potential health emergencies and disasters harnessing multisectoral expertise
- Provides the evidence base for resource allocation, planning, policy and action to enhance prevention, preparedness, response and recovery from emergencies
- Aligned with Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management Framework (Health EDRM), International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

# How?

- **Country driven**, consists of **Excel-based** toolkit, **step-wise** approach
- **Brings together 30-50 multi-sectorial participants** (from health, disaster management, agriculture, climate, environment, security agencies, prime minister office etc) in a **workshop setting**
- **Consolidates available risk and capacity data** (e.g surveillance, plans/policies, report of previous emergencies, vertical programme reports/assessments, vulnerability assessments, climate/ENSO forecasts, hotspot mapping, workforce, population/migration etc)



# Country Risk Profile

- Description of the health consequences, geographical areas affected/prone, exposure, severity, impact, vulnerability, coping capacity, risk ranking etc.
- Risk Matrix: 5X5 plot of likelihood/impact
- Seasonal calendar of risk
- Drafted key actions based on risk and consensus among multi-sectorial participants
- Flexible, allows integration of emerging risk information, such as ENSO forecast and health impacts

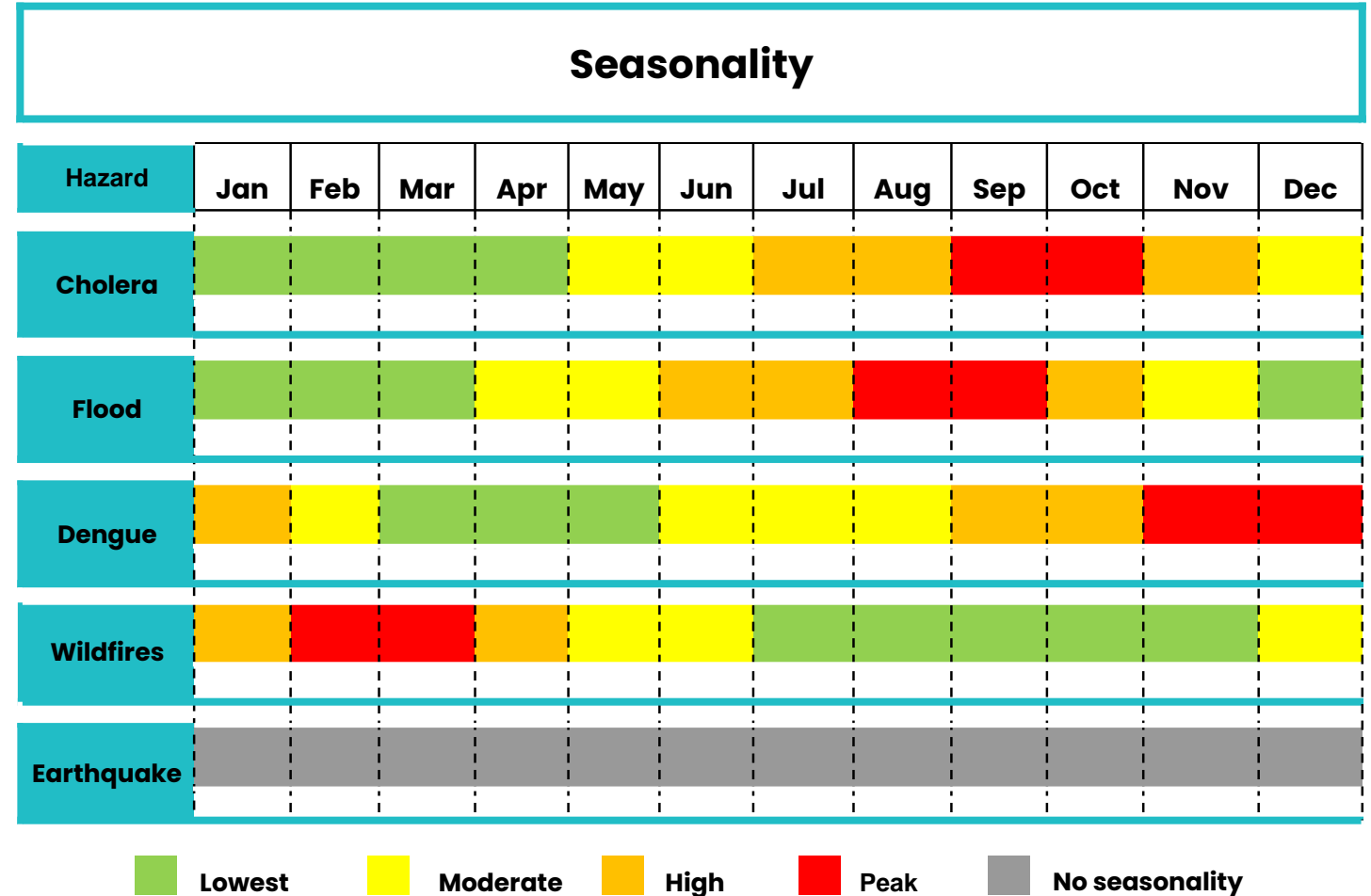
## Risk Matrix

Impact	Critical	Earthquake			Drought	Flood Conflict
	Severe		Poliomyelitis	Respiratory pathogens with pandemic potentials	Cholera/AWD Sea level rise Wildfires	Landslides
	Moderate			Measles Mpox Traffic accidents		
	Minor					
	Negligible					
		Very unlikely	Unlikely	Likely	Very likely	Almost certain
		Likelihood				

# Why?

Enables visualization of months of likely risks occurrence for seasonal risks

- Provides the basis for early warning/early actions
- Identifies potential concurrent emergencies before they occur (e.g flood, cholera)
- Allow countries to adopt an integrated risk-informed planning approach for emergency preparedness, response and recovery



# In the next 3 months...

## Flood

Health  
consequences

Hotspot areas/  
districts

Vulnerability

Moderate

Coping  
Capacity

Low

- **Review and update the current contingency plan** for flood mitigation by national disaster authorities and health ; **conduct simulation exercise**
- **Develop SOPs and Memorandum of Understanding** across national and state-level authorities during flood season
- Increase social awareness and **implement housing planning regarding floods and disaster susceptible areas (RCCE)**; review community early warning systems and evacuation routes
- **Review health infrastructure located in flood-prone areas**; update mitigation plans to ensure continuity of essential health services

# Where?



## Context-specific

- **Sweden:** *climate change risk assessments, aligned with the national strategy for climate adaptation (2019, 2023)*
- **Bangladesh:** *Infectious hazards risk assessment during the COVID-19 pandemic (2021)*
- **Uganda:** *City-level (Kampala) STAR in context of urban preparedness (2024)*

## Early actions

- **Nigeria:** *applied readiness checklist for priority risks (Lassa fever, Flood, Cholera) (2022)*
- **Armenia:** *informed national Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC) action*
- **United Republic of Tanzania:** *triggered operational readiness activities, e.g RRT training, prepositioning supplies, enhanced coordination structures, in hotspot areas, (crucial for Marburg outbreak response, 2023)*

## Capacity development

- **Yemen:** *inform the development of national all-hazards emergency preparedness and response plan*
- **Georgia:** *subnational STAR exercises prioritized in NAPHS to strengthen emergency preparedness and response planning at regional level (2024)*
- **Kenya:** *development of national health emergency response operational plan. Contingency plan for specific risk (e.g Flood) 2023, 2024*

# When?

Recommend to review/update every 2-3 years or following

- Significant changes in-country for certain parameters of the STAR steps (e.g. seasonality, vulnerability, coping capacity), or other external attributes with the potential to impact health risk (e.g. ENSO, climate change)
- Any major emergency response/during a pandemic
- Sudden forced displacement of a population
- At the discretion of the country (may inform annual planning)





Thank you

# Health For All





## Country Support

# What's next.....

### STAR Toolkit

- **Develop digital tool (eSTAR)**
  - user-friendly, less incompatibility issues
  - improve data visualization features (GIS risk mapping) linking to other estimated risks
  - enable interface with (eNAPHS, EOC)
- **Improve vulnerability assessment**
- **Update the guidance** based on feedback from end users

### STAR Capacity

- **Develop the STAR virtual training**
- **Roll-out facilitator training** in countries
  - establish national STAR facilitators for subnational/district level implementation
- **Encourage research**
  - Community of practice
- **Publish STAR experience**

### STAR Governance

- **Policy brief**
- **Ownership and access to data**
  - actions at the global, regional and national level
  - sustainable financing/donor engagement
- **Establishing risk dashboard** in countries
  - early warning/early action
  - effective and timely response
  - facilitate whole of governance risk informed actions

and  
all our WHO colleagues  
in country offices, regional offices  
and headquarters

Thank you!

