

Resilience of Systems: Defining the process: indicators and resources - *Brainstorming*

**Thirty-Third Meeting of the RBM Partnership
Surveillance, Monitoring, and Evaluation Reference Group (SMERG)**

19 May 2022

What do we mean by resilience?

The capacity of a system to react, absorb, adapt or transform in order to maintain essential functions when faced with shocks and stresses.

Characteristics of resilient surveillance?

- Geographically comprehensive to provide accurate depictions of disease burden and epidemiology to prevent and mitigate community transmission
- Syndromic surveillance
- Active surveillance
- Timely sharing of case-based data between public health and healthcare sectors is key to early detection of outbreaks
- Identification of changes in epidemiological trends

Suggested health system resilience indicators

adapted from Meyer D, Bishai D, Ravi SJ, et al A checklist to improve health system resilience to infectious disease outbreaks and natural hazards, *BMJ Global Health* 2020;5:e002429.

Facility level	Health officials
This facility currently understands and complies with its obligations to report infectious diseases to public health authorities.	Health administrators established relationships with NGOs that might provide assistance during emergencies.
This facility currently has plans (and has disseminated these plans) for increases in demand for service during an emergency (e.g., additional staff, supplies, etc.).	Health administrators have national surge capacity plans for emergencies.
This facility has mechanisms by which it can receive timely and up-to-date information on infectious diseases and natural hazards.	Health administrators have established an integrated database that provides travel-related information to facilities about infectious diseases, such as case counts for high-risk locations, presence of competent vectors, and prophylactic measures.
This facility currently has the ability to provide training of staff during an emergency to increase capacity.	Health officials have the ability to provide training of staff during an emergency to increase capacity.

Suggested resilience indicators

adapted from Meyer D, Bishai D, Ravi SJ, et al A checklist to improve health system resilience to infectious disease outbreaks and natural hazards, *BMJ Global Health* 2020;5:e002429.

Facility level	Health officials
This facility conducts routine community outreach and engagement to build public trust and credibility of healthcare system in advance of an emergency.	Health administrators have established and maintain mechanisms by which the public (care seekers and patients' families) can obtain information on the status and availability of health facilities and services (e.g., through social media or other platforms).
This facility currently has plans (and has disseminated these plans) for how to support healthcare workers so as to allow them to successfully work under stressful times, such as providing family daycare or emergency shelter for staff.	
This facility currently has protocols (and has disseminated these protocols) for screening patients for symptoms and conducting medical and travel history that would indicate possible exposure or infection.	

Questions to consider for discussion during breakout sessions

- Does it make sense to focus on developing guidance for resilient surveillance, or should we describing the characteristics of surveillance that contribute to a resilient health system?
- Who is responsible for ensuring resilience?
- What processes or conditions are required to ensure resilience?
- Is resilience an outcome, an ability or both?
- Are indicators sufficient to measure resilience?
- How is resilience managed and measured?