

Public Health Emergency Operations Centre Network (EOC-NET)

Revision of the Framework for a PHEOC

1 Nov 2020 - 31May 2021

Concept Note

Background

In 2012, WHO established the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre Network (EOC-NET) to identify and promote standards and best practices for Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs/PHEOCs), as well as to provide support for building and enhancing EOC capacities and capabilities for effective response operations. WHO in collaboration with the EOC-NET partners published the 'Framework for a PHEOC in November 2015'¹. This Framework provides countries with key-concepts and high-level evidence-based methodological guidance and standards for designing, developing, and strengthening their EOCs. With the implementation of the Framework by countless countries and partners, it has become the *de facto* guidance document.

However, the Framework has not been revised and updated since its publication. To ensure it remains relevant, aligned with evolving needs and changing priorities of countries in strengthening their EOCs for emergency preparedness and response, and for leveraging experience and lessons learnt in recent public health emergencies such as COVID-19 pandemic, WHO is leading the revision of the Framework to release its 2nd edition. The revised Framework will also align with the most recently published health emergency guidance, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Since November 2020, the EOC-NET Secretariat and partners have launched the activities to review the current Framework with the aim of releasing the revised version by May 2021. The steps to complete the revision are summarized as follow: a) the development of the revision work plan, b) the formulation of the revision Working Group (WG), c) the scoping review of the literature on the gaps, roles and contributions of PHEOCs to COVID-19 preparedness and response, d) the online user survey collecting data on shortcomings of the Framework, e) the virtual technical consultation meeting of the WG to reach consensus on gaps and required updates and formulate recommendations for addressing the shortcomings in the Framework, f) preparing the final consultation meeting report, and draft revised Framework Edition 2 incorporating the consultation meeting recommendations, g) preparing the provisional version of the Framework Edition 2 including final inputs from the WG, h) the editorial review and publication of the Framework for a PHEOC Edition 2 (Annex 1).

Objective:

1. To thoroughly peer review and revise the current Framework for a PHEOC

Expected outcomes / deliverables:

1. The technical consultation meeting report (i.e. revision report)
2. Report of the survey on shortcomings of the Framework for a PHEOC
3. Report of the scoping review of the literature on the gaps, roles and contributions of PHEOCs to COVID-19 preparedness and response
4. The provisional Framework for a PHEOC Edition 2

Working Group

The EOC-NET Secretariat establishes the Framework revision WG comprising experts nominated from WHO regional and Members States EOCs, within the EOC-NET community, UN agencies, key regional and country level EOC partners and emergency management agencies. The WG experts comprise of persons at all levels who are knowledgeable about the content of the Framework for a PHEOC, and have demonstrated working experience in developing, implementing and sustaining EOCs and/or incident management system (IMS). See the 'TOR for the revision WG' for further guidance on the requirements, roles and responsibilities of the WG. See the 'provisional agenda of the virtual technical consultation meeting' of the WG in separate document.

Background readings for the WG experts

Framework for a PHEOC and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, TOR for the revision WG, WG outputs template.