With the coming into force of the International Health Regulations (2005), States Parties are required to assess core alert and response capacities, to develop a plan of action for implementing the revised IHR, and to monitor and evaluate progress towards achieving these capacities.

The initial deadline established in the IHR for countries to have established national core capacities ensuring public health surveillance and response was 15 June 2012. A total of 118 States Parties requested and received a two-year extension with a plan to meet core capacity requirements by 2014.

71 countries could not meet the 2014 deadline and requested a second extension until June 2016 for achieving IHR core capacities. There is an increasing demand for guidance and support to fill identified gaps and monitor progress in meeting IHR core capacity requirements.

WHO is working with its regional offices, national focal points (NFPs), and partner organizations to provide States Parties with the appropriate support to help them meet the minimum standards for public health preparedness. In addition, WHO is working on strategies for monitoring the maintenance and functionality of IHR capacities beyond 2016.
WHO helps States Parties to monitor and assess the implementation of the IHR

Supporting
WHO supports States Parties in the assessment and maintenance of national capacities to detect, report, evaluate and respond to public health events of international concern. Furthermore, WHO assists countries in developing and updating national action plans based on identified gaps and weaknesses, or extension plans.

Monitoring
States Parties used a questionnaire developed by WHO to track progress of IHR implementation in 2008 and 2009. Since 2010, a more detailed questionnaire, the IHR monitoring framework, has been used to examine a broader range of capacities relevant under the IHR and address the expanded scope of the regulations.

Reporting
Data collected from the questionnaires are analyzed by WHO and reported to the World Health Assembly and online on the Global Health Observatory. WHO shares reports based on these data also with NFPs and WHO regional offices to guide the planning, development and strengthening of IHR core capacities.