Acknowledgements

The WHO Guidance on Research Methods for Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management (Health EDRM) is the culmination of many face-to-face and virtual consultations between WHO and experts from Member States and partner organizations, who have contributed to the development, review and revision of the document. The Guidance is derived from the existing scientific evidence in Health EDRM, and has drawn inspiration from many World Health Assembly and WHO regional committee resolutions, regional strategies, national policies, international and national standards and guidelines, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, guidance on implementing the International Health Regulations (2005), the WHO Health EDRM Framework, and activities of the WHO Thematic Platform for Health EDRM and its associated Research Network.

The extensive process of developing this document was informed by evidence gained from WHO’s work with partners and countries, led by WHO country and regional offices and more than 100 global experts who contributed to writing the chapters and to the peer-review process. The Guidance was developed through a systematic process of chapter writing by authors, followed by editorial team review, peer-review by two reviewers for each chapter and point-by-point response by the authors. Technical editing was undertaken to ensure integrity and consistency throughout the chapters, with copy-editing and final review for consistency with other WHO publications.

The first edition was published in 2021 and contained 43 chapters that covered a wide range of research methods and provided case studies in many related fields that elaborate on the topic of each chapter. It was developed through more than 50 face-to-face and virtual meetings of the editorial team between January 2019 and July 2020. Given the urgent requirement to adopt this Guidance in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, this revised edition was published in 2022 with an additional chapter on how to use this Guidance in the context of the pandemic.

Leadership is gratefully acknowledged from Sarah Louise Barber, Stella Chungong and Qudsia Huda at WHO headquarters. Ryoma Kayano and Jonathan Abrahams were instrumental as coordinators of the entire process and for finalizing the Guidance.

WHO thanks the UK Health Security Agency (formerly, Public Health England) and the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) for their technical and administrative support for the development of the Guidance, as well as Kobe Group for its financial support.