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Session 12:

Maintaining Health and Sustaining Safe International Air Transport During Public Health Emergencies of International Concern Affecting Air Travel

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Maintaining health and sustaining safe international air transport during public health emergencies of international concern affecting air travel

PHEIC governance and issuance of recommendations



An **international legal agreement**, which helps countries to work together “to **prevent, protect against, control** and provide a public health **response** to the **international spread of disease** in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which **avoid unnecessary interference** with international traffic and trade”

Public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC): extraordinary event which is determined, as provided in these Regulations, to constitute a public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease and to potentially require a coordination international response

- Declared by the **WHO DG** following advice of an **IHR Emergency Committee**
- WHO issuance of **temporary recommendations**, followed by **risk-based and evidence-informed interim guidance**

WHO guidance on contingency planning at designated PoEs

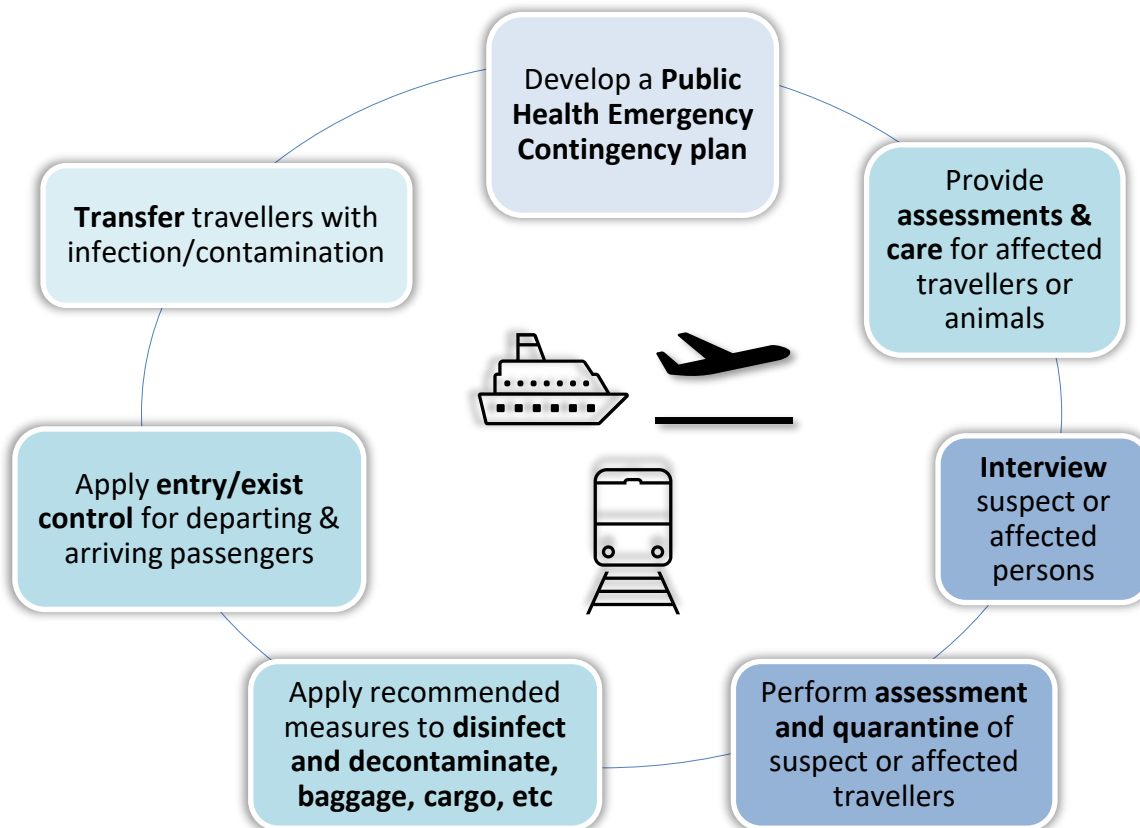
- Avoid "knee-jerk lockdown reflex" and apply a risk-based approach
- Border health is not a checkpoint—it's a system
- A preparedness plan is essential
 - *Simplicity* -fully understood by all actors involved
 - *Proportionality and practicality* - adapted to risk assessment, available resources, and different types of health emergencies
 - *Collaboration* - multisectoral and multi-level
 - *Harmonization of plans* - with relevant plans and aligned with national and international regulations, policies
 - *Communication* - who, when, what and how should be communicated

*A plan untested is a plan untrusted –
Exercise, exercise, exercise!*



IHR requirements during PHEICs at points of entry

In response to a PHEIC, States Parties shall meet the following core capacity requirements at the designated POEs:



Health requirements **may vary across different types of health emergencies** and will be specified in the IHR **temporary recommendations** issued by the IHR Emergency Committee, or **WHO interim technical guidance** for the specific emergency.

Example: [Considerations for border health and points of entry for mpox](#)



THANK YOU

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Public Health Provisions in Aviation

Chicago Convention	Global and Regional Events	SARPs and PANS	
Article 14 Prevention disease spread	ICAO Assemblies, High-Level Conferences, Technical meetings	Annex 6 Aircraft Operations	Annex 14 Aerodromes
Article 13 Entry and clearance	CART Council Aviation Recovery Taskforce	Annex 9 Facilitation	Annex 15 Aeronautical Information Services
Article 22 Facilitation of formalities	HLCC High Level Covid-19 Conference	Annex 11 Air Traffic Services	PANS-ATM Air traffic Management
	Office of Internal Oversight report	Annex 18 Dangerous Goods	

ICAO strategies for Public Health Management in Aviation

Capacities and implementation

Leverage existing mechanisms

Training, implementation support

Monitor and evaluate

Science and Innovation

Risk-based, evidence-informed

Agile, flexible, rapid response

Digital solutions



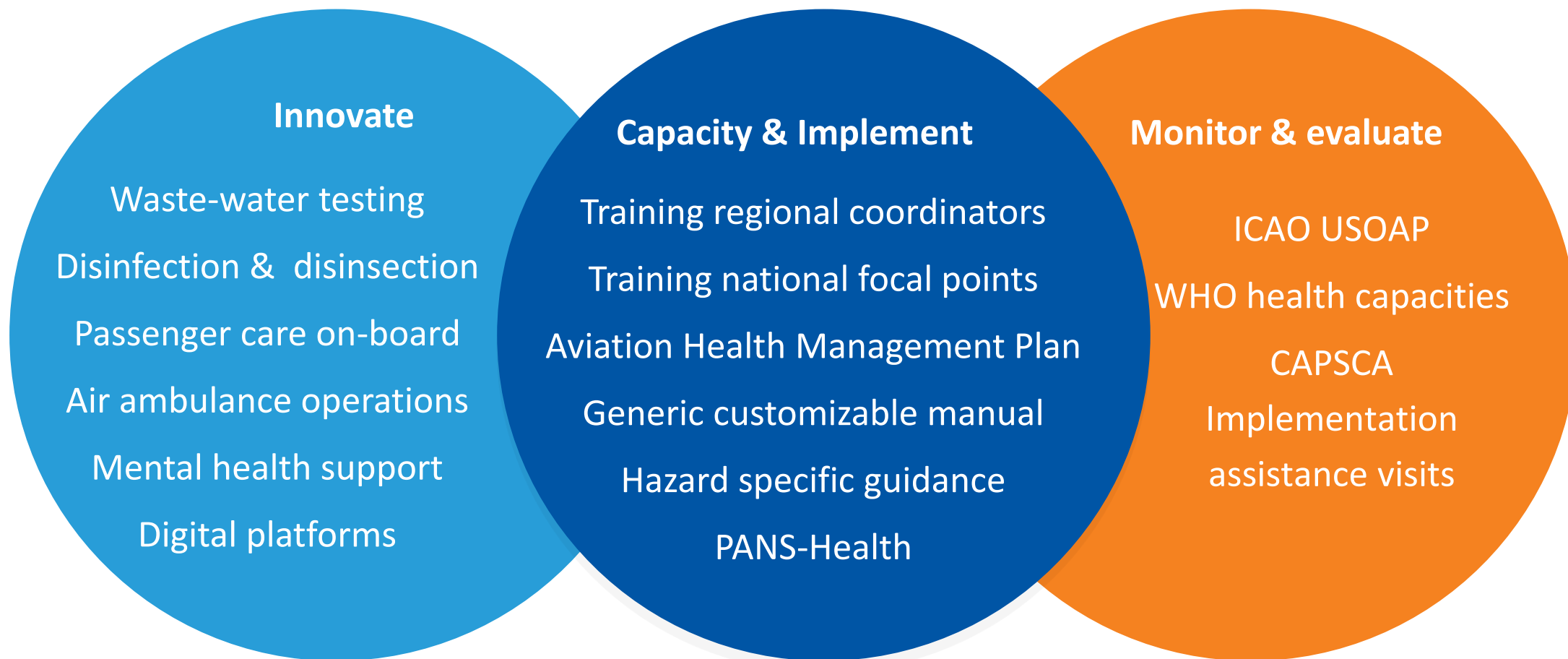
Institutionalize lessons learned

- Strengthened partnerships
- Crisis framework: Priority Focus Area
- No country left behind

Enhanced collaboration

- Multi-sector, multi-level, multi-hazard
- Routine: harmonization focus
- Emergency: preparedness & response

Aviation Medicine and CAPSCA Technical Activities





Dr. Yousif Bargo

Chairperson, CAPSCA Africa Bureau
N'Djamena - CHAD



Future-Proofing African Airports: Strengthening Africa's Role in Global Health Security



The risk – when airports become pathways for pandemics



Viruses don't need passports



Marburg in Tanzania (2025) – 88% fatality rate, contained... but next time?



Mpox in Africa & Americas – still spreading, proving the need for **persistent vigilance**.



Lassa Fever in West Africa – silent transmission in **crowded urban areas**.



Sudan Virus in Uganda – a deadly **cousin of Ebola**, re-emerging with high fatality rates.



Global Lessons: Shared Risks

- ◆ COVID-19 in China – A reminder of how fast viruses cross continents.
- ◆ H1N1 in Mexico (2009) – Early aviation-linked outbreaks can become global.



Missed opportunity: the Omicron case

- ◆ *South Africa's discovery led to travel bans instead of global collaboration.*
- ◆ *If we don't prepare, trust in aviation and governments will erode.*



The urgent question:

Are our airports ready to be the first line of defense?



The solution – transforming airports into Health Security Hubs



The vision: smarter, faster, safer aviation

- ✓ **AI-driven health screening** – (passengers, baggage and goods) detect threats before symptoms appear.
- ✓ **Equipped and trained airport teams** – first responders ready to act.
- ✓ **Seamless coordination** – real-time data sharing between airports & health agencies.
- ✓ **Standardized policies & rapid response frameworks** – a unified approach for all.



The next health crisis is not a question of IF, but WHEN.

Dr. Soha Albayat

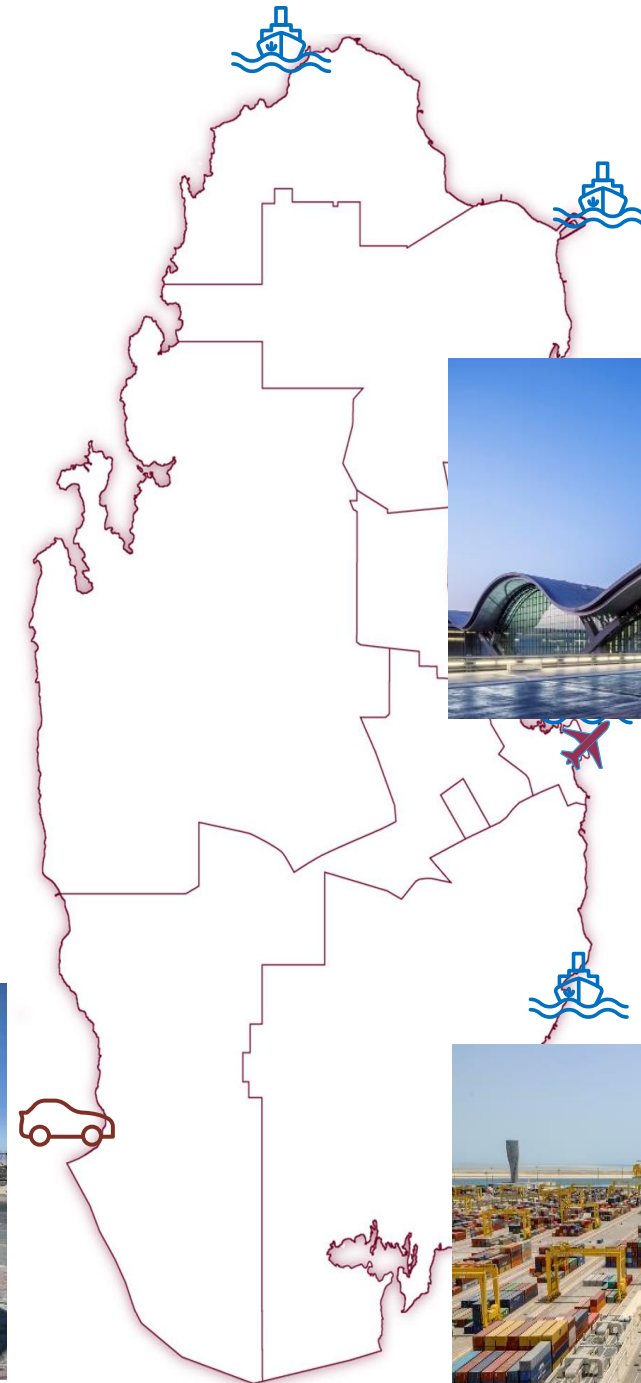
Director, Health Emergency Dept, Ministry of Public Health
National Lead for Emergency Preparedness and Response
National IHR Focal Point

Ensuring Safe Skies

Crisis Management and Resilience in Aviation: Qatar Experience

Introduction

- located on the Arabian Peninsula in the Middle East,
- maritime borders with Bahrain to the northwest across the Gulf of Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates to the southeast across the Arabian Gulf, and Iran to the north across the Arabian Gulf.
- only land border with Saudi Arabia to the south.
- a strategic position in international trade and travel.



Crisis management and Resilience in Aviation during Public Health Emergencies

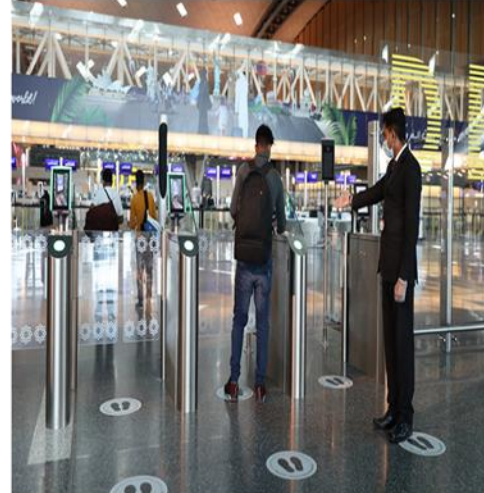
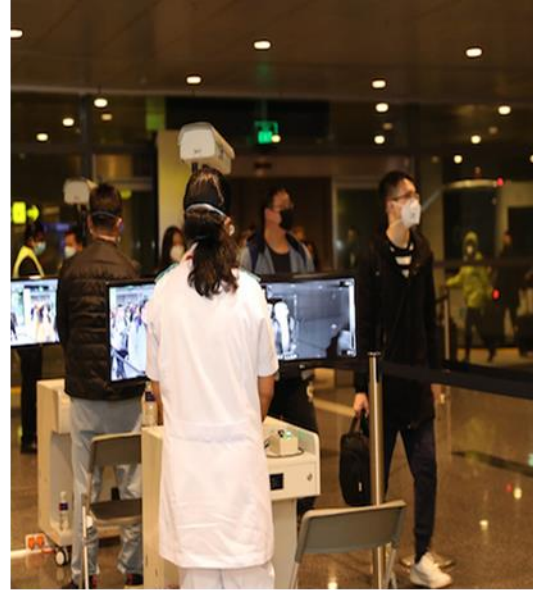
Qatar's Position: As a major transit hub, proactive measures were essential to prevent importation and spread.

Transmission Concerns: High potential for international spread via air travel.

Best Practices for Crisis Management

1. **Continuous Monitoring:** Continuous assessment of global outbreaks to assess risk levels and Timely response.
2. **Established communication frameworks** between the **Health Emergency Department (MOPH), Matar (HIA), Qatar Airways (QA) and Media/Comms.**
3. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Collaboration between Qatar's Civil Aviation Authority, Ministry of Public Health, and Hamad International Airport (HIA) to develop a unified response plan.
4. **Up-to-date guidance from WHO shared by MOPH in timely manner with the stakeholders.**
5. **Training and Capacity Building**
 - **Staff Training:** Comprehensive training programs for airport and airline staff on Ebola recognition, handling suspected cases, and personal protective equipment (PPE) usage.
 - **Simulation Exercises:** Regular drills to ensure readiness and identify areas for improvement in emergency response
6. **Public Awareness**

Hamad International Airport Successfully Achieved BSI Re-certification for its COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols



measures (including vaccination) of Ebola virus disease is the only way to prevent infection.

Advice for travelers to affected areas

- Avoid contact with infected people or animals, including their blood or other body fluids.
- Do not handle items that may have come in contact with an infected person's blood or body fluids.
- Avoid contact with people who died from Ebola.
- Practice careful hygiene, and constantly wash your hands with soap and water or disinfectants.
- Avoid contact with wild animals (chimpanzees, gorillas, monkeys, forest antelope or porcupines).
- Avoid eating bushmeat. Animal products should be thoroughly cooked before consumption.
- If you stayed in areas where Ebola cases have been recently reported, seek immediate medical help if you develop any symptoms of Ebola.
- Continuously follow-up with the latest updates and recommendations from trusted health authorities.

Advice for travelers from affected areas

If you have traveled from the outbreak area, pay attention to your health for 21 days after you leave the outbreak area. Monitor yourself for the development of any signs and symptoms.

What to do if you Get Sick After Travelling

- Separate yourself from others (isolate).
- You can visit the local health facility for further assessment. Inform the health department about your recent travel from a country with an Ebola outbreak and your symptoms.
- Do not take public transportation, taxis, or ride-shares.
- Do not travel while sick. Travel only when you have been cleared by a doctor or health official.

For more information, please contact:
Health Protection and Communicable Disease Control (HP & CDC),
Ministry of Public Health
E-mail: cdc@moph.gov.qa



Full-Scale Emergency Exercises

Regular drills to ensure readiness and identify areas for improvement in emergency response.



Oryx Golf 2019
Public Health Emergency
Scenario – Ebola Virus

- The exercise, 'Oryx Golf 2019', was conducted on **November 21** at HIA with over 26 government agencies, partners and stakeholders including Qatar Airways Group, Airline Operators Committee-Doha, Airport Customs, Ministry of Public Health, Hamad Medical Corporation facilities, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense, Civil Defense Department, National Command Center, Ministry of Transport & Communications and Qatar Civil Aviation Authority.



Full-Scale Emergency Exercises

MATAR's sixth Full Scale-Exercise Emergency Exercise for Doha International Airport – Oryx Lima 2024.

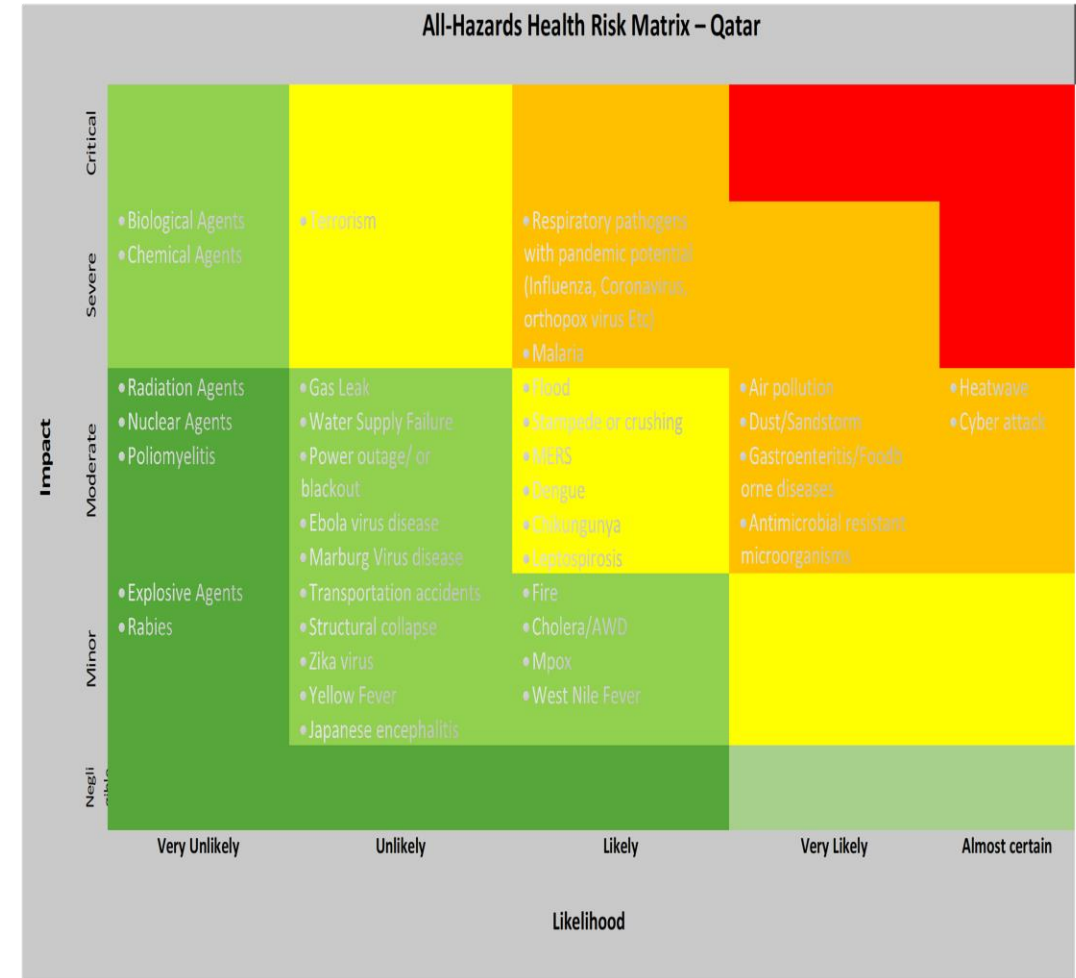
- A requirement by the Qatar Civil Aviation Authority.
- Also an opportunity to continuously work closely with partners and stakeholders to improve our communication and emergency response.
- Participants of this exercise include Qatar Airways Group, Airline Operator Committee, Airport Customs, Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) Ambulance Service, Internal Security Force (ISF), Ministry of Interior (MOI), Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), Ministry of Municipality (Baladiya), Ministry of Transportation & Communications (MOTC), Ministry of Defense (MOD), National Command Center (NCC), Qatar Civil Aviation Authority (QCAA), Qatar Disaster Victim Identification (QDVI) Team and Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS)



Oryx Lima 2024 Aircraft Accident at the Sea Scenario

National All-Hazards Health Risk Profile in Qatar

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Conclusion

1. Summary of Key Points

- Crisis Management, resilience and the role of contingency planning.
- Importance of health protocols, including inspection and disinfection.
- Collaborative efforts between aviation and health authorities

2. Call to Action

- Emphasize the need for continuous improvement in health preparedness in aviation.
- Encourage ongoing international cooperation to sustain safe air travel during health emergencies.



Questions?



Thank You



Ms. Diantha Raadgers

Senior Policy Advisor Facilitation, Security and Border Management,
Directorate Aviation Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management,
Netherlands



Developing a National Emergency Plan The Netherlands Experience

Phases of developing the NEP 3 Netherlands



How it started

1. Covid lessons learned
2. Implementation ICAO Annex 9

Getting commitment

- What are their political priorities of Public and private stakeholders
- Use of network National Facilitation Committee

Building your Network

- Knowledge and expertise from all perspectives
- Invest in Points of Entry network

Content NEP in connection to other plans

- Scenarios and pandemic phases
- Mitigation measures
- Connect to emergency plans to prevent isolation

Implementation

- Maintain network
- Practical management NEP Training
- Exercises, Evaluation and Adaption



Manage
Political priorities



Purpose, scope
and target audience



Pandemic phases
and scenarios



How can all stakeholders
add and receive value?



Mitigation measures of
stakeholders



Practical Management,
training and practice

Lessons learned and best practices

Use network of the NATFAL

Collaborate and generate commitment for the NAP

Specify added value of the NAP

Gap analysis of improvement

Not only COVID-19

Emphasize different scenarios
need different approaches

Knowledge and expertise

Different expertise **essential**
for a balanced NAP

Integration

Interconnect different
emergency plans

Political Management

(Political) tension need
specific attention

Invest in broader aviation
expertise

Question and answer session

Thank You

