

Box 1 Recommendations

To Member States

1. Urgently review measures and develop plans to address the gaps in the capacity for dealing with potential importation of Ebola identified by the assessments carried out by the WHO team. Plans should address the technical and financial support for building core public health capacities and ensuring full implementation of IHR by all stakeholders.
2. Advocate strongly at the highest government level and among other stakeholders that the responsibility for IHR implementation is NOT the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Health by establishing policies and or legislation that cover the multisectoral dimension of IHR and through stakeholder committees.
3. Ensure strong intersectoral coordination and collaboration among and within States Parties of health, defence, transport, etc. to facilitate and accelerate the implementation of IHR.
4. Enhance cross-border collaboration for surveillance and response to public health events, including developing bilateral or multilateral agreements concerning surveillance and response to events of international concern at all entry points.

To WHO and partners

1. Assist the Member States in addressing the main gaps identified during the country assessments, support the implementation of the action plan addressing these gaps and provide technical assistance whenever required.
2. Get more information on the robustness of States Parties IHR capacities, and explore options to move from a checklist approach to a more action-oriented approach, with periodic evaluation of functional national capacities. WHO should initiate a consultative process for strengthened self-assessment systems including an “after action” review to establish an evidence-based approach to assessing effective core capacities and identifying relevant performance-oriented indicators.
3. Enhance linkages with regional and international partners to support countries in strengthening their IHR core capacities, i.e. air/maritime transport sector and human–animal interface in zoonotic diseases.
4. Develop simulation/drill/exercise guidelines to facilitate best practices and experience-sharing within the Region for these activities.
5. Create a regional network for sharing learning experiences and encourage solidarity to support countries in building their IHR core capacities.
6. As soon as possible, conduct a regional evaluation of the outbreak reviews to facilitate cross-Region learning and distil lessons learnt for future IHR programming.