

## 2. Learning from JEE to advance IHR national actions



Four Joint External Evaluation (JEE) missions have been conducted in the Western Pacific. The first one was done in Cambodia.

Since 2010, monitoring and evaluation that promotes accountability and learning has been one of eight focus areas of APSED. The process has included regular stakeholder review and progress reporting, such as the annual Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting, simulation exercises, outbreak reviews and joint evaluation. The four components of the new IHR (2005) Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, which are annual reports, after-action reviews, exercises and Joint External Evaluation (JEE), will be fully embedded in APSED III.

Over the past year, WHO has spearheaded the JEE process, a voluntary, collaborative government and external expert peer-to-peer review of country capacity under IHR (2005). JEE promotes learning for continuous programme improvement, accountability and collective action. The JEE process usually consists of two stages: an initial self-evaluation conducted by the host country using the JEE tool, followed by a joint evaluation conducted by a team of national and international experts who review country capacities in 19 technical areas.

The results of the JEE process contribute to the updating of national action plans for health security.

In the Western Pacific Region, JEE provides momentum for advancing IHR (2005) capacities and a platform for high-level advocacy for investments in health security and the promotion of country ownership. JEE also fosters multisectoral and international collaboration. Since 2016, four JEE missions have been conducted in the Region: Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Viet Nam. Two more missions are planned in 2017: Australia and the Republic of Korea.

Some overarching recommendations from JEE missions focus on updating and implementing national action plans as guided by APSED III to advance IHR (2005) implementation, providing sustainable financing for health security, enacting laws consistent with international obligations, implementing a workforce strategy that includes the public health workforce, improving multisectoral coordination and fostering a culture of learning for continuous improvement.

WHO will continue to coordinate JEE missions in collaboration with Member States, partners and global initiatives, such as the Global Health Security Agenda, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), FAO, and other technical agencies and collaborating centres. ■