



Evidence Aid: Resilient Health Systems Evidence Collection

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Need and
main
audience

Improving **access** to reliable, curated information for well-informed decisions on disasters and health emergencies.

Summarising complex systematic reviews to lay writing for people across various languages.

01

Priorities

Implementing and coordination end-user input

02

Research

High-quality research that is relevant to health emergencies.

03

Reviews

Systematic reviews of such research provide a reliable and robust evidence base.

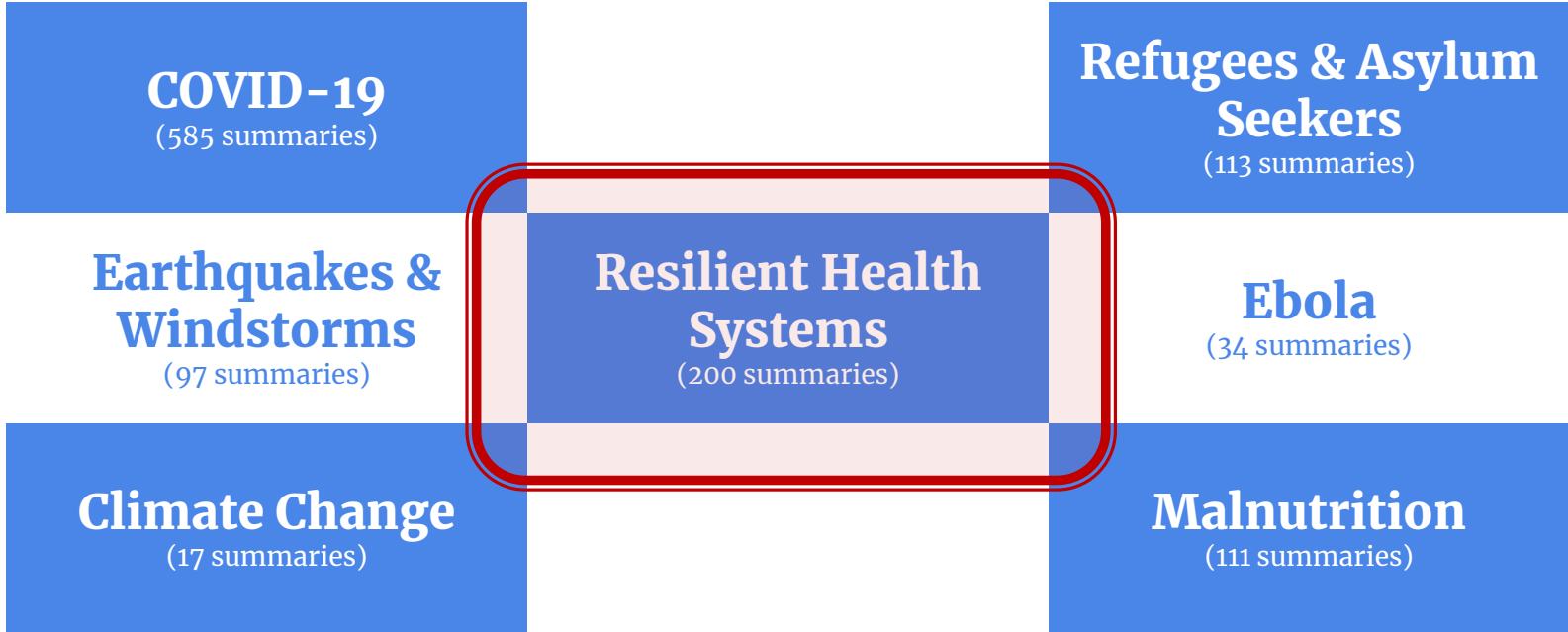
04

Summaries

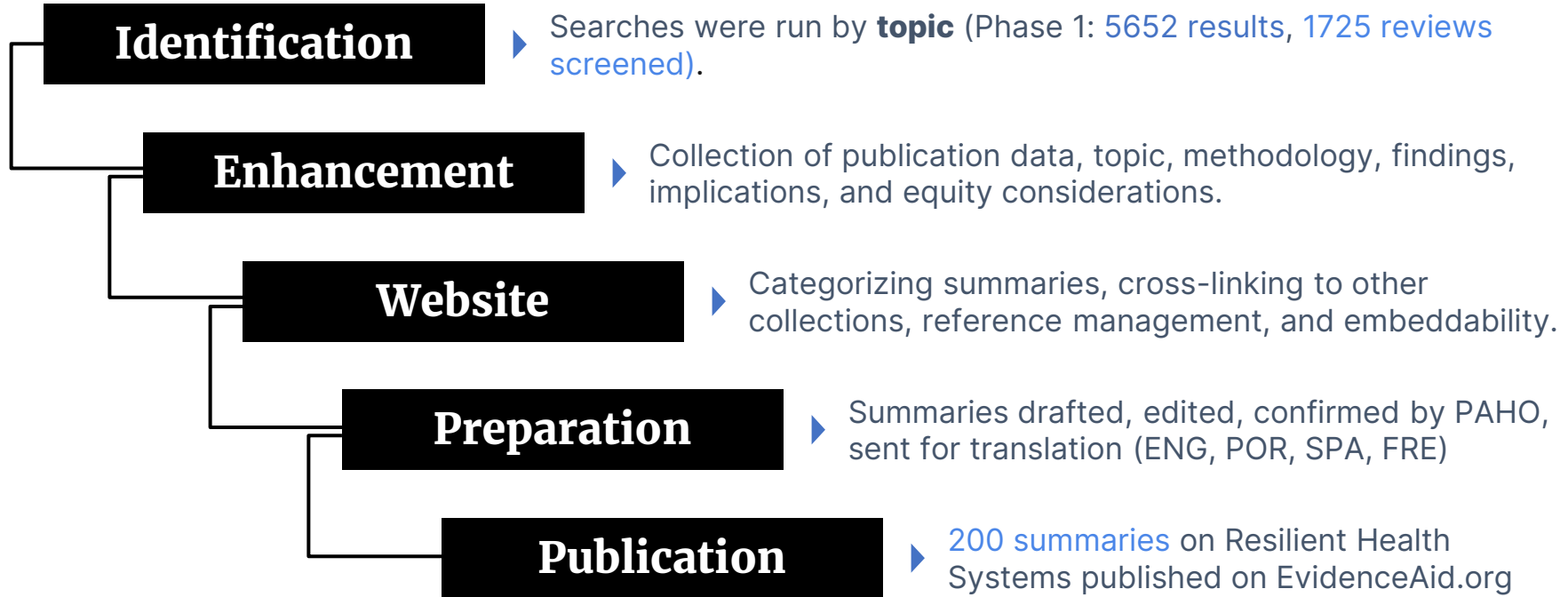
Accessible summaries of this evidence to decision-makers at different levels of health emergency response and preparedness



7 Interconnected Collections



Resilient Health Systems



Phase 1 & Phase 2



Next Phase



PAHO

Expand PAHO
priorities
(e.g., migration,
climate change).
Advisory Board



Expansion

Phase 3 of the RHS
collection and its
topics
and broader use and
communication



Analysis

Implications for field
implementation beyond
what is stated in
reviews, and evidence
(gap)maps

Usage Data



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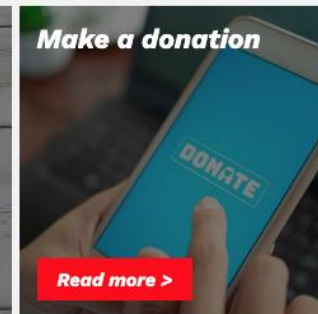
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Resilient Health Systems

Read this introduction in [Français](#), [Português](#) and [Español](#). Watch the launch of the collection here in [English, Français, and Español](#).

The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization and Evidence Aid have been working together for several years and, in June 2021, started work on an Evidence Aid collection relevant to the development of resilient health systems in the context of disasters and other health emergencies. This collection of summaries for relevant systematic reviews will support preparedness, response and recovery, thereby sustaining and protecting public health gains. The partnership will further advance the Policy on Resilient Health Systems and the Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction that were approved by Ministries of Health of the Americas and the Caribbean in 2016, the Strategy to Build Resilient Health Systems which was presented in 2021 and the Policy on Research for Health endorsed by the countries of the Americas in 2009.

This collection of summaries of systematic reviews is available in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. The summaries will inform policies, programs and plans to achieve universal health coverage and support the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The collection was first published on 16 August 2021.

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Citation: Dowlati M, Seyedin H, Moslehi S. [Hospital Preparedness Measures for Biological Hazards: A Systematic Review and Meta-Synthesis](#). Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness. 2021;15(6):790-803.

Language: Abstract and full text available in EN.

Free to view: No.

Funding sources: Iran University of Medical Sciences.

What is this? Being prepared to adequately handle biological hazards is an important aspect of hospital preparedness for emergencies and disasters.

In this systematic review, the authors searched for studies of hospital preparedness for disasters that had considered at least one type of biological hazard. They restricted their searches to articles published in English and did the search in June 2019. They included 23 studies.

What was found: Hospital preparedness measures for biological hazards include administrative and management, specialized and logistical measures (see below), but the included studies found that hospitals were generally not prepared to manage biological hazards or protect victims and personnel.

Administrative and management measures include planning for hospital preparedness, development of HICS, collaboration with external agencies, risk communications, effective education and practical exercises and risk assessment.

Specialized measures include early detection and surveillance, diagnostic laboratories, psychological management, infection control, personnel protection, decontamination and specialized biological teams.

Logistical measures include increasing capability, supplies and equipment, physical space, personnel organization, volunteers and hospital security.

Implications: The authors of the review concluded that hospital preparedness plans are crucial for being able to respond to a biological hazard, and that hospital managers need to be better prepared to respond to such hazards.

Other considerations: The authors of the review discussed their findings in the context of occupation.

This summary was prepared by Jeremy Scudder, checked by Yasmeen Saeed and Cristián Mansilla, and finalized by Mike Clarke.

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