

PACIFIC HEADS OF HEALTH

Réunion des directeurs de la santé du Pacifique



MATAGALUEGA O LE SOIFUA MALOLOINA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
HEADQUARTERS, MOTO'OTUA

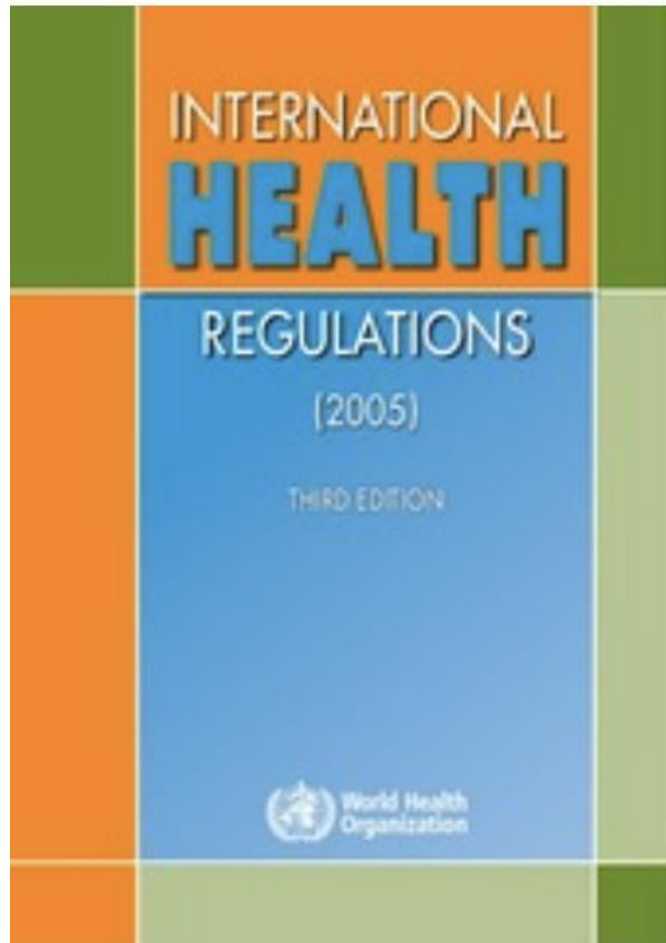
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Joint External Evaluation
Samoa Ministry of Health



Overview of International Health Regulations (2005)

International Health Regulations (IHR 2005)



*“A legally-binding instrument agreed upon by **196 states parties 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**”.*

- **Came into force on 15 June 2007**

All States Parties are required to have or to develop **minimum core public health capacities to implement the IHR 2005 effectively.**
(IHR, Art. 13)

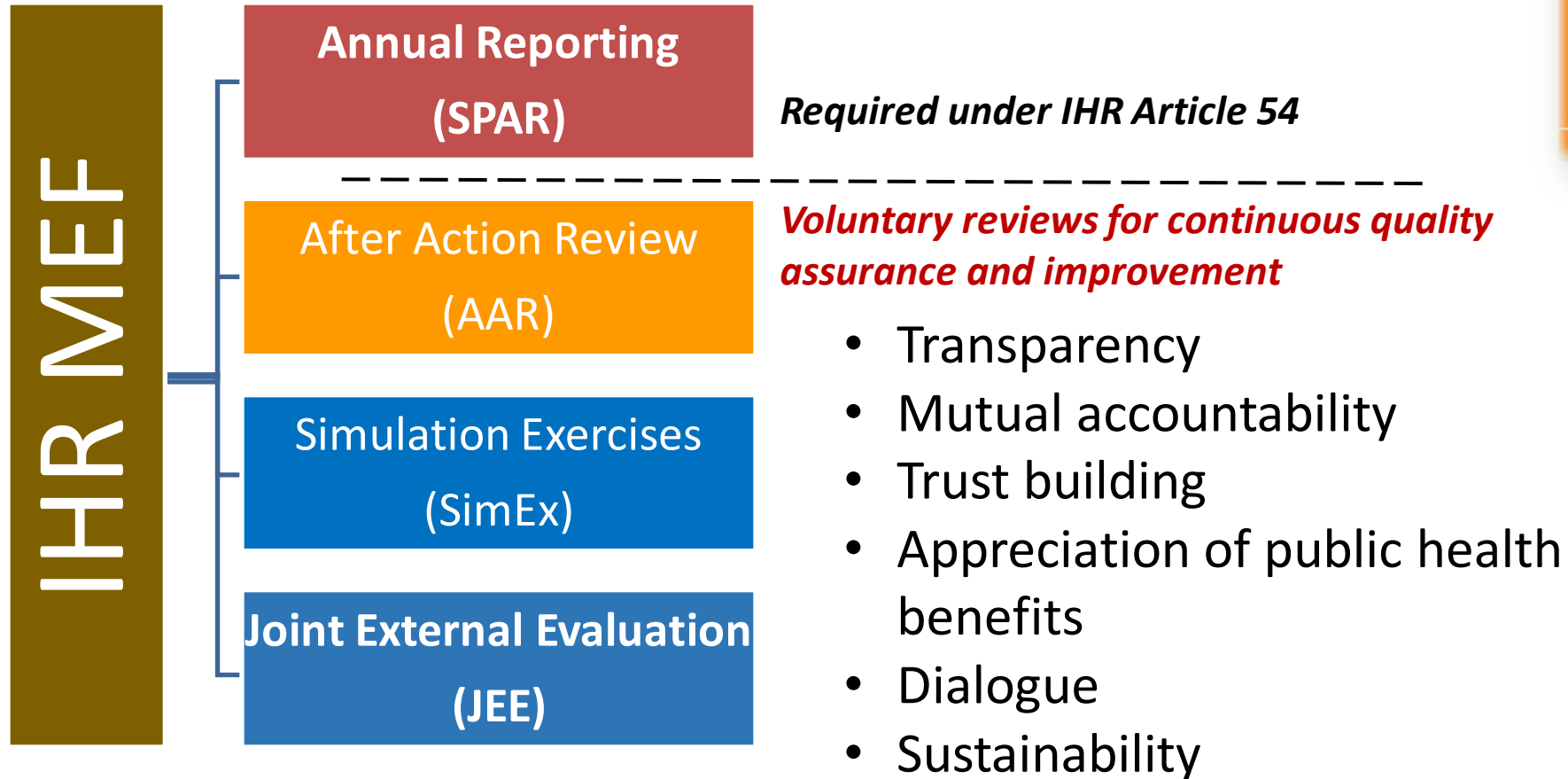
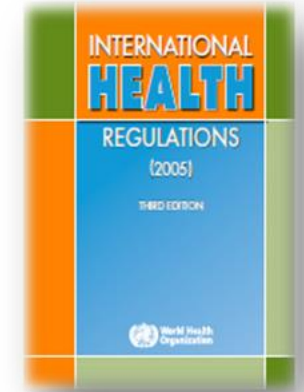
Recommendation from The 15th Pacific Health Minister Meeting (PHMM) September 2023

Strengthening health system resilience (including resilience to climate crises, and applying lessons from COVID-19 incl. mental health)

- Lead multisectoral coordination to maximize opportunities such as **Joint External Evaluations (JEE), State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting (SPAR), exercises and intra- or after action (AAR/IAR) reviews** to identify best practices and areas for improvement. Ensure that recommendations result in concrete action.



IHR MEF Components and Principles



The IHR Monitoring & Evaluation Framework:

- Follows WHA68.5 (“move from exclusive self-evaluation”)
- Noted by WHA69

Pacific Islands' Update on IHR States Parties Self-Assessment Annual Report (SPAR)



12/13 Pacific countries submitted 2023 SPAR



Most PICs carried out multisectoral engagement for self-assessment ensuring a reliable scoring



Laboratory, Surveillance, Health Emergency management, Health Service provision and RCCE are the indicators with high scores



Radiation emergencies, Chemical Events, Food safety, Zoonotic Diseases and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) are the technical areas identified with gaps for PICs

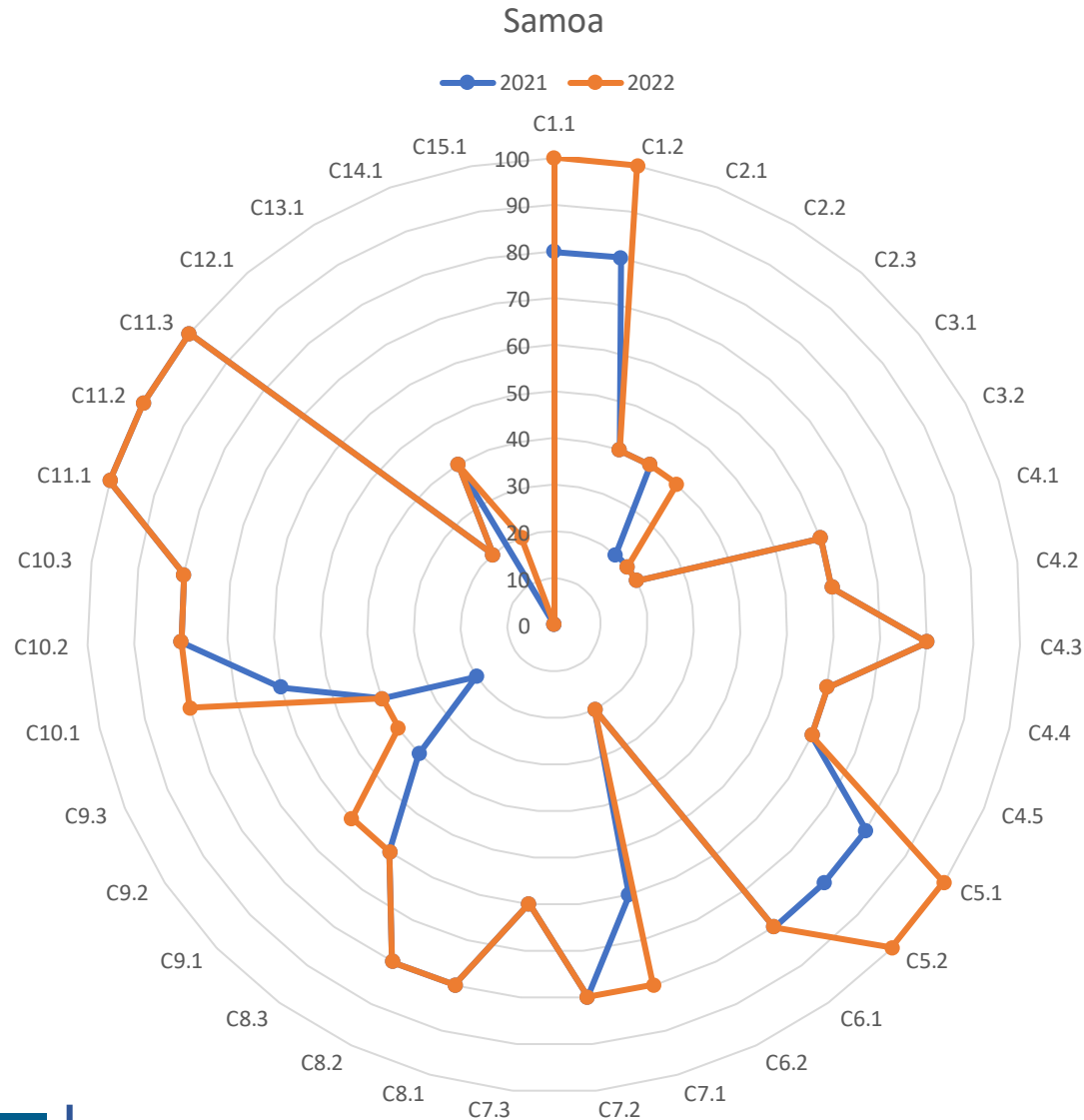


Kiribati 2023 SPAR multisector consultation, December 2023, Tarawa, Kiribati

Main Results from SPAR submission in February 2023

- Among the 15 capacities,
 - C5 (Surveillance)
 - C7 (Health emergency management),
 - C10 (Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE))
 - C15 (Radiation emergencies),
 - C12 (Zoonotic diseases),
 - C14 (Chemical events).

Samoa SPAR version 2, 2021 and 2022



Joint external evaluation - JEE

- Joint external evaluation (JEE) is a **voluntary, collaborative, multisectoral process** to assess country capacities to prevent, detect and rapidly respond to public health emergencies.
- **The JEE examines capacities across 19 technical areas** to:
 - identify the most urgent needs within their health security system,
 - prioritize opportunities for enhanced preparedness, operational readiness, and response

(<https://extranet.who.int/sph/jee>)



Joint external evaluation 3.0 – What does it cover?

PREVENT	P	Legal Instruments	RESPOND	R	Health Emergency Management
	P	Financing		R	Linking Public Health and Security Authorities
	P	IHR Coordination, National IHR Focal Point Functions and Advocacy		R	Health Services Provision
	P	Antimicrobial Resistance		R	Infection Prevention and Control
	P	Zoonotic Disease		R	Risk Communication and Community Engagement
	P	Food Safety		O	Points of Entry and Border Health
	P	Biosafety and Biosecurity		O	Chemical Events
	P	Immunisation		O	Radiation Emergencies
	DETECT	D		National Laboratory System	
D		Surveillance			
D		Human resources			



19 capacities and 56 indicators based on the IHR (2005)

Pacific Island Update JEE

- RMI, FSM and Palau conducted JEE between 2018 and 2019
- Samoa conducted JEE in October-November 2023
- JEE in the pipeline:
 - **Tonga – 29 April to 3 May 2024**
 - **Solomon Islands requested to conduct in September 2024 and**
 - **Vanuatu preparing to send the request to WHO**
- Development of National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) following the JEE and SPAR, is ongoing in all PICs that conducted JEE and SPAR
- Five PICs representative were trained on NAPHS development and process in March 2024 with further cohort to be trained in August 2024 at Pacific IHR NFP Meeting

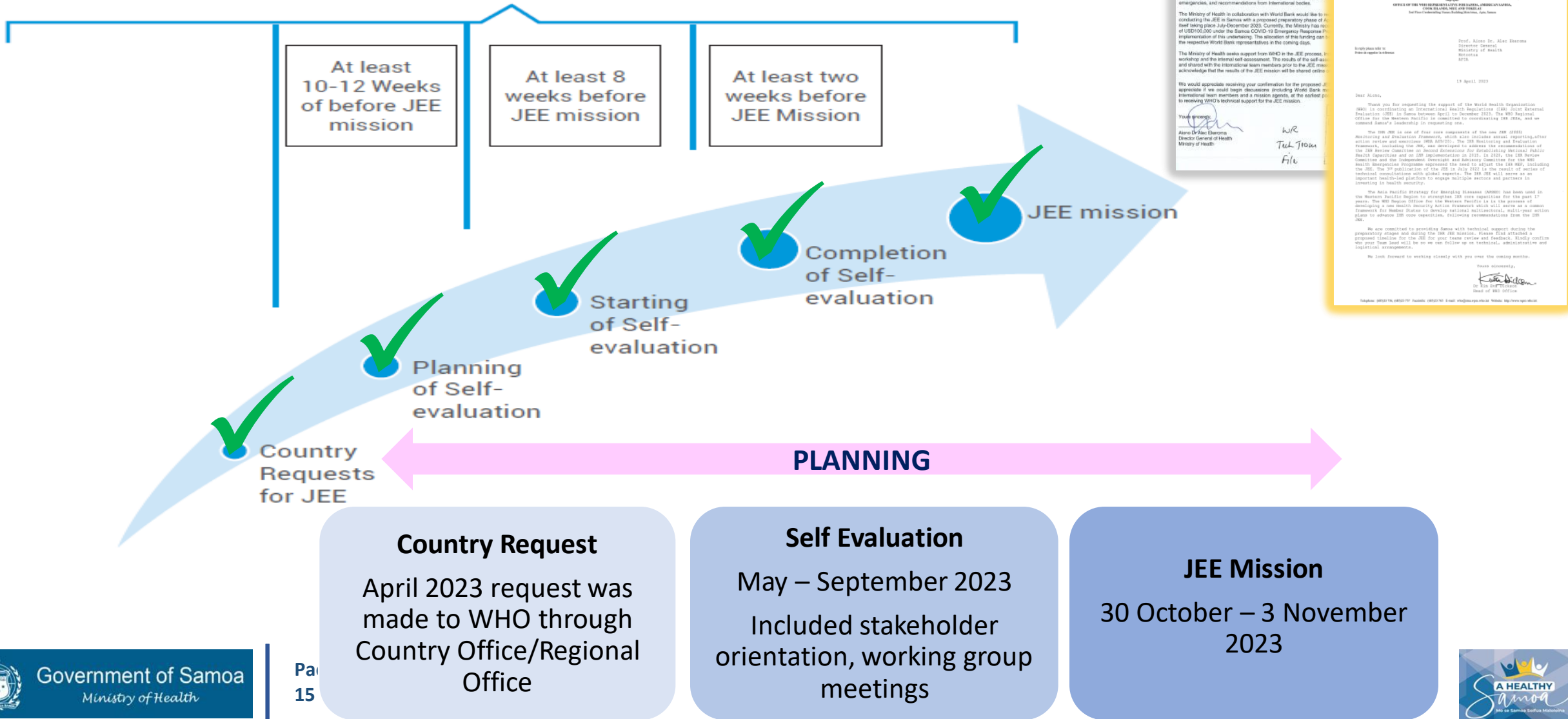




Joint External Evaluation: Samoa

JEE Process in Samoa

3 - 6 MONTHS



Please address all correspondence to the other where applicable on this document.

Government of Samoa
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Please tag: Minister, AGM, Sector, Tel: 68530

To: Dr. Kim Dickson, Regional Director of the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific

Subject: Letter requesting an IHR Joint External Evaluation Samoa, April – December 2023.

Dear Dr. Kim Dickson,

Samoa is one of the State Parties that is a signatory to the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005. IHR (2005) is an international legal instrument aimed to help prevent the spread of disease across borders and outlines the minimum core capacities required by Member States to detect and respond to disease outbreaks. For over a decade, the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases has been used in the Western Pacific Region as a framework for action for Member States to activate and strengthen core capacity under IHR (2005). Under Article 54 of the IHR (2005), countries self-report their implementation status to World Health Assembly on an annual basis.

In response to the recommendation by the IHR Review Committee in 2019, the Ministry of Health in Samoa has initiated a process to conduct a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) in Samoa. The JEE process was developed in collaboration with partners and involves the 37th edition of the JEE documenting lessons identified from COVID-19 emergencies, and recommendations from international bodies.

The Ministry of Health in collaboration with World Bank would like to conduct the JEE in Samoa with a proposed preparatory phase of 4 weeks leading up to the JEE mission in December 2023. Currently, the Ministry has allocated USD10,000 under the Samoa COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan for the implementation of this undertaking. The allocation of the funding will be shared with the respective World Bank representatives in the coming days.

The Ministry of Health seeks support from WHO in the JEE process, including the international team members and a mission agenda, at the earliest possible opportunity. We would appreciate receiving your confirmation for the proposed JEE mission in Samoa by 15 April 2023. We would also appreciate receiving your confirmation for the proposed JEE mission in Samoa by 15 April 2023. We would also appreciate receiving your confirmation for the proposed JEE mission in Samoa by 15 April 2023.

Your sincerely,
Alopi Dickson
Director General of Health
Ministry of Health

WR
Tukitua
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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC
OFFICE OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR HUMAN RESOURCES, TRAINING, AND RESEARCH

15 April 2023

Dear Alopi,

Thank you for requesting the support of the World Health Organization (WHO) in conducting an International Health Regulations (IHR) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) in Samoa between April to December 2023. The WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific is committed to conducting the JEE, and we would like to schedule a meeting in the coming days.

The WHO JEE is one of four core components of the new IHR (2005) Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, which also includes annual reporting, after action review and response (AAR), and the IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, including the JEE. We are delighted to address the recommendation of the IHR Review Committee on Samoa for conducting the JEE. The WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific is committed to conducting the JEE, and we would like to schedule a meeting in the coming days.

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We are committed to providing Samoa with technical support during the preparatory phase and during the JEE mission. Please find attached a proposed timeline for the JEE for your team review and feedback. Ready confirm we will be in touch with you on the next steps.

We look forward to working closely with you over the coming months.

Yours sincerely,
Kim Dickson
Regional Director
WHO Office

JEE Process in Samoa

- Coordination with 14 ministries and state-owned enterprises
- Collaboration with almost 100 staff from different sectors
- Compiling over 400 documentary evidence
- Responding to over 500 technical and contextual questions



Challenges

- Applicability of some of the JEE attributes to small island countries
- Lack of capacity in some technical areas is due in part to low likelihood of such hazards in country, e.g. Radiation emergencies and capability in this area is very limited due to low level radiation available in Samoa
- Bringing sectors and stakeholders together and logistics of coordinating and collaborating with ministries and sectors
- Multiple orientation sessions as different representatives from the ministries and sectors turn up each time
- Finding consensus on scoring between the different stakeholders at national level
- Pulling together the documentation and completing the questions in the self-assessment tool

Lessons Identified

- Engage stakeholders very early in the process
- Orientation workshop helped stakeholders to be on the same page and understand what the JEE is
- Convening a national-level technical working group to discuss and share health security concerns promoting a One Health approach
- Focusing on priority actions and recommendations for continuous improvement and IHR (2005) implementation rather than on JEE scores
- High-level political commitment is very important to mobilize stakeholders and to moving priority actions and recommendations forward



Recommendations and Priority Actions

Overarching Recommendations

- Develop a **five-year, risk-based, prioritized, costed and financed National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS)**
- Samoa should therefore map and review the wider policy landscape and design a stepwise plan to streamline full implementation of any policies and plans relevant to public health.



Overarching Recommendations

- Establish a multisectoral body, or adapt and/or empower an existing body, to support coordination during emergencies, preparedness and recovery phases and at all other times.
- Develop, implement and finance a One Health framework in Samoa.
- Develop and implement a coherent package of Human Resource policies, strategies and plans that mandates the strengthening of human resources for health security.



Next steps

