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Key points from WHO emergency reform consultations



WHO and the **Advisory Group** working on the emergency reform are consulting key Organizational, Member State and humanitarian sector constituencies on WHO's ongoing reform process. During calls with the **six WHO Regional Offices** held between 1-7 September, main points that emerged included:

- A **unified WHO operational platform** is essential for implementing the Organization's response to emergencies.
- Stronger **resource mobilization, staffing, administrative and logistics systems** are needed to enable WHO to meet its commitments in the emergency domain.
- Boosting WHO's capacities in emergencies must start at **country level**.

On 7 September, the Advisory Group Chair and WHO held a teleconference with over 20 **Global Health Cluster** representatives. Key points raised included the need for WHO to strengthen field partnerships with other operational actors, and to achieve change in workplace culture to ensure WHO performs as an emergency organization.

At a 9 September WHO **Member States** briefing, the WHO Secretariat and the Advisory Group Chair explained that the:

- **Operations platform** will enable WHO to actively support governments and countries; work across the spectrum of all emergencies; and draw on WHO's scientific expertise and standard-setting ability;
- **The Global Health Emergency Workforce** will be a key contributor to the operations platform and will allow for health and emergency experts from around the world to be called on as part of a response.
- **WHO's Contingency Fund for Emergencies** aims to ensure adequate financing is in place to rapidly scale up WHO's outbreak and emergency response.

Download the presentations to Member States on **Reform Roadmap** and **Systems, Policies and Procedures**

2nd Advisory Group meeting focuses on operational platform, partnerships



The **Advisory Group** supporting the emergency reform met for the second time on 26 August, providing guidance on specific functions that WHO is expected to perform in outbreaks and emergencies. WHO must ensure that its operations platform is predictable, dependable, capable, adaptable and accountable. Responding to requests for assistance from authorities inside countries (and/or groups actively responding in-country) when

people's health is at increased risk will be the platform's main function, according to the Advisory Group. Other functions should include:

- **Defining risks associated** with outbreaks, complex emergencies and natural disasters (slow or sudden-onset);
- **Preparing** for responses to these risks;
- Implementing effective responses in ways that **reduce people's suffering and loss of life**; and
- Ensuring the **recovery and revitalization** of systems that protect health and well being.

The platform should enable WHO's contribution to be fully integrated with governments, in-country partners and international supporters. It must offer unambiguous direction and support rapid scale-up, scale-down and prompt repositioning of WHO action in response to assessed needs. WHO must be able to deploy people with administrative, operational, coordination, communications, logistic, technical and leadership skills. Guidance was provided on improving WHO's partnering in national, regional and global contexts, especially through active development of coordination mechanisms, like the Health Cluster.

Download the 2nd Advisory Group meeting report

Review Committee examines role of the IHR in the Ebola response, launches steps for change



On 24-25 August, the Review Committee examining the role of the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) in the Ebola outbreak and response met for the first time, and identified several areas of the IHR requiring attention. These included poor compliance by State Parties in building core IHR capacities; the imposition of travel and trade restrictions exceeding IHR Emergency Committee recommendations; and the lack of an alternative formal health risk alert level to the PHEIC, or public health emergency of international concern. The IHR Review Committee's work forms the core of one of the six priority areas of the reform of WHO's outbreak and emergency capacities.

Download the Review Committee meeting report

Upcoming events

- 21-22 September: World Bank Group-WHO joint meeting: Pandemic Financing Stakeholders Meeting
- 22 September: **WHO Advisory Group** third teleconference

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