

Technical Consultation on the Monitoring of IHR Implementation

Organized by National Capacity Monitoring (NCM)
International Health Regulations Coordination Department
World Health Organization

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Lyon, France

Summary report

Introduction

The Member States of the World Health Organization adopted a revised set of International Health Regulations (IHR) in 2005 that came into force in June of 2007. Annex 1 of the IHR require countries to develop, strengthen and maintain core capacities for surveillance and response in order to meet the requirements of the IHR. In order to monitor progress in core capacities development within national structures for detecting and responding to public health risks and emergencies (infectious disease, radiological, chemical and other health hazards), WHO has proposed a set of indicators that will be used both to monitor that progress and to report annually to the World Health Assembly.

Methodology for developing the indicators

An expert consensus methodology was used in developing the indicators and tools. In May 2008, WHO convened a technical consultancy to review the proposed core capacities for the surveillance and response and to propose a list of indicators for monitoring each core capacity. Following several consultations within WHO and with partners, WHO convened a follow-up technical consultancy meeting in Lyon, France in August of 2009. Representatives from five of the six WHO regional offices (Africa, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, South-East Asia and the Western Pacific), WHO Headquarters (including WHO technical experts in chemical safety (?), radiological and nuclear safety (?), zoonotic diseases and food safety), selected Member States, international public health agencies and other partners attended the consultation. An expert review of the monitoring tool was carried out, including the capacity building models proposed, the indicators, attributes, levels and analysis of results of monitoring. A proposed web-based tool was likewise demonstrated and discussed.

Proceedings of the meeting

An overview of the IHR Monitoring was presented and brief presentations were made for various hazards and Points of Entry. Small working groups reviewed each of

the core capacity indicators, attributes, levels and proposed a scoring scheme. Very detailed comments were made to each set of core capacity indicators. Some specific indicators were proposed for use in reporting to the World Health Assembly. Feedback was through plenary sessions and discussions. WHO Regional Office staff provided updates on the status of IHR implementation and existing structures to support further strengthening of national surveillance and response systems, as well as areas for improvement.

Recommendations

Recommendations to the Secretariat included:

1. Review the document with clarification of terminologies used, cross-reference with other capacities for internal consistency and logical sequencing. Articulate the internal logic of the comprehensive list of indicators and set reasonable, practical but relevant targets for achievement.
2. World Health Assembly indicators should be rapidly finalized and disseminated as well as the scoring of the level of achievement of the core capacities
3. Share the next version with the technical experts present at the meeting and all WHO Regional Offices within a specified timeframe.
4. Prepare a field test version of the tools and use field test results to finalize the monitoring tool, indicators, and attributes.
5. Prepare a final version that would be used both for States Parties Reporting, (thus replacing the States Parties Report), for countries to monitor their development, maintenance or strengthening of their IHR Core capacities, and for WHO to provide support if required.