



newsletter
April 2017

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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.

Assessing capacities at the human-animal interface in Mauritania

A JEE mission was conducted in Mauritania on 27-31 March 2017, a few weeks after the publication of the Handbook for the assessment of capacities at the human-animal interface. WHO took the opportunity to include veterinarians from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE); the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); and WHO in the team of external experts. One of their main tasks was to test the handbook developed jointly by WHO and OIE.

The objective of the handbook is to highlight complementarities between the IHR Monitoring Tool and the OIE Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway, and to identify the areas in which the indicators in the JEE tool (JEET) match, overlap and complement the 'Critical Competencies' assessed in the PVS Pathway missions.

The experts on the Mauritania mission confirmed the value of this handbook and noted that it was also useful for the other experts in the team, allowing them to explore the contribution of the veterinary services to their own areas of expertise.

National IHR Focal Points meeting in the Eastern Mediterranean region

A regional meeting for IHR National Focal Points (NFPs) was convened in Amman, Jordan, on 9-10 April 2017. The meeting's objectives were to introduce the tools for the four components of the IHR monitoring and



evaluation framework (MEF); to share scenarios of public health events of potential international concern; and to discuss and identify ways in which to empower IHR NFPs.

The meeting recommended that Member States implement all components of the IHR MEF as soon as possible, and document and share the outcomes and lessons thus generated. Member States should also develop national actions plans using the priority actions identified by the JEE process, along with the outcomes of other assessments and exercises. As well as supporting countries undertaking JEEs, exercises, and after action reviews, WHO should revise its existing guidance document for IHR NFPs, considering recently identified needs, and develop training modules to build capacity for IHR NFPs.

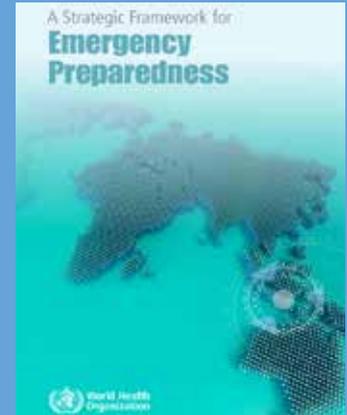
JEE tool and process review meeting



Fourteen months after the introduction of the Joint External Evaluation tool and process, WHO held a meeting to review feedback from Member States, experts and partners involved in the JEE process.

The meeting took place in Geneva, Switzerland, and brought together 90 participants from countries, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, partners and WHO in order to review the JEE tool and process.

Publication of the Strategic Framework for Emergency Preparedness



<http://who.int/ihr/publications/9789241511827/en/>

Watch out for

World Health Assembly documents A70/15 and A70/16

on the Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)

http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha70.html



WHO is building capacity for planning, conducting and evaluating simulation exercises.

Next month in Uganda, 20 participants from the African region will attend a training session on functional exercises.

WHO is working with the World Bank

to develop a tool for financing preparedness. Delegations from WHO's Regional Office for the Western Pacific Region (WPRO), WHO country Office in Vietnam and WHO headquarters (HQ) are attending a meeting on 27-28 April 2017, in Da Nang, Vietnam, to review and discuss the draft of the Health Security Financing and Institutional Assessment Tool (HSFAT) and its implementation in countries.

Participants will also review the indicators on financing to be included in the JEE tool.

Participants agreed that the JEE is a country-owned process, and that no radical changes should be made to the tool. This will maintain comparability over time within countries. They acknowledged the need to ensure that the JEE process is embedded in broader monitoring and evaluation frameworks and national planning mechanisms. They also highlighted the value of the JEE in bringing together stakeholders. The focus should remain on priority actions and scoring should not be over-emphasized.

High level recommendations included the following:

- Crossreference the JEE tool with other tools, including the IHR annual reporting questionnaire.
- Improve links between technical areas, and with external initiatives (e.g. antimicrobial resistance).
- Add two finance indicators, the first for IHR capacity building and the second for work during emergency response.
- The highest political levels should be engaged at the onset of the JEE process.
- Approaches should be flexible, in order to accommodate the contexts and needs of different countries.
- Decrease the timeline between the assessment and action planning

The Secretariat will review and incorporate the meeting proposals and recommendations by August 2017. The tool will be field tested and finalized by December 2017. The new tool will be implemented in 2018.

JEEs IN CRISES COUNTRIES

During a consultation on the feasibility of conducting JEEs in crisis countries, experts reiterated that countries in protracted crisis, in conflict or in complex humanitarian emergencies, remain signatories of IHR (2005). Therefore they need to develop, strengthen and maintain IHR capacities, regardless of their prevailing situations.

If conducting a JEE in such countries may require modified approaches, it was recommended that the JEE tool and the basic principles of the JEE process remain unchanged, in order to ensure the evaluation remains compatible with future assessments that will take place when the countries concerned are no longer in crisis.



Zoom in EMRO country experience



Professor Abderrahmane Maaroufi, Director of Epidemiology and Disease Control in the Morocco Ministry of Health, is a strong advocate for IHR capacity building. He recently hosted a WHO team to launch Morocco's national planning process, and took the opportunity thus presented to share his views on the new IHR MEF.

"The Joint External Evaluation is pragmatic, not only analytic".

Morocco engaged in the JEE process very early on. A team of experts visited Morocco on 20-24 June 2016 to assess the country's capacities across the 19 technical areas of the JEE tool.

Prof. Maaroufi explained that the JEE tool and process complement the self-assessment work undertaken in Morocco every year for IHR annual reporting, but added that, unlike the annual reporting questionnaire, the JEE "is not only an analysis of strengths and weaknesses, but also identifies priority actions". With its scale of scores, the JEE is a "more precise instrument to measure capacities".

Prof. Maaroufi also noted that the JEE process was a trigger for increased collaboration with different sectors on health security, as well as an excellent advocacy tool for engaging with partners. In Morocco, therefore, the JEE is used as a collaboration framework.

"IHR is a good integration framework for health security programmes".

In the aftermath of the JEE evaluation, the Moroccan Ministry of Health (MOH) coordinated with technical focal points to prioritize recommendations related to technical areas with lower scores (<4). Prof. Maaroufi explained that the two key features of the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) in Morocco should be that it is "realistic;" and that it is "feasible". The NAPHS will focus on 30 priority actions, which will be monitored over time through a performance framework.

"Health security is an integral part of the development agenda".

For Prof. Maaroufi, it is "important to have a single plan for health security, which is coherent and consistent with other programmes at national level". He concluded by describing the IHR MEF process as "a great opportunity to integrate IHR capacities into [Morocco's] development programme on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".

The Ministry of Health in Morocco is currently working with a multisectoral team to develop Morocco's National Action Plan for Health Security. It is expected that the plan will be validated in June and formally launched in September 2017.



Coming up next

- ▼ IHR-PVS Pathway National Bridging Workshop, 8-10 May, Islamabad, Pakistan
- ▼ Functional simulation exercise training, 8-12 May, Kampala, Uganda
- ▼ World Health Assembly, 22-31 May, Geneva, Switzerland
- ▼ Joint External Evaluations in May
 - Benin (22-26 May)
 - Latvia (8-12 May)
 - Myanmar (3-9 May)
 - Mongolia (12-19 May).

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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/>