

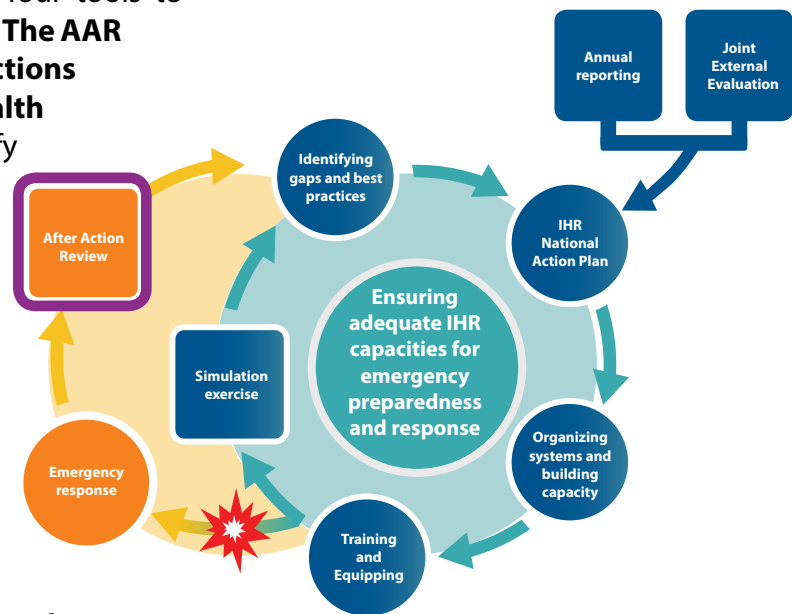
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (IHR) TOOLS FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

AFTER ACTION REVIEW

Recommended after an actual public health event

WHAT

An After Action Review (AAR) is one of the four tools to monitor and evaluate countries' IHR capacities. **The AAR is a qualitative, structured review of the actions taken in response to an actual public health event.** The review process seeks to identify and document what worked and what did not work, why events happened as they did and identify immediate and longer-term corrective actions for future responses. An AAR can focus on a single, specific function or a broad set of functions, covering one sector or multiple sectors involved in the response.



WHY

An AAR aims to enable critical reflection and insight on processes and actions put in place to respond to a public health event, and enable corrective actions for the future.

Responses to actual public health events can reveal inadequate processes and mechanisms as well as lack of human capacity that often contribute to delays or mistakes. In this case, a structured, open process for reviewing and documenting the response increases the likelihood that mistakes will not be repeated. The AAR is a simple methodology to facilitate this assessment.

HOW

An AAR brings together those who have been involved in the response in an open and transparent environment and is usually guided by an experienced facilitator, who leads participants through a series of trigger questions to structure the discussion.

AARs can vary in scope and format, ranging from quick informal sessions with team members to larger workshops with broad participation. However, all AARs should involve a structured review of events, exchange of ideas, and deeper analysis of what happened.



AAR key areas for discussions

- ✓ What should have happened?
- ✓ What actually happened?
- ✓ What worked well?
- ✓ What didn't work well?
- ✓ Why was there a difference?
- ✓ What are the recommendations for next time?

WHO support

WHO developed a dedicated methodology to support countries that wish to conduct an AAR. It consists of a guide and a toolkit.

- ✓ The guide describes the underlying process of an AAR, and provides a roadmap for designing the review, setting up working groups, developing a detailed timeline and deciding on corrective actions. It outlines the steps to be followed in each phase of the AAR process.
- ✓ The toolkit includes various practical aides such as templates, checklists and briefing notes, as well as trigger questions to be used by the facilitator.

Upon requests from countries, WHO provides further support to the AAR process. WHO can also provide experts to act as external facilitators of an AAR.

Contact us

The WHO Regional Office for Europe has a dedicated team to support and guide countries in performing IHR monitoring and evaluation.

For further information, please contact the Core Capacity Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit at

✉ eurocme@who.int

and

visit the Regional Office's IHR website:

 www.euro.who.int/ihr