Status of IHR implementation in the Americas

Roberta Andraghetti, WHO/PAHO/CHA/IR

Seventh ICAO Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) Americas Meeting

Mexico City, Mexico, 6-9 September 2016
International Health Regulations (IHR)

- A legal tool – 10 Parts, 66 Articles, 9 Annexes – that describes procedures, rights and obligations for 196 States Parties and WHO

- From three diseases to all public health hazards, irrespective of origin or source
- From preset measures to adapted response
- From control of borders to containment at source

- Requested, developed and negotiated by Member States
  - Based on dialogue, transparency and trust
  - State’s commitment – beyond the health sector
  - Not a new technical discipline (…existing…)
Article 2 - Purpose and scope of the IHR

...to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.
National Core Capacities: 2012-2014 and 2014-2016 Extensions

Americas

- **2012**: Core capacities attained and could be maintained
  - Self-determination core capacities present: 6/35 SP
  - Requested and automatically granted extension: 29/35 SP, incl. all SP in the Caribbean
  - Requests for extension is a sign of national responsibility
  - IHR as a tool to support continuous preparedness process and institutional strengthening
  - Concerns about sustainability due to disconnection of Action Plans submitted from institutional planning and financing mechanisms
  - No formal requirement to self-determine and communicate to WHO whether core capacity attained as of 15 June 2016

- **2014**: Core capacities attained and could be maintained
  - Self-determination core capacities present: 13 (6+7)/35 SP
  - Requested and granted extension by DG: 22/35 SP, incl. all SP in the Caribbean

Core Capacities = Essential Public Health Functions
Conclusion 1 (Recommendations 1-6)
The work to develop, strengthen and maintain the core capacities under the IHR should be viewed as a continuing process for all countries.
State Party Annual Reports
64th-69th World Health Assemblies, Americas, 2011-2016
Status of Core Capacities (%)

Global Health Observatory data repository: http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.IHR?lang=en
Status (%) of Core Capacities by sub-region in the Americas, States Parties Annual Reports to 69 World Health Assembly, 2014 (n=35)

Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago; Bahamas and St Lucia have not submitted the Annual Report

Central America: Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama

South America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela

North America: Canada, Mexico, United States
Public Health Events of Potential International Concern by Initial Source of Information

Americas, 1 Jan 2001-27 July 2016 (n=1,523; 29% of global total)

Substantiated 774 (51%)
No outbreak 452 (30%)
Discarded 189 (12%)
Unverifiable 31 (2%)
Blank 76 (5%)
National IHR Focal Point (NFP)

Connectivity Test – Email, Americas, 2007-2015

Connectivity Test – Telephone, Americas, 2007-2015
Substantiated Public Health Events of Potential International Concern by Hazard Americas, 1 Jan 2001-27 July 2016 (n=774; 24% substantiated events globally)

UN GA Resolution - A/RES/42/37C, 1987

Art. 22 and 27:
…competent port health authorities…
Substantiated Public Health Events of Potential International Concern
Secure Event Information Site
15 June 2007-27 July 2016 (n=472; 43% in the Americas)

135 States Parties with at least one posting, incl. 37 countries and territories in the Americas

Top 5 aetiologies
117 Influenza (zoonotic)
48 Zika Virus related
32 Coronavirus
21 Cholera
18 Ebola Virus Disease
Points of Entry

All PoE → Need for National Port Health Strategy

**Authorized Ports →** 484 in 27 States Parties in the Region; 10 additional ones in 8 overseas territories of France, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom

**Designated Ports, Airports, and Ground Crossings →**
- 64 Ports in 31/35 States Parties
- 78 Airports in 34/35 States Parties
- 22 Ground Crossings in 9/35 States Parties

**Certified Ports and Airports →**
Two rounds of consultations with SP in 2014 and on draft procedures. Final document not yet available
Points of Entry…and additional public health measures…

During the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014-2015 at least 14 States Parties in the Region

http://www.who.int/ihr/ports_airports/en/
Certificates of vaccination or other prophylaxis

Yellow Fever

Update of “International Travel and Health”, WHO, 2016

Replies from 18 out 35 States Parties
Certificates of vaccination or other prophylaxis

Yellow Fever
IHR Roster of Experts

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<tr>
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<th>Globally</th>
<th>Americas</th>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Active&quot; Experts</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>111</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Party designated</td>
<td>66 (64 SP)</td>
<td>7 (6 SP)</td>
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15 States Parties: Argentina (7), Barbados (1), Brazil (8), Canada (14), Chile (4), Colombia (2), Costa Rica (1), Dominica (1), Jamaica (2), Mexico (3), Panama (1), Peru (4), Trinidad and Tobago (1), United States (56), Venezuela (2)

- IHR Emergency Committee (2009-2010), 2009 H1N1 pandemic → PHEIC
- IHR Emergency Committee (2013-?), MERS-CoV → no PHEIC to date
- IHR Emergency Committee (2014-?), Polio → PHEIC
- IHR Emergency Committee (2014-2016), Ebola → PHEIC
- IHR Emergency Committee (2016-?), Zika → PHEIC
- IHR Emergency Committee (2016-?), Yellow Fever → no PHEIC to date

- IHR Review Committee (2010-2011), 2009 H1N1 pandemic → Resolution WHA64.1
- IHR Review Committee (2015-2016), Ebola → Decision WHA69(14)
(a) to assess the **effectiveness** of the IHR with regard to the prevention, preparedness and response to the Ebola outbreak, with a particular focus on **notification** and related incentives, **temporary recommendations**, **additional measures**, **declaration** of a **PHEIC**, national **core capacities**, and context and links to the Emergency Response Framework and other **humanitarian responsibilities** of the Organization;

(b) to assess the status of **implementation of recommendations from the previous Review Committee in 2011** and related impact on the current Ebola outbreak;

(c) to **recommend steps to improve** the functioning, **transparency**, **effectiveness and efficiency** of IHR, including **WHO response**, and to strengthen preparedness and response for future emergencies with health consequences, with proposed **timelines** for any such steps;
Recommendations of the Review Committee

(i) a strategy to ensure implementation of the IHR based on new proposals (Recommendations 1–6)

1. Implement rather than amend the IHR
2. Develop a Global Strategic Plan to improve public health preparedness & response
3. Finance IHR implementation, including to support the Global Strategic Plan
4. Increase awareness of the IHR & reaffirm the lead role of WHO within UN system in implementing the IHR
5. Introduce and promote external assessment of core capacities
6. Improve WHO’s risk assessment & risk communication

(ii) improved delivery of the IHR by reinforcing existing approaches in IHR implementation (Recommendations 7–12)

7. Enhance compliance with requirements for Additional Measures & Temporary Recommendations
8. Strengthen National IHR Focal Points
9. Prioritize support to the most vulnerable countries
10. Boost IHR core capacities within health systems strengthening
11. Improve rapid sharing of public health & scientific information & data
12. Strengthen WHO’s capacity & partnerships to implement the IHR & respond to health emergencies
(2) to request the Director-General to develop for the consideration of the Regional Committees in 2016 a draft global implementation plan for the recommendations of the Review Committee that includes immediate planning to improve delivery of the International Health Regulations (2005) by reinforcing existing approaches, and that indicates a way forward for dealing with new proposals that require further Member State technical discussions.

Draft global implementation plan for the recommendations of the Review Committee, July 2016

The Regional Committee is invited to provide comments on the Director-General’s draft global implementation plan for the recommendations of the Review Committee on the Role of the International Health Regulations (2005) in the Ebola Outbreak and Response, to inform the development of a final version of the implementation plan for the consideration of the Executive Board at its 140th session, in January 2017.
Therefore, considering Assembly’s Decision WHA69(14), PASB is inviting the 158th Executive Committee to consider:

a) Holding a **face-to-face regional consultation** [...] to:

i. consider the relevance for the Americas of each of the 12 recommendations by the IHR Review Committee and, where applicable, define the key actions for their implementation in the Region;

ii. define the **areas of work** of a prospective regional IHR plan;

iii. agree on the content of a **prospective related resolution** to be approved by the **55th Directing Council** [...] September 2016.
A government official with intra- and inter-sectoral IHR application and implementation coordinating function, who is extremely familiar with national IHR related operational and administrative arrangements, and has a thorough knowledge and understanding of IHR provisions and related WHO Governing Bodies documents;

Government officials from the Ministry of Health’s External/International Relations Office or from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who is familiar with WHO and PAHO Governing Bodies’ processes and procedures and, possibly, with experience of direct participation

Experts from the Region

WHO and PAHO staff
Conclusion 1 (Recommendations 1-6)
The work to develop, strengthen and maintain the core capacities under the IHR should be viewed as a continuing process for all countries.
- Ownership
- Empowerment
- Americas as pathfinder
- Mutual accountability
- Peers pressure
- Accountability of the Secretariat
- …because we forget and got entangled…
Thank you