

UNDRR ROAS

**DATA AND INTERVENTIONS
RELATED TO COVID-19 IN THE ARAB
REGION**

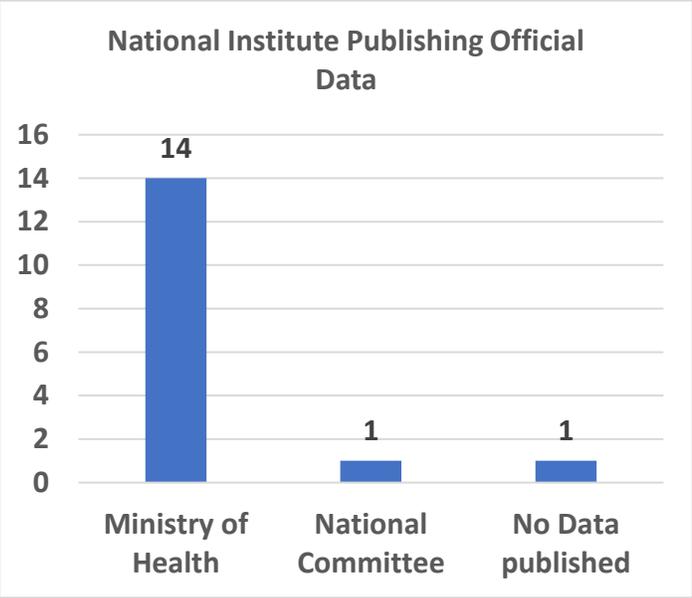
#PreventionSavesLives



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

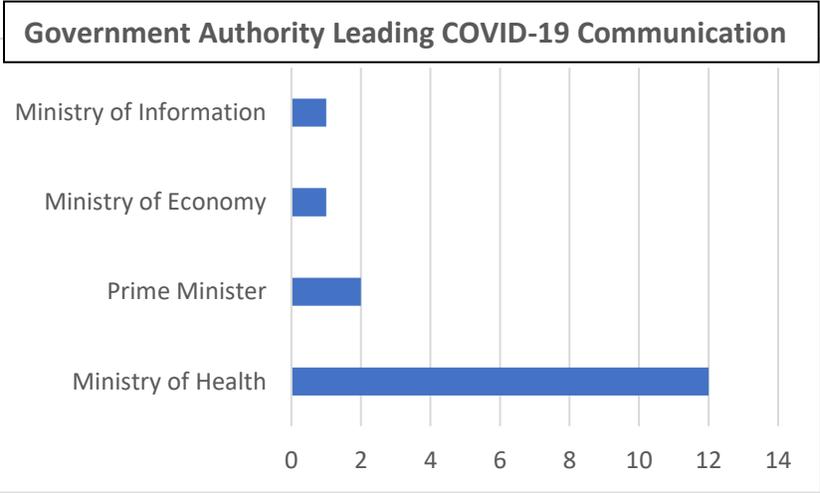
Drawing on Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction targets A and B namely (target A: Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower the average per 100,000 global mortality rate in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015; target B: Substantially reduce the number affected globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015). The survey sought to capture national institutional arrangements to collect and distribute data about COVID-19, the survey was answered by 16 countries out of 22 in the region.

Governments were asked about national institution(s) publishing official data about COVID-19, including, total number of persons who tested positive, number of persons who tested positive but do not show symptoms, number of persons who tested positive and fell ill, number of deaths associated with COVID-19; and, if there is an official webpage where this data is made publicly accessible.



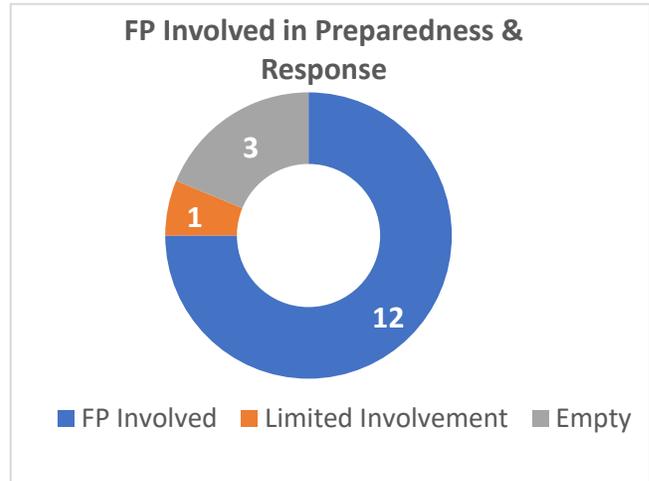
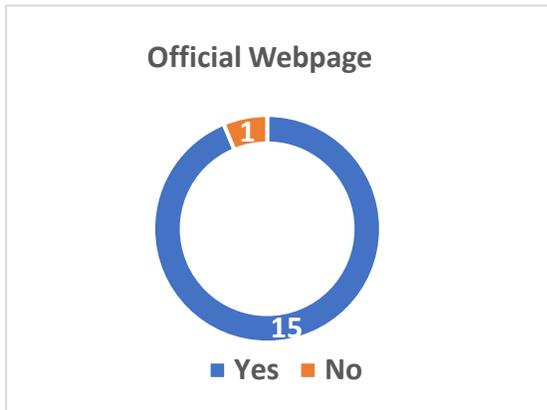
Out of the 16 survey respondents, the vast majority has assigned the National Ministries of Health as the primary institution in charge of Publishing Official data, only in one case, the data was published by the National Committee formed to lead the response to COVID-19, and in another case no data were officially published.

Also, governments were asked which government authority has the lead on managing the communication related to COVID-19, as well as the communication channels to inform citizens about COVID-19. For most governments, the Ministry of Health has been identified as the primary institution leading the COVID-

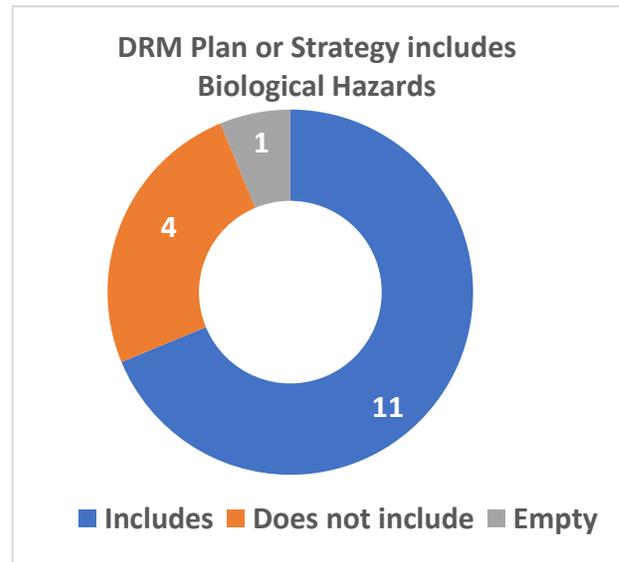
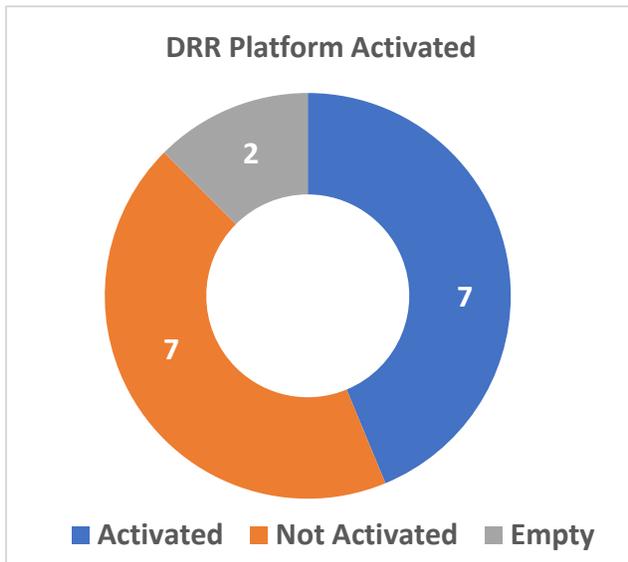


19 Communication, though, this is often done in collaboration with other national institutional arrangements such as Prime Minister/ Presidential Offices, National Emergency Committees etc.

A total of 15 out of 16 respondents indicated that an official website is being used as an official tool of communication on COVID-19 related information.



In a total of 12 cases out of 16, Sendai Focal points have fully engaged in the preparedness and response to COVID-19. For the most part, Sendai Focal points are part of the national committees that have been set in place in order to respond to COVID-19 pandemic.



Regarding the activation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Platform to deal with the COVID-19 emergency, only a total of seven (7) respondents indicated that they have been activated and play a fundamental role in the response. In one more case, it was stated that the government plans to activate it, but this has not yet occurred. Both the negative and positive responses are an indication of how DRR platforms and strategies can play a role in COVID-19 preparedness and response, as well as in future crisis; In addition, there is room for improvement to increase their effectiveness and usefulness.

A significant part of the respondents indicated that their national Disaster Risk Management plan or strategy includes biological hazards;

In the survey, governments were also asked about their intentions to use the aforementioned official data source when reporting on COVID-19 related impacts in Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM) or the national disaster loss database. All respondents indicated that they were going to use the official data collected in most cases by Ministry of Health to report on COVID-19 related impacts to the respective national disaster loss database.

Due to the systemic nature of COVID-19 pandemic and its ripple effects on other sectors of society beyond the health sector; governments were asked about specific actions and interventions being undertaken in diverse areas including, Containment & Mobility; Response Planning; Coordination; Executive decision making; Fiscal policy, Education, Economy, Food security/ food systems, social security, Others.

Regarding containment and mobility all respondents have indicated similar policies or strategies to flatten COVID-19's curve; they included, but not restricted to, curfews and travel bans both nationally and internationally. Response planning and coordination responses often overlapped, as respondents highlighted the wide variety of measures that have been taken to address the ripple effects of COVID-19 across different spheres of society. The decisions are often coordinated through the various mechanisms put in place for the COVID-19 response, including, inter-ministerial committees, commissions and working groups. In at least five of the responses, the head of state is directly involved in executive decision making, often as part of the cabinet and committee.

Four of the respondents indicated that specific COVID-19 response funds have been created with the aim to tackle the broad-spectrum impact of COVID-19. Food security appeared to be a significant concern for countries in the region; nine respondents indicated a broad series of measures to ensure an adequate supply of food for their citizens, which included price controls, tax alleviation, among others. The responses also indicated a concern related to social security measures, as millions across the region have been deprived from their livelihoods in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic response; most respondents are planning or have set up different schemes to support those in most need.