

## Chapter 1.1

**Ryoma:** Hello, my name is Ryoma Kayano from the WHO Kobe Centre in Japan

**Mike:** and I'm Mike Clarke from Evidence Aid and Queen's University Belfast in Northern Ireland.

**Ryoma:** Along with the other editors of *The WHO Guidance on Research Methods for Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management*, or Health EDRM, we're authors for its opening chapter, which describes the rationale for the book and outlines its structure, and is the subject of this podcast.

The main driver for this book, which arose from the work of the WHO Thematic Platform for Health EDRM Research Network is the need to reduce the risks and consequences of emergencies and disasters for the many millions of people worldwide whose health is affected by them each year. It draws heavily on the WHO Health EDRM Framework, which is discussed in chapter 1.2, and the need to strengthen research and the research community.

In late 2018, the Research Network recognized the need to produce guidance on the methods for the research that is needed by the wide range of decision makers, practitioners and community actors involved in Health EDRM, and for those in the Health EDRM and research communities who commission or conduct research. Over the next two years, more than 100 international authors with practical experience and expertise in a wide range of areas; including research, practice and policy making; prepared the chapters, which were then peer reviewed by an even larger group of experts with a similar breadth and depth of knowledge. We are very grateful to all of them. Without their hard work and dedication, this book would not have been possible.

The main purpose of the book is to provide an introduction to a variety of research methods that are needed to provide an evidence base for those working in Health EDRM. As the world and its population face ever-increasing challenges from emergencies and disasters of all kinds, everyone involved in Health EDRM need to be able to access, understand and use high quality evidence. This evidence needs to come from reliable research, which has been robustly designed, well conducted and properly reported. We hope that this book will help in both the generation of this research and its use in decision making.

**Mike:** The unique collection of chapters provides straightforward, practical guidance on how to plan, do and report a wide variety of studies that can answer important questions in different settings. The aim is to improve the quality of research in Health EDRM, and thereby improve the quality of the policy, practice and guidance that is supported by evidence from this research. We also hope that the book will help to increase capacity in the research community, including among new researchers, experienced researchers and teachers of research, and strengthen collaboration and engagement between them and policy makers, practitioners and stakeholders.

The book provides guidance across a wide range of research, discussing the types of research needed to generate relevant evidence for managing risks and consequences of emergencies and disasters. This research includes observational and experimental studies,

and those that use qualitative or quantitative data, or both.

It's divided into sections that provide an overall introduction to Health EDRM research, show how to identify and understand a problem that needs to be studied, and how to determine the scope of the study; and, then, how to design and conduct the study. There is also a special topics section to demonstrate research processes and benefits in particular areas, and most of the chapters include case studies, providing real-life examples of research, to illustrate the methods and their impact on Health EDRM.

To end this podcast, we'd like to emphasise again that high quality evidence is vital to well-informed decision making in Health EDRM. The research that provides this evidence must be reliable, robust and fit for purpose. Therefore, we hope that this book and the associated podcasts, slideshows and videos available free online in the WHO Knowledge Hub will help researchers, would-be researchers, policy makers and practitioners to do this research and to use it.

Thanks for listening.