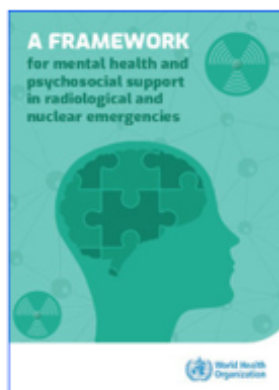


- ◆ In 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) published "A Framework for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies," material compiling concrete recommendations concerning psychological care in all radiological and nuclear emergencies based on existing guidelines published by the WHO and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC).
- ◆ This publication aims to integrate and promote psychological care and radiation protection and provide guidance targeting officials and specialists involved in planning radiation protection and countermeasures and risk management as well as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) experts working in health emergencies.



As a **public health approach** with an emphasis on MHPSS interventions, the following are **essential for all phases of preparing for, responding to, and recovering** from radiological and nuclear emergencies:

1. **Cross-sector coordination** between radiation protection and MHPSS actors
2. **Community engagement**
3. **Risk communication**
4. Application of **core-ethics principles**

Source: Prepared based on "A Framework for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies" (2020), WHO [The Japanese version is posted on the website of the Department of Disaster Psychiatry, Fukushima Medical University (<https://www.d-kokoro.com/>).]

"A Framework for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies" published by the WHO in 2020 states that psychological care is indispensable at all phases of preparing (planning) for, responding to, and recovering from radiological and nuclear emergencies. Additionally, the significance of cross-sector coordination for bringing about successful recovery is emphasized.

For achieving timely and proper MHPSS interventions, the following are specifically recommended: General health and mental health professionals should advocate and work in partnership with other sectors (for instance, communication, education, community development, disaster coordination, child protection, police); A community-based approach should be adopted to encourage risk communication and community engagement so that affected people can play positive roles in activities for improving their own wellbeing.

This publication also explains key measures at the phases of planning and making responses concretely, such as the need to ensure consistency in messages and information provided by public organizations, to prepare messages regarding health risks and prediction thereof, protective measures and preventive measures that are clear and easy to understand for affected people, and to provide psychosocial support intensively to at-risk groups and to people having psychological distress. Additionally, core ethical considerations necessary for all people involved in the provision of psychological care are also explained.

Included in this reference material on March 31, 2022