



newsletter

June 2017

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- ▼ International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Simulation Exercise
- ▼ Joint External Evaluation (JEE) in Mongolia

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- ▼ What is an After Action Review?

WHO helps ensure the regular cross-sectoral assessment of countries' core capacities as required under the International Health Regulations (IHR); and the development of National Action Plans for health security. This is done through the provision of support for national assessments and after action reviews; planning, costing, documenting and running exercises; and building monitoring and evaluating capacity.

International Atomic Energy Agency Simulation Exercise

On 21-22 June, WHO participated in a large-scale international emergency exercise that was led by the IAEA. In total, 82 Member States and 10 international organizations participated in the two-day international emergency exercise that tested responses to a simulated accident at a nuclear power plant in Hungary.

Dr Peter Salama, Executive Director of the WHO Health Emergency Programme emphasized the importance of this exercise to test WHO procedures in relation to a radio-nuclear incident along with other agencies. This exercise proved to be a great opportunity to address international coordination and collaboration. Participants included representatives from the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC), European Commission, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Police Organization (INTERPOL), International Maritime Organization (IMO) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

The exercise underscored the need for better cooperation during an emergency at the national and international level on the prompt exchange of information; the conduct of assessment and prognosis; the provision of international assistance; and the coordination of public information.

For more information: http://www.who.int/ionizing_radiation/a_e/large-scale-exercise-nuclear-emergency-concluded/en/



Joint External Evaluation in Mongolia, 12-19 May



Mongolia is the fourth Member State in the Western Pacific Region to voluntarily conduct a JEE. Over the past decade, Mongolia has been guided by the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases (APSED) in advancing implementation and maintenance of IHR (2005) core capacities.

The Ministry of Health of Mongolia has demonstrated its leadership and commitment to managing health security by using APSED as a guide to develop and implement the Mongolian national multi-year plan for Emerging Infectious Diseases and Public Health Emergencies. Mongolia has made strong progress to strengthen capacities to prepare, detect and respond to health security threats. Progress relates to strengthening national surveillance and response systems, Mongolian Field Epidemiology Training Programme, collaboration and exercises across sectors, a culture of learning and continuous improvement and establishment of new emergency operations centres.

However, areas for improvement remain such as coordination between human and animal health sectors which is duplicated across different government departments, insufficient public health human resources and funding for health security activities. To continue the momentum garnered by the JEE and address priorities identified, a workshop will be held in June to revise and update the national multi-year plan using the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies (APSED III) as a framework. Implementation of the workplan will strengthen Mongolia's capacity to effectively manage future health security threats.

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**Joint External
Evaluations
completed this month**

**The States Parties
Questionnaire for
IHR core capacities
for 2017 has been
sent to National
IHR Focal Points
(NFPs) on 26 June.
The deadline to
submit the report
is the end of
October 2017.**

Zoom in:

What is an After Action Review?

After Action Review (AAR) is one of the four components of the IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and aims to provide complementary information to Joint External Evaluations, Annual Reporting and Simulation exercises on the functionality of capacities put to use to manage a real-life event. After action review is a commonly used method for learning through the analysis of performance, in order to identify successes, best practices and challenges, and to ensure continuous quality improvement.

While AARs can vary in scope and format, it uses a simple methodology involving a structured review of response activities, exchange of ideas, and a deeper collective analysis of what happened using the logic presented in the graph below. It centres on bringing together the people involved in the response, giving them an opportunity to share their perception of what worked and what did not, to identify the underlying causes and to agree on concrete actions for improvement.



The choice of event to review depends on the magnitude and the learning opportunities, and its focus can vary from just a few elements of the response (e.g. surveillance) to a multisectoral analysis of all actions taken to manage the health consequences. In general, an AAR should be planned within three months of an event to ensure that memories of staff are fresh.

The outputs of an AAR should clearly lay out a roadmap for strengthening capacities where they did not work; and maintaining and institutionalizing best practices where they did. Furthermore, the results can contribute to the development and monitoring of the National Action Plan for Health Security.

The publication of AAR results can also help to build a culture of transparency and mutual accountability among Member States – principles central to the IHR MEF and global health security. Likewise, the sharing of lessons identified can be valuable for building preparedness in other countries and contexts, as well as for finding solutions during a response.

WHO is working on the development of a Guide and Toolkit for Member States planning After Action Reviews and will be piloting the methodology in a number of countries over the coming months.

For more information please visit the Strategic Partnership portal page on AAR: <https://extranet.who.int/spp/after-action-review>



Coming up next

- ▼ Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases, Manila, Philippines, July 11-13
- ▼ Delivering Global Health Security through Sustainable Financing, Seoul, Republic of Korea, July 26-27
- ▼ Formal Regional Consultation on the International Health Regulations in the Americas Region, July 17-19
- ▼ Joint External Evaluation in July 2017: Comoros (July 23-29), Lesotho (July 10-14), Madagascar (July 10-14), Zambia (July 23-29)
- ▼ After Action Reviews in July 2017: Benin (July 10-14), Mozambique (July 24-28)
- ▼ Simulation Exercises in July 2017: Ghana (July 17), Mauritania (July 20-21), Indonesia (July 30 - August 3)

Representatives from WHO and OIE are attending a workshop in Paris on 29-30 June 2017 to finalize the methodology of the IHR/PVS Bridging Workshop.

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WHO International Health Regulations website - <http://www.who.int/ihr/procedures/implementation/en/>
Strategic Partnership portal - <https://extranet.who.int/spp/>