

Summary of WHO/EMRO Ebola Preparedness Assessment Mission And Lessons Learnt

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WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Committee Resolution (EM/R61/R.2)

- October 2014 resolution (EM/R61/R.2) urging State Parties to urgently undertake a comprehensive assessment of their capacity to deal with a potential importation of Ebola virus disease.
- Missions took place using a regional assessment checklist adapted from global assessment tools.



Results of 2014 IHR Monitoring Tool-1

- Designation of PoE for development of capacities in 18 countries and assessed in 16 countries.
- A list of ports authorized to offer ship sanitation certificates has been sent to WHO as applicable 12 countries.
- Relevant legislation to implement IHR at designated PoEs has been updated in 13 countries.
- Updated IHR health documents have been implemented at designated PoEs 15 countries.
- Mechanisms for the exchange of information between designated PoEs and medical facilities are in place in 18 countries.

Results of 2014 IHR Monitoring Tool-2

- Procedures for coordination and communication between the IHR NFP and PoEs competent authority are in place in 16 countries.
- Bilateral agreements concerning prevention or control of international transmission of disease at designated PoEs have been put in place in 12 countries.
- Priority conditions for surveillance at designated PoEs have been identified in 17 countries and 20 countries have shared surveillance information at designated PoEs with the surveillance department/unit.
- SOPs for response at PoEs are available in 11 countries.

Results of IHR Extension Plans-1

12 countries have identified legislation as a priority to meet the IHR deadline of 2014

- Develop SOPs for the detection, reporting and response to public health events at PoE and onboard conveyances.
- Establish coordination between the different stakeholders for the surveillance and response of public health events at PoE.
- Strengthen accessibility of PoE to infrastructure, equipment and trained personnel for attending
 - ill passengers and ill animals,
 - transport to appropriate medical facilities
 - inspection of conveyances.



Results of IHR Extension Plans-2

- Identify responsible authority to inspect ships and issue ship sanitation certificates.
- Development of SOPs for coordination and communication between NFPs and competent authorities at the PoE and with other sectors involved at this level.
- Update the information system used at PoE and develop regular reports.
- Development of a public health contingency plan
- Conduct simulation exercise for different personnel.
- Supervision of sanitary activities carried out PoE.
- Establish dialogue with neighboring countries to enhance cross border surveillance and response



Results of EVD Assessment Missions-1

- Communication line between public health and transport sector officials and other service providers.
- Public health contingency plan as an integral part of the aerodrome emergency plan.
- Isolated space/area at PoE for health assessments, in the event of suspected illness detected in a traveller.
- Information sharing among all relevant stakeholders at PoE.
- Sufficient number of trained staff, with PPE and disinfectant.



Results of EVD Assessment Missions-2

- Trained airport ground staff and flight crew on managing environmental contaminants.
- Notification of suspected cases within a country and with WHO IHR Contact point
- Restrictions on travel and trade
 - Incompliance with requirements laid out in **Article 43**
- Entry screening
 - Tracing contacts but require significant resources
 - Implemented by the majority of countries / risk and resources assessment

Lessons Learned

- **Training workshops**
 - develop public health contingency plans
 - develop SOPs on the detection, notification, investigation of suspects and referral of ill passengers and adoption of health measures at PoE
 - Plan and implement entry/exit screening
 - tabletop exercises on the detection, assessment and notification of ill passengers detected at PoE.
- **Communication with countries**
 - Coordination between stakeholders
 - Justify implemented measures
- **New approach for the IHR monitoring and Evaluation**

Thank you



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