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WHO Emergency Reform News

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Advisory Group face-to-face meeting: guidance report to be issued on reforms for WHO's outbreak and emergency work



The Advisory Group on the reform of WHO's work in outbreaks and emergencies met at WHO's headquarters in Geneva on 26-27 October. The meeting was the first face-to-face gathering of the Advisory Group, which is being chaired by Dr David Nabarro, the United Nations Special Envoy on Ebola. WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan participated in the two-day event. Based on the **Reflections of the Chair document**, the Advisory Group discussed all aspects of WHO's role in outbreaks and emergencies, with careful consideration of its comparative advantages in leadership, coordination and technical competence and its opportunities to partner across the emergency risk management spectrum. The Advisory Group will produce a report with recommendations on how to strengthen WHO's work in outbreaks and emergencies, including internal changes and capacity building, support to Member States and enhancing partnerships. The recommendations will be public. The Advisory Group will continue its regular meetings via teleconference to support the reform process.

WHO Regional, Country offices contribute to reform of WHO's work in outbreaks and emergencies



WHO outbreak and emergency experts from WHO headquarters, regions and countries met in Geneva from 19-21 October to provide ground-level perspectives on the ongoing reform process. The participants identified key functions for WHO work in outbreaks and emergencies, from preparedness right through to response and early recovery. These include leadership, advocacy and communications; global intelligence and risk assessment; core support services; quality assurance; logistics systems and network development; technical expertise on epidemic-prone diseases and humanitarian health; and coordination and partnerships, including through the global health emergency workforce.

WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies receives first injection of financing from China



The WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies has received its first signed contribution, with China providing US\$ 2 million to the replenishable financing mechanism. This fully flexible financing brings the CFE to life, with the funds being able to support WHO's initial response to outbreaks and emergencies. The CFE will provide funding during a critical gap - between the moment the need for an emergency response is identified, and the point at which resources from other financing mechanisms begin to flow.

For more information, [download the CFE prospectus](#).

Public health emergency operations centre framework a key asset for future emergency operations platform and Member State readiness



A central plank of the development of a unified WHO platform for outbreaks and emergencies will be the use of Emergency Operations Centres to help drive outbreak and emergency response actions. In 2012, WHO established a [Public Health Emergency Operations Centre Network](#) (EOC-NET) to identify and promote standards and best practices for EOC capacity building in Member States for effective public health emergency response. Using the evidence based EOC-NET guidance, WHO's

EOC capacities at Headquarters and Regional Offices can more effectively act as central hubs to support the operational platform's activities across the Organization and with Member States.

View from the field: Emergency reform process vital for WHO's work in outbreaks and emergencies



For more than three years, WHO's Elizabeth Hoff has been the Organization's Representative to the Syrian Arab Republic, leading a large-scale response to the country's many health needs amid relentless conflict and immense humanitarian suffering. This response has included vaccinating almost three million Syrian children, establishing an early warning, alert and response system for infectious diseases and delivering vaccines, medicines and other medical supplies to populations in need, including to those living across conflict lines. "The reform of WHO's work in

outbreaks and emergencies is extremely important," she says. "In protracted crises such as Syria there is an especially strong link between the technical programs that are implemented through a single platform at the country level." In addition to the increased illness and death directly associated with the continuous violence, outbreaks of hepatitis A, typhoid, polio and measles have been reported during Elizabeth's time in Syria. The health impact of such events, including use of chemical weapons, have been managed in

partnership with key international and local organizations. "In situations such as these, a single operational approach to the management of a full range of risks is essential," she adds. Elizabeth's hope is the new emergency programme will bolster WHO's role as a humanitarian actor to have health at the heart of emergency response, and that the reform will ensure WHO obtains the resources it needs to respond effectively.

Upcoming events

- 5-6 November: WHO Financing Dialogues, Geneva
- 9-12 Nov Public Health Emergency Operations Centre, WHO African Regional Office, Brazzaville
- 9-13 November: Heads of WHO Country Offices meeting, Geneva

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