1. Greater compliance, accountability and transparency

The fundamental principles of accountability and transparency underpin all WHO work. The Organization always must be accountable to Member States, first and foremost, as well as to the donors and partners who support WHO work. And the Organization must be transparent in all it does. Work on strengthening accountability, transparency and compliance in the Western Pacific Region has continued over the past year.

The Regional Office now has a full-time Compliance and Risk Management Officer, reporting directly to the Regional Director. The Regional Office also is taking a leadership role globally in spearheading greater accountability, transparency and compliance.

For example, the Regional Office led the conversion of the Internal Control Framework, a self-assessment checklist, to a more user-friendly, web-based tool for worldwide use. In November 2016, the Western Pacific Region hosted the first-ever global meeting of compliance and risk management officers.

The Regional Office continues to promote a strong culture of compliance and risk management, including full on-time compliance of DFC reports and staff evaluations. The Regional Office also takes accountability to our donors very seriously, ensuring that high-quality reports to donors are submitted on time. The Compliance and Risk Management Officer produces a quarterly compliance report for the Regional Director to ensure continued focus on and sustainability of compliance with key organizational accountability measures and reforms.

In November 2016, WHO joined the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) – a voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative that seeks to improve the transparency of aid, development and humanitarian resources in an effort to increase their effectiveness in tackling poverty. Members include donor and recipient countries and also organizations representing civil society and the private sector, as well as national and international nongovernmental organizations.

A new policy on information disclosure is being rolled out over the next two years as part of WHO’s commitments to IATI.

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