



newsletter  
October 2017

In focus

- ▼ AFRO – Simulation exercise management training, Cotonou, Benin
- ▼ GLOBAL – First multisectoral and zoonoses-specific tool for assessing risks

Zoom in

- ▼ GLOBAL – Meeting on “Managing Future Global Public Health Risks by Strengthening Civilian and Military Health Services”, Jakarta, Indonesia

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, risk profiling and after action reviews; planning, costing, documenting and running exercises; and building monitoring and evaluating capacity with a One Health approach.

**Simulation exercise management training - Cotonou, Benin**

From 17 to 19 October 2017 in Cotonou, Benin, 23 representatives from the Ministries of Health of Benin, Comoros, Mauritania and Chad as well as WHO staff from the respective Country Offices participated in a training on the management of tabletop exercises.



The tabletop exercise management training is the first module of a course that progressively goes through the various types of exercises which can be conducted to test the functionality of countries' capacities to respond to public health emergencies. The training modules are based on the Simulation Exercise Manual published by WHO in February 2016 and provide hands-on experience on the use of tools and guidance contained in the manual.

The participants were taken through all phases of the exercise project cycle and were given the opportunity to develop and practice the conduct of four simulation exercises on the IHR notification process.

This training session on simulation exercises was the fourth one conducted in the African region since October 2016. In total, 73 participants representing Ministries of Health and WHO Offices from 19 different countries were trained.



## First multisectoral and zoonoses-specific tool for assessing risks

How prepared should you be? Countries battling zoonotic disease events and asking themselves this question will soon have access to the first ever multisectoral, zoonoses-specific tool to help them assess the likelihood and impact of different outcomes during ongoing or potential zoonotic disease events.

The Tripartite organizations - WHO, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) - along with international risk assessment experts are putting the finishing touches on a new Joint Risk Assessment (JRA) tool that will guide countries to set up and conduct multisectoral risk assessments for such events. The tool will also include guidance for the identification and engagement of all relevant stakeholders.

Once validated, selected countries that continue to be affected by outbreaks of Avian Influenza that could potentially affect humans will pilot the tool. After incorporating lessons learned from these pilots, the JRA tool will become a part of the Tripartite Zoonoses Guide Toolkit currently under development. Both the Tripartite Zoonoses Guide and the JRA Operational Tool will be available to all countries on the WHO, FAO, and OIE websites in 2018.

**The 4th Annual Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) High Level Ministerial Meeting on “Health Security for All: Engaging Communities, NGO’s and the Private Sector” was hosted by Uganda on 25-27 October. WHO supported Uganda in organising a discussion based table top exercise on a zoonotic event, aimed at addressing key issues being raised at the meeting.**

The first regional stakeholders’ workshop on IHR core capacity implementation and OIE-PVS Pathway took place in Tanzania on 12-13 October 2013. 34 representatives from 17 African countries attended. These countries had expressed interest to hold an IHR-PVS National Bridging Workshop.



An After Action Review on Meningitis and Lassa fever outbreaks in Togo has recently been completed. The outcomes will help the country to identify critical gaps that need to be strengthened for the management of public health events.



## Zoom in: Meeting on “Managing Future Global Public Health Risks by Strengthening Civilian and Military Health Services”, Indonesia, 24-26 October.

Over 160 public health and military representatives from 44 countries, international organizations and partners attended the meeting organized by the Government of Indonesia, with the support of WHO. In line with G20 commitments to strengthen global health security and accelerate the implementation of the IHR, and as current Chair of the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM), Indonesia convened this meeting with the aim of identifying a shared vision between the two sectors on global, regional and national health security. The meeting was opened by the President of Indonesia, H.E. Joko Widodo.

Two table-top exercises prompted participants to think about the nature of their own national collaboration between civilian and military health services in the context of health emergencies. The exercises and discussions underlined the varied nature of military–civilian collaborations. The table below shows the percentage of participating countries that declared having features of multisectoral collaboration to manage public health emergencies.

Features of multisectoral collaboration	% of countries
Comprehensive health emergency preparedness and response plan in place	60%
Centralized coordination to lead any response to large-scale health emergencies	75%
Plans in place to deploy multi-sectoral response teams	60%
Armed forces would take the lead in field coordination	20%
Integrated surveillance system or formal agreement in place to share information between human and animal health	50%
Formal agreement in place to automatically share information between the public and animal health sectors and security sectors	24%
Law enforcement would take the investigatory lead in the event of a potential deliberate release of an infectious agent	40%
Joint investigation team with public health experts would be designated	45%
Joint communications team would be set up to control messaging to the public	67%

The meeting recommended that countries should develop a national framework for collaboration based on the common goal of global health security, and in line with the principles of the IHR; national stakeholders should be capacitated to effectively manage public health risks and events; and countries should take a holistic multisectoral approach in developing national action plans and in the strengthening of strategic partnerships; existing policies and SoPs should be reviewed and updated between the public health and military/security sectors, to enable optimal collaboration before, during, and after public health emergencies.

Read the full story at: <https://extranet.who.int/spp/news/meeting-managing-future-global-public-health-risks-strengthening-civilian-and-military-health>

## Coming up next

- ▼ Monitoring and Evaluation training, Kathmandu, Nepal, 01-02 November 2017
- ▼ Monitoring and Evaluation training, Nairobi, Kenya, 29-30 November 2017
- ▼ Consultation on Finland's National Action Plan, Helsinki, Finland, 07-08 November 2017
- ▼ Simulation Exercise Management training, Marrakech, Morocco, 12-16 November 2017
- ▼ Eleventh Steering Committee Meeting of the Crisis Management Centre-Animal Health (CMC-AH), Rome, Italy, 14 November

For an update on the IHR monitoring, evaluation and planning activities, please read the weekly update or visit the Strategic Partnership Portal at: <https://extranet.who.int/spp/>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WHO would like to acknowledge the active participation of national experts from volunteering countries, the members of the international roster of experts, and the invaluable partnerships with governments including the governments of Finland, Germany, and the United States; with other Intergovernmental organizations, particularly the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); many public health institutions such as the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the European CDC (ECDC) and Public Health England (PHE); private entities such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and many other partners, including the members of the Global Health Security Agenda and of the JEE Alliance.; WHO would like to acknowledge the continuing support and commitment of all of these to the implementation and principles of the International Health Regulations (2005).

## CONTACTS

For queries, contact Dr Stella Chungong [chungongs@who.int](mailto:chungongs@who.int)  
WHO International Health Regulations website - <http://www.who.int/ihr/procedures/implementation/en/>  
Strategic Partnership portal - <https://extranet.who.int/spp/>

The Joint External Evaluation in South Sudan was successfully conducted after intense preparation: <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-completes-self-assessment-implementation-joint-external-evaluation>