



The International Health Regulations: an overarching framework for international public health security

High Level Conference: Preparedness for Public Health Emergencies
Challenges and opportunities in urban areas



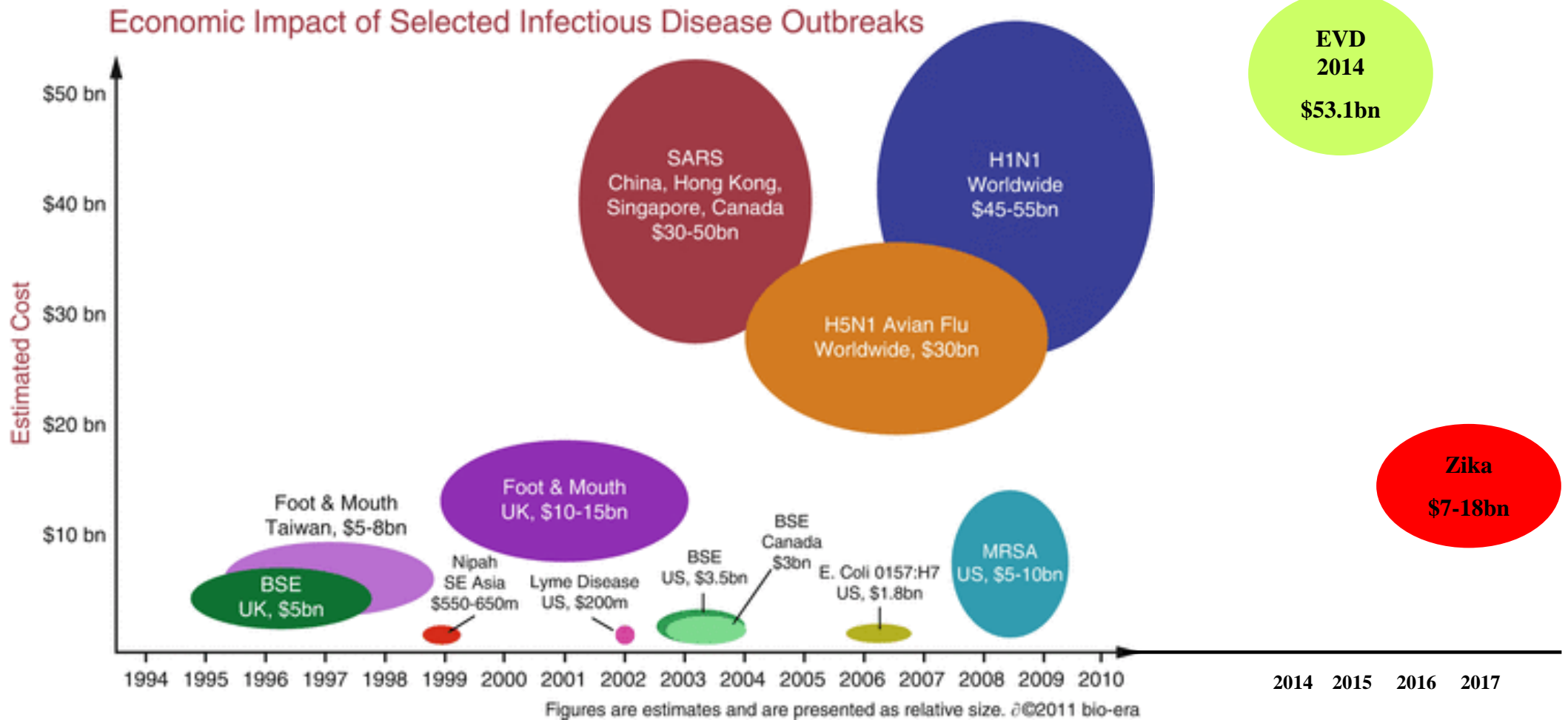
Dr Jaouad Mahjour, World Health Organization

Impact of health emergencies?



- High morbidity, mortality
- Health systems stretched and impact on other health targets
- Impact on other sectors

Economic impact



Source: Eco health alliance and journal of infectious diseases

IHR and Health Security

- Legally-binding global agreement about procedures to protect public health
- Mandated by WHO constitution
- Adopted at the World Health Assembly & binding on all of WHO's 196 States Parties
- States parties building capacities to prevent, protect against, control and provide response to acute public health events



- Health security - activities required to minimize the danger and impact of acute public health events that endanger the collective health of populations living across geographical regions and international boundaries.
- All of us have a responsibility to keep people safe

Why IHR matters?

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (IHR)

– from policy to people's health security

What are the IHR?

The IHR are legally binding and help countries work together to protect lives threatened by the spread of diseases and other health risks, including radiation and chemical hazards



5 reasons why the IHR matter



HEALTH THREATS HAVE NO BORDERS

The IHR strengthen countries' abilities to control diseases that cross borders at ports, airports and ground crossings



TRAVEL AND TRADE ARE MADE SAFER

The IHR promote trade and tourism in countries and prevent economic damage



GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY IS ENHANCED

The IHR establish an early warning system not only for diseases but for anything that threatens human health and livelihoods



DAILY THREATS ARE KEPT UNDER CONTROL

The IHR guide countries to detect, assess and respond to threats and inform other countries quickly



ALL SECTORS BENEFIT

The IHR prepare all sectors for potential emergencies through coordination and information sharing



World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

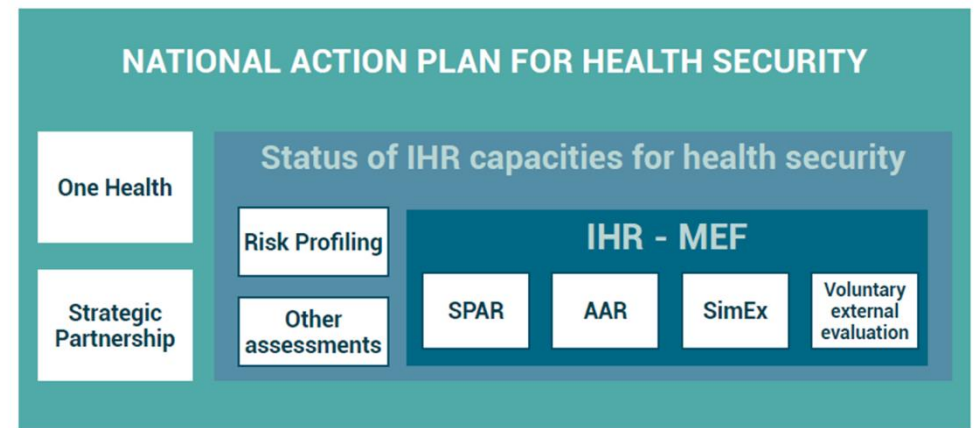
Until all sectors are on board with the IHR, no country is ready

www.euro.who.int/ihr

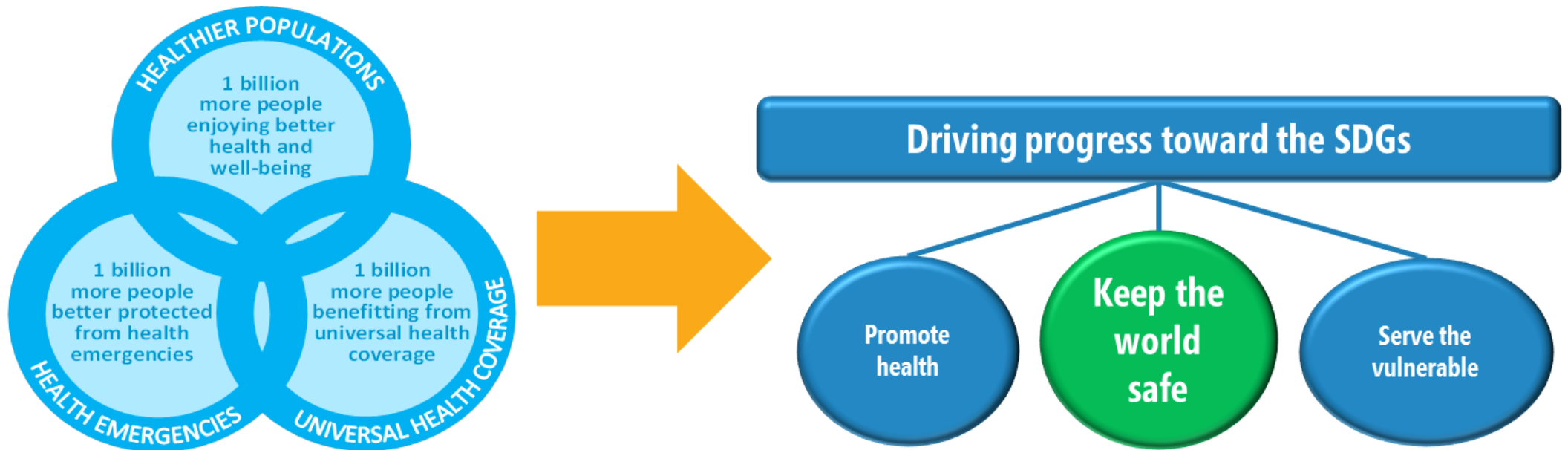


WHO supports to Member States

- Monitoring and evaluation of capacities
- Emergency Committees and temporary measures
- Support to capacity development, strengthening and sustaining them



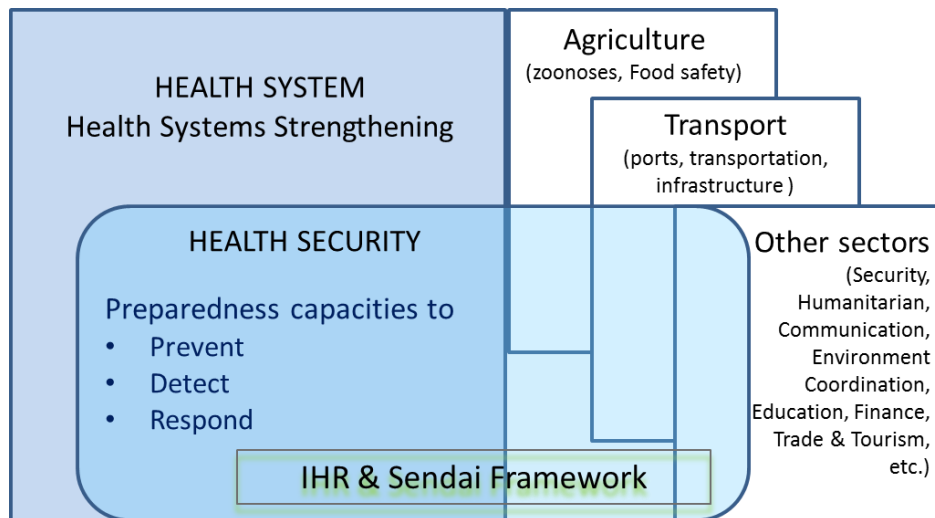
GPW 13 Triple billion goals



- Countries prepared for health emergencies
- Epidemics and pandemic prevented
- Rapid detection and response to health emergencies

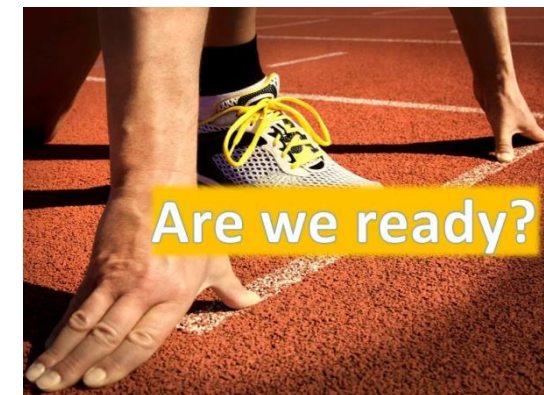
Collaboration and assistance

- A single entity cannot make the world better protected
- A “whole of government” approach
- Health security is everybody’s business



Investing on preparedness

- “Health security and universal health coverage are the two sides of the same coin...”
- “Engaging countries and strengthening partnerships...”
- “Investment on preparedness has high returns...”
- “Financing preparedness is key for the IHR implementation and health security...”



E.g. Pandemic preparedness in urban setting



- As travel and trade flow more freely across international borders
- Recent public health events highlights our shared vulnerability
- The world population is now crowded into urban areas – potential breeding ground of infectious diseases.

Summary

- World is vulnerable – emerging diseases, interconnectedness and rapid urbanization
- IHR ensures health security, and requires investment and collaboration
- Health security is everybody's business 'a whole of government' approach
- Investing on preparedness yields high returns
- Collaboration, partnership and coordination – essentials

Thank you.

