

SETTING TARGETS FOR HEALTH SECURITY CAPACITY BUILDING

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of WHO:

"... Pandemics, health emergencies and weak health systems not only cost lives but represent some of the greatest risks to the global economy and security that we face today."

Purpose

This document seeks to map out potential strategic targets and indicators to guide the Alliance in its work to support Joint External Evaluations, National Action Plans and the One Health Approach. The proposed targets and indicators will be formulated using a set of guiding principles that will involve targets being politically neutral, nonbinding - acknowledging the voluntary nature of the Alliance membership - and realistic in ambition.

Background

Health security is a global public good that is principally based on action taking place at the national and subnational levels. Ensuring adequate country capacity for health security is a process with several important steps involving a multi-sectoral approach, and political will, leadership and commitment. To improve health security capacities, countries need reliable and timely information about the gaps in their national systems. Capacity building for resilience to health threats is an integral part of health system strengthening, as is the One Health Approach¹.

Several stakeholders, including UN organizations and other actors, have within their mandates and structures significant activities to improve health security. The cooperation of the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Agricultural and Food Organization (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in the Tripartite mechanism² is an important global example in the multi-sectoral approach of One Health.

In 2015, WHO developed the International Health Regulations (IHR) Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, comprising four components: a) the mandatory annual reporting to the World Health Assembly and three voluntary components b) after action/outbreak review, c) simulation exercises and d) joint external evaluation. WHO has since introduced a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) tool that addresses the technical areas under the IHR.

¹ One Health recognizes that the health of people is connected to the health of animals and the environment. The goal of One Health is to encourage the collaborative efforts of multiple disciplines-working locally, nationally, and globally to achieve the best health for people, animals, and our environment.

² A collaborative mechanism between FAO, OIE and WHO on sharing responsibilities and coordinating global activities to address health risks at the animal-human-ecosystems interfaces, since 2010.

The JEE is a first step in identifying a county's health security needs but it is often the beginning rather than the end of a process in terms of the investment required to address JEE findings. To date, 58³ JEEs are complete and OIE has conducted evaluations of the veterinary capacities (PVS Pathway) in 130⁴ countries.

The JEE Alliance seeks to promote and support collaboration across sectors such as animal and human health, agriculture, defense, transport, tourism, development, environment, public safety, and as food safety. The multi-partner JEE Alliance was formed on 22 May 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland, and provides a voluntary platform for multi-sectoral collaboration. The Alliance is not an organization but an informal network for systematic cooperation. Importantly, the JEE Alliance remains separate from other health security focused initiatives – such as the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) but ensures collaboration and synergies when working towards the same goals.

The key objectives of the JEE Alliance is to advocate for political and financial commitments to building national preparedness and resilience, and facilitate collaboration to improve technical capabilities. The Alliance promotes transparency in exchanging information on the results of JEEs. This is to promote opportunities for donors to support strengthening of country capacities, and, enable knowledge dissemination and shared learning. Linked to this, the Alliance supports the capacity building process through JEEs and other evaluation processes, development and implementation of national action plans, and seeks to resolve impediments to these processes when they are identified. It is to be noted that evaluations can only be performed if there are sufficient resources and support to the organizations performing them.

Measuring success

The Alliance is proposing to outline a suite of strategic targets and related indicators to measure the progress in health security capacity building, using the JEEs as a basis. The targets will be formulated in line with four key guiding principles, and used to inform the work of the Alliance.

1. Targets focus on capturing information about health security outcomes.
2. Targets strike a balance in being ambitious and realistic.
3. Targets are easily measurable and based on indicators that do not create additional reporting requirements for countries. Proposed targets and indicators will be measured by drawing on existing data available through WHO, OIE, FAO and other relevant organizations.
4. As the Alliance is not an organization, the proposed targets and indicators will respect the roles of the different stakeholders whilst promoting the multisectoral approach to health security.

³ To be updated

⁴ To be updated

Proposed Target

By 2022/2024⁵ (X⁶ number of) countries, including countries most at risk, with a high level/adequate level of capacities⁷ for health security.

Proposed indicators

Annually:	Data Source/Source of Verification
Number of JEE's accomplished and published (minimum 30)	
Number of countries having conducted at least one simulation exercise or after-action review	
Number of countries reporting full compliance with IHR through IHR annual questionnaire	
Number of country applications for a PVS Pathway mission (any type)	
Number of new PVS Pathway mission (any type) committed and in planning	
Number of new PVS Pathway mission (any type) completed	
Number of PVS Pathway missions (any type) done in last 3 years	
Number of countries participating in new Regional PVS Pathway Training	
Indicators for 2019	
Number of countries with (financed and published) multisector National Action Plans for Health Security	
Number of countries with financed National Action Plans – in whole or in part, that reflect financial commitments in published national budgets.	
Number of countries with multisector national structures for health security preparedness	
Indicators for 2022	
Number of countries, including IDA countries, that have in place a financed national plan to fill identified gaps.	
Number of countries, including IDA countries, that have conducted and published a second JEE five years after the initial JEE	
Number of countries, including IDA countries, with significantly improved results in PVS's and in 2 nd JEE's (as indicated in the color coding changes: red to yellow, and yellow to green, with no individual sub-indicators with a value of 1).	

⁵ To be decided.

⁶ The numbers (X) to be defined.

⁷ To be defined.