

# ACTIVITY REPORT

## 2010



International Health Regulations  
Coordination Department



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Design & layout: Agence Crayon Bleu: +33 (0)4 72 61 09 99

Printed in Lyon, France



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## → Acronyms

<b>ACI</b>	Airports Council International
<b>AFRO</b>	WHO Regional Office for Africa
<b>AMRO/PAHO</b>	WHO Regional Office for the Americas
<b>BTWC</b>	Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention
<b>CAPSCA</b>	Cooperative Agreement for Preventing the Spread of Communicable Diseases through Air Travel
<b>CDC</b>	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<b>CLSI</b>	Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute
<b>EIS</b>	IHR Event Information Site
<b>EMRO</b>	WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
<b>EQA</b>	External Quality Assessment
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EURO</b>	WHO Regional Office for Europe
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FETP</b>	Field Epidemiology Training Programme
<b>GLaD</b>	Global Laboratory Directory
<b>IATA</b>	The International Air Transport Association
<b>ICAO</b>	International Civil Aviation Organization
<b>IAEA</b>	International Atomic Energy Agency
<b>IHR</b>	International Health Regulations
<b>IPC</b>	Infection Prevention and Control
<b>IVB</b>	WHO Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals Department
<b>LBS</b>	Laboratory Alliances and Biosafety Team
<b>LQS</b>	Laboratory Quality and Management Strengthening Team
<b>NCM</b>	National Capacity Monitoring Team
<b>NFP</b>	National IHR Focal Point
<b>NSS</b>	National Surveillance and Response Strengthening Team
<b>OIE</b>	International Office of Epizootics
<b>PAG</b>	Ports, Airports and Ground Crossings Team
<b>PAGnet</b>	Public Health and Ports, Airports and Ground Crossings Network
<b>PHEIC</b>	Public Health Emergency of International Concern
<b>PoE</b>	Points of Entry
<b>REACT</b>	Reaction to Emergency Alerts Using Voice and Clustering Technologies
<b>RPI</b>	Regulations, Procedures and Information Team
<b>SEARO</b>	WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia
<b>SSC</b>	Ship Sanitation Certificate
<b>TEPHINET</b>	Training Programmes in Epidemiology and Public Health Intervention Network
<b>UNWTO</b>	United Nations World Tourism Organization
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>WER</b>	Weekly Epidemiological Record
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WPRO</b>	WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific

## → Foreword



↑ Sixty-third World Health Assembly 2010, Committee A on IHR implementation

For the World Health Organization, 2010 was a year of great challenges. In 2009, for the first time since their entry into force in June 2007, the revised International Health Regulations (IHR) were put to the test by pandemic H1N1 2009. And at the start of 2010, as the pandemic continued to make its way around the globe, the external review of WHO's response to the pandemic began its deliberations.

WHO, led by Director-General Dr Margaret Chan, welcomed the external review of the IHR, seeing this as a unique opportunity for the Organization to receive a frank and critical assessment of how the IHR have functioned and how the international community responded to the pandemic. Throughout the process, we have been seeking lessons about what worked well as well as what did not work, and ideally why. We believe this will help us to strengthen the management of future public health emergencies of international concern.

Throughout 2010 the IHR coordination department worked to facilitate the mission of the Review Committee, hosting meetings and providing the Committee with all the documentation needed to enable Committee members to make the most thorough and comprehensive review possible. The preliminary report of the Committee will be presented to the Executive Board in January and the final report to the World Health Assembly in 2011. It will provide WHO with valuable information and recommendations on

how to make the IHR work better at helping the world contain potential public health events of international concern at the source.

While the pandemic continued and the Department supported the pandemic review process, we continued our support to countries to meet the next major deadline for implementation of the IHR in 2012. By that time the 194 States Parties to the Regulations are to have met the core capacity requirements set out in the IHR. This is the commitment that States Parties have made; in turn, WHO has committed to provide the appropriate tools, guidance and support to achieve these goals.

The IHR coordination department does not work alone. As part of the Health Security and Environment Cluster, it works closely with the Department of Global Alert and Response, the Global Influenza Programme, Food Safety Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases, Public Health and Environment and the Polio Eradication Programme. It also relies closely on the commitment of the six WHO regional offices and 147 country offices around the world.

This report highlights key activities of the IHR coordination department over the past year in collaboration with the above-mentioned WHO Regional Offices, departments, programmes and partners.



## → Introduction

In 2010 the International Health Regulations Coordination Department was tasked with support to the work of the International Health Regulations Review Committee. This followed the agreement of the WHO Executive Board with the proposal of the Director-General to convene an IHR Review Committee to carry out a detailed evaluation of the international preparedness and response to the H1N1 influenza pandemic as well as the functioning of the IHR since their entry into force in 2007. This is the first Review Committee to be convened under the IHR and a number of Departments at WHO Headquarters (HQ), as well as from the Regional Offices have been supporting the Committee's work.

The influenza pandemic continued until August 2010, and the International Health Regula-

tions continued to provide a framework for key aspects of the global response. Notably, the IHR Emergency Committee met on three occasions to review and advise the WHO Director-General regarding the temporary recommendations issued under the IHR in response to the pandemic and, in the later meetings, advise on the issue of declaring the end of the pandemic and terminating the public health emergency of international concern. While all six IHR Coordination teams were involved in supporting the external review of pandemic H1N1 2009, the Regulations, Procedures and Information team was involved in assisting in the review process on a daily basis. This work continued throughout the end of the year and will be ongoing until the Review Committee presents its findings and recommendations to the World Health Assembly in May 2011.

### External Review of the response to pandemic H1N1 2009

#### The terms of reference for the Committee are:

- 1** - to assess the functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) in relation to the current pandemic (H1N1) 2009 and other public health events;
- 2** - to review the scope, appropriateness, effectiveness, and responsiveness of global actions as well as the role of the WHO Secretariat in supporting pandemic preparedness, alert and response in relation to the pandemic;
- 3** - based on the above, to identify and review the major lessons learnt from the global response to the current pandemic and to recommend actions to be taken by Member States and the Director-General to strengthen the preparedness and response to potential future influenza pandemics and other public health emergencies.

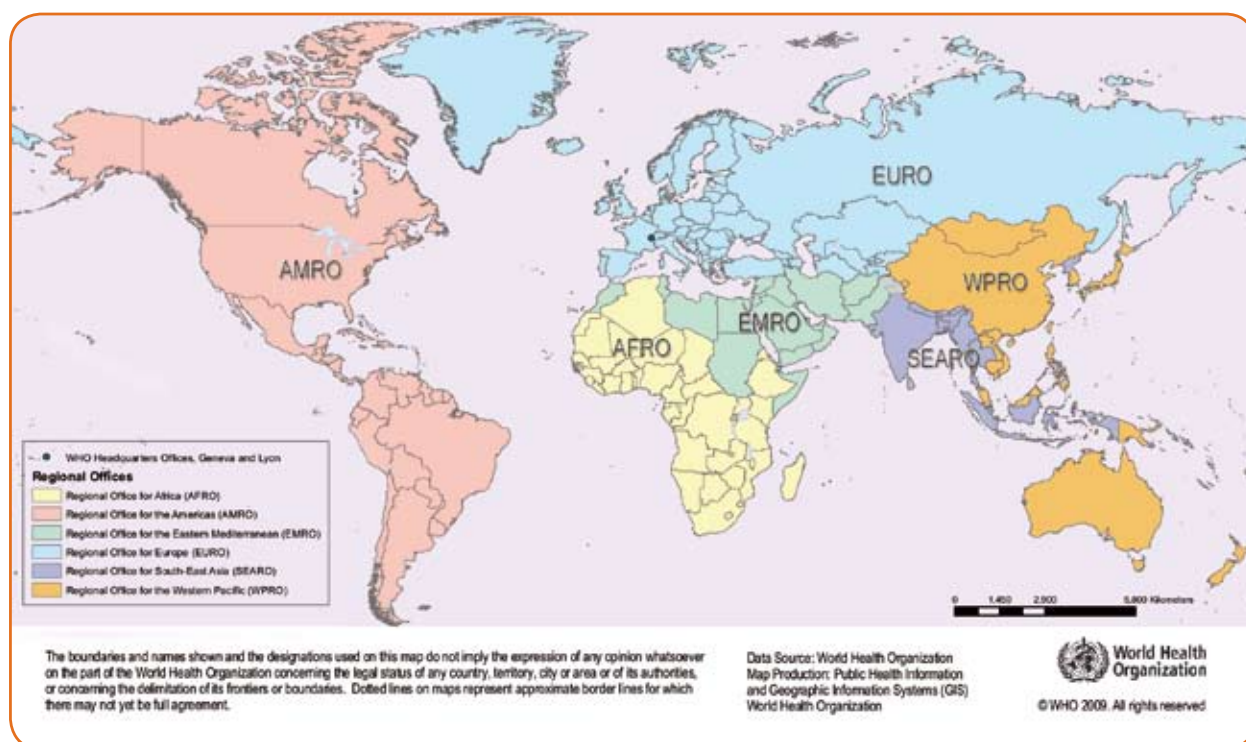
The Committee has met in full session on three

occasions since April 2010 and has conducted intersessional work through teleconferences, electronic exchanges and face to face deliberations. Testimony has been solicited from WHO and external organizations and individuals in writing and by interviews either face to face or by telephone. A large amount of documentation relating to both the pandemic and IHR implementation has been reviewed by the Committee.

The Committee proposes to finalize its report in the first quarter of 2011 before meeting again in full session after which the Director-General will present their report to the World Health Assembly in May. The recommendations coming from the Committee are expected to provide strategic direction for WHO's continuing efforts to prepare the world for future pandemics and support countries in implementing the IHR.



↓ World Health Organization:  
193 Member States, 6 regional offices and 147 country offices



## Supporting countries to assess national core capacities

Throughout the review process, the technical teams, in collaboration with the WHO Regional Offices, continued their activities to support States Parties in the goal to meet by 2012 the core capacity requirements for surveillance and response and for designated ports, airports and ground crossings set out in the IHR. The work of the teams is described in this report by technical area. However, the main focus this year was on

the overall assessment of existing national capacities across all technical areas. This assessment is being used to determine a baseline of surveillance and response capacities in accordance with Annex 1A of the Regulations.

Once the national baseline capacity has been determined and plans of action developed, the next step is to monitor progress in the implementation of IHR core capacities using a monitoring

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