JOINT EXTERNAL EVALUATION

The Joint External Evaluation (JEE) is a voluntary, collaborative assessment of a country’s ability to find, rapidly stop, and prevent disease outbreaks and other public health threats. The JEE is a component of the Monitoring and Evaluation framework of the International Health Regulations (IHR), a binding agreement signed in 2005 by 194 World Health Organization (WHO) Member States.

JEE PROCESS

1. A country volunteers for a JEE and asks WHO to initiate the process.
2. The country conducts a comprehensive self-evaluation.
3. WHO helps to assemble an international team, which visits the country to validate the self-evaluation.
4. The external evaluation team drafts a report documenting the scores and recommendations to improve preparedness.
5. Based on the final report, countries develop or update their plans to address epidemic preparedness gaps.

BENEFITS TO HOST COUNTRIES

The JEE can help countries:
- Close critical gaps in epidemic preparedness.
- Measure progress on epidemic preparedness.
- Highlight needs for current and prospective donors and partners.
- Collect baseline data for annual self-evaluations and follow-up JEEs.
- Benefit from the broad perspective of local and international experts.
- Exchange information about ways to close preparedness gaps.

HOST COUNTRIES AND DONORS IN PARTNERSHIP

As of June 2018:
- 75+ countries have completed a JEE
- 20+ countries are planning a JEE
- 50+ countries can begin to utilize JEE results to inform country preparedness

JEE ASSESSMENT

The JEE assesses a country’s ability to find, stop and prevent public health risks across 19 preparedness areas:

Prevent Outbreaks
- National legislation, policy and financing
- IHR coordination, communication and advocacy
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Zoonotic diseases
- Food safety
- Biosafety and biosecurity
- Immunization

Find & Verify Outbreaks
- National laboratory system
- Real-time surveillance
- Reporting
- Workforce development

Stop Outbreaks
- Preparedness
- Emergency response operations
- Linking public health and security authorities
- Medical countermeasures and personnel deployment
- Risk communication

Protect from other Health Threats
- Points of entry
- Chemical Emergencies
- Radiation Emergencies
Throughout the JEE process, there are expectations for both host countries and donors. Data and lessons learned from JEEs help to match gaps with resources to improve global health security.

**HOST COUNTRY OPPORTUNITIES**
- Develop or update plan to fill preparedness gaps
- Implement activities to fill identified gaps
- Measure and report progress

**DONOR OPPORTUNITIES**
- Provide evidence-based investments, technical assistance and other support for capacity strengthening initiatives
- Develop strategies to engage other donors and partners
- Understand progress being made toward improving host country health systems

**SHARED OPPORTUNITIES**
- Find, stop and prevent health threats before they cross borders
- Gauge current health system capabilities to inform country-level planning and priority setting
- Prioritize financial investments and other resources to match country needs
- Engage in post-JEE action planning

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**
For more information about JEEs, please visit the following sites:
- Database of JEE country reports: http://www.who.int/ihr/procedures/implementation/en
- WHO Strategic Partnership Portal: https://extranet.who.int/spp

resolvetosavelives.org | preventepidemics.org