

# **The Role of NPHIs in promoting healthy, equitable, and resilient societies to tackle current & future threats**

## **IANPHI Annual Meeting**

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**Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu**

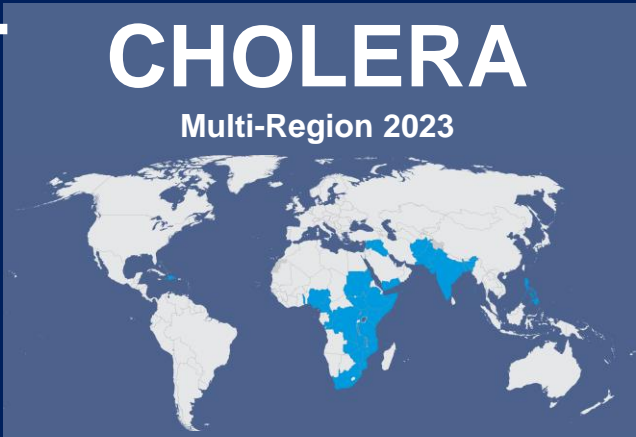
Deputy Executive Director, WHO Health Emergencies  
Programme and acting WHO Regional Director for Africa

# Health emergencies throughout the year and on every continent

As of March 2025

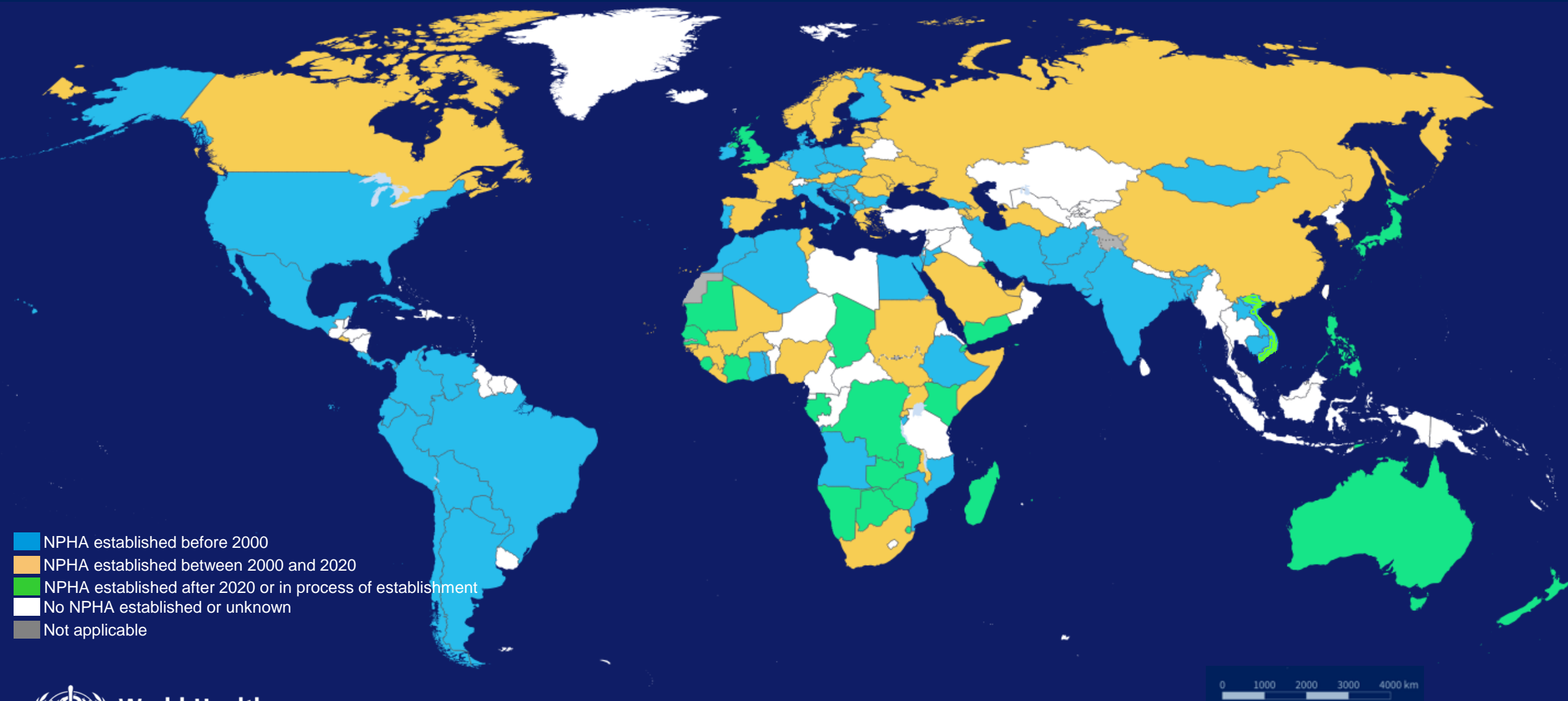
38 Graded health emergencies  
89 Affected countries\*

Current examples



\*Number of affected countries are excluding Mpox and COVID-19 as global emergencies .  
Source for status on graded health emergencies: WHO Health Emergency Dashboard. Last retrieved 4 Sept 2024.  
Source for world map showing Cholera: Multi-country outbreak of cholera – External Situation Report (14 Mar 2024, [link](#)). The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WHO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. Map Production: WHO Hub. © WHO 2024. All rights reserved.

# In the past 25 years, the numbers of NPHAs has more than doubled



# Crises can be engines of change

*The West African Ebola virus outbreak led to reorganization of functions into a dedicated health emergencies programme across all levels of WHO*



*COVID-19 led to the Strengthening the Global Architecture for Health Emergency Preparedness, Response & Resilience (HEPR)*





# Emergency Coordination





# Collaborative Surveillance





# Community Protection





# Safe and Scalable Care



| Line. | Tech n       | Psy dnatie | Pe d,   | Admin  | Admin  | Pe d |
|-------|--------------|------------|---------|--------|--------|------|
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# Access to Countermeasures





# WHO Priorities to support NPHAs in strengthening emergency preparedness and response capacities





# Foundational and technical capabilities for NPHAs in preparedness and response currently under review

## Foundational Domain



**C1 Legal Instruments for Effective EPR**



**C2 Public Health and Emergency Workforce Development for Effective EPR**



**C3 Financing for Effective EPR**



**C4 Governance Mechanisms for Effective EPR**

## Technical Domain



**C5 Advancing Collaborative Surveillance for Effective EPR**



**C6 Laboratory Systems and Diagnostics**



**C7 Risk Communication, Community Engagement and Infodemic Management**



**C8 Public Health and Social Measures**



**C9 Guiding Access to Essential Countermeasures**



**C10 Capacity, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessments**



**C11 Incident Management of Public Health Emergencies Under the Mandate of the NPHA**



**C12 Monitoring, Reviewing, and Adapting EPR**



**C13 Technology and Analytics**



**C14 Generating Evidence and Tools for Clinical Care**



# Documenting NPHA Governance Models

- Governance and regulatory structures and authorities supporting NPHAs greatly differ
- Impact ability to delivery of HEPR functions
- Limited documentation of these governance models
- WHE in partnership with the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (Alliance) and partners has established a country-led process to document existing NPHA governance models





# Facilitating NPHA Peer-to-Peer Learning

- Support regular NPHA peer-to-peer discussions
- Webinar series for all countries focused on thematic areas within HEPR
- Inaugural webinar on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023
- Webinars taking place once a quarter
  - Focus topics: Partner initiatives, NPHA mandates, workforce, finance, ...
- NPHA Twinning initiative in design



World Health Organization

**Strengthening NPHA Capabilities for Public Health Emergencies - A Discussion Series**  
12 December 2024, 2:00 pm CET

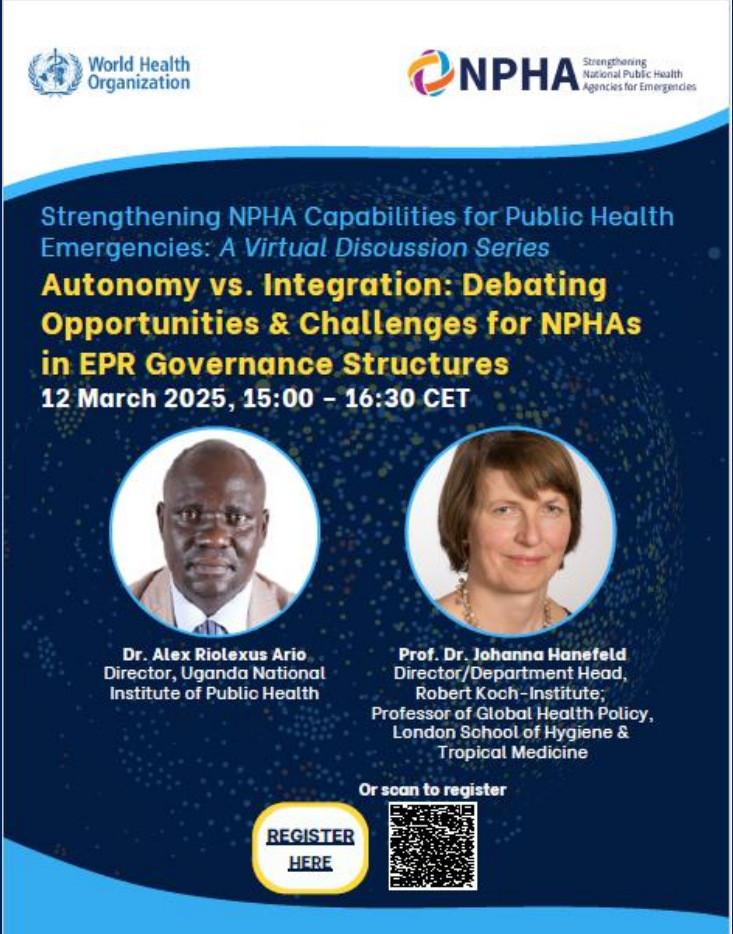
Engaging Beyond the Health Sector:  
Roles of NPHAs in All-Hazards Emergencies

**Dr. Eduardo Samo Gudo**  
Director General,  
National Institute of Health,  
Mozambique

**Dr. Richard Pebody**  
Director,  
Clinical and Emerging Infections  
UK Health Security Agency,  
United Kingdom

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World Health Organization


**Strengthening NPHA Capabilities for Public Health Emergencies: A Virtual Discussion Series**  
**Autonomy vs. Integration: Debating Opportunities & Challenges for NPHAs in EPR Governance Structures**  
12 March 2025, 15:00 – 16:30 CET

**Dr. Alex Riolexus Ario**  
Director, Uganda National  
Institute of Public Health

**Prof. Dr. Johanna Hanefeld**  
Director/Department Head,  
Robert Koch-Institute;  
Professor of Global Health Policy,  
London School of Hygiene &  
Tropical Medicine

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# Sustaining progress in uncertain times

**107** Member states  
engaged

**60** Member states  
engaged through in-  
person consultations

**85** Member states with  
established NPHAs  
or in process of  
establishment  
engaged

- Safeguarding progress through a clear vision, focused strategy and increased collaboration
- The diversity of our institutions is a strength
- NPHAs need the authority to deliver on their responsibilities
- Importance of function over form
- We have the opportunity to strengthen our collective efforts
  - WHO, IANPHI, regional entities (Africa CDC, Gulf CDC, ECDC, CARPHA, etc. ), global stakeholders



# Thank you

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# NPHEA

Strengthening  
National Public Health  
Agencies for Emergencies