

# JOINT EXTERNAL EVALUATION

*For more information on how to request a JEE, contact the Global Health Security Agenda Team at [GHSA@cdc.gov](mailto:GHSA@cdc.gov).*

## BACKGROUND

The **Joint External Evaluation (JEE)** is a voluntary, multisectoral process to **assess a country's capacity to prevent, detect, and rapidly respond to public health risks**. Since 2014 it has been a component of the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005).

With support from international partners, the World Health Organization (WHO) developed the JEE tool and process as a coordinated mechanism to advance global health security. CDC experts have participated in more than 50 JEE missions as subject matter experts. WHO and CDC HQ and Country Offices have supported countries in the planning and implementation of the JEE and Operational Plans that are based on the evaluation.

## PURPOSE

The JEE **identifies strengths and weaknesses** in a country's capacity. It can **highlight the most critical gaps** in a country's health system using a multi-sectoral approach. It can help **prioritize activities for enhanced preparedness and response**; and **engages with current and prospective donors and partners** to effectively target resources

## BENEFITS TO HOST COUNTRIES, DONORS, AND OTHER PARTNERS

### The JEE can help a country:

- Work with local and international and local subject matter experts to identify strengths and weaknesses in IHR capacities using a standardized method and assessment
- Inform country-level planning and priority-setting through the development or realignment of Strategic and Operational National Action Plans for Health Security
- Highlight resource gaps and needs for donors and partners
- Improve the quality of self-assessments using the States Parties Annual Report, a required annual reporting tool

## The JEE TOOL

The JEE Tool evaluates a country's capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to public health risks across 19 technical areas. These are further detailed in indicators and five capacity levels. National and international experts reach a consensus score on a five-point scale for each indicator.

The current 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the JEE was published in 2022. For information on how the tool was revised, refer to the **Summary of Changes in JEE 3** One-Pager.

Prevent	P1. Legal Instruments	Detect	D1. National Laboratory System
	P2. Financing		D2. Surveillance
	P3. IHR Coordination, National IHR Focal Point Functions and Advocacy		D3. Human Resources
	P4. Antimicrobial Resistance	Respond	R1. Health Emergency Management
	P5. Zoonotic Disease		R2. Linking Public Health and security Authorities
	P6. Food Safety		R3. Health services provision
	P7. Biosafety and Biosecurity		R4. Infection Prevention and Control
	P8. Immunization		R5. Risk Communication and community engagement
Other	PoE. Points of Entry and Border Health		
	CE. Chemical Events		
	RE. Radiation Emergencies		

# Advancing Global Health Security Together

## JEE PROCESS

### Self-Assessment

### External Evaluation

### Operational Planning

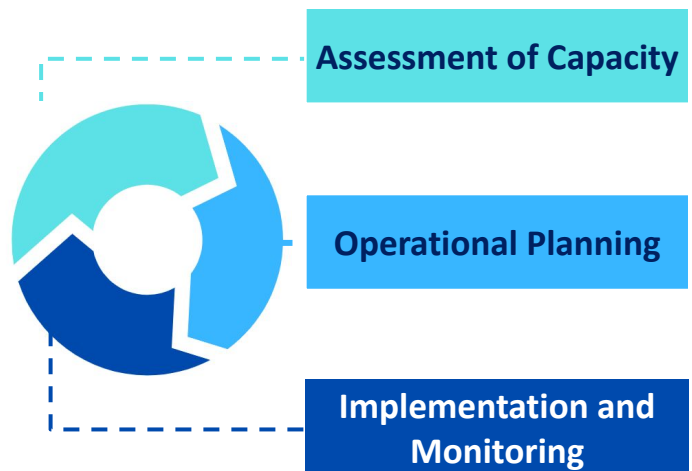
- 1 The country volunteers for a JEE, and a WHO team establishes communication with them.
- 2 The country conducts a comprehensive self-assessment using the JEE Tool, providing documentation to WHO.
- 3 An international JEE Team participates in a one-week visit to the country to validate the self-evaluation through multisectoral, interactive sessions and agrees to scores for each technical area.
- 4 The JEE Team drafts a report documenting the scores and priority actions as discussed during the visit. The host country reviews and comments.
- 5 The report is posted to the GHSA and WHO website.
- 6 Countries develop or update their National Action Plan (ideally within one year of completing the JEE) to prioritize resources and address gaps based on the JEE.

## JEEs AND THE OPERATIONAL PLANNING TOOLKIT

The Operational Planning Toolkit helps a country go from assessment to action by targeting priority gaps in health security. The primary assessment of global health security capacities is the JEE and provides the strongest foundation to create an Operational Plan.

Operational Plans (also called NAPHS Operational Plans) list sub-activities, have identified program managers, define timelines for implementation, and identify funding sources. They focus on short-term implementation (e.g. 12 months) and are expected to be updated periodically.

The **WHO Benchmarks for IHR Capacities** facilitate this process by suggesting activities to improve JEE capacities. These have not yet been updated to the JEE 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information about JEEs, please visit the following sites:

- Overview of JEE Tool: [Joint external evaluation tool: International Health Regulations \(2005\) - third edition \(who.int\)](#)
- Database of JEE Country Reports: [JEE | Strategic Partnership for Health Security and Emergency Preparedness \(SPH\) Portal \(who.int\)](#)
- Roster of Experts Process and Overview: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/259604/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.63-eng.pdf?sequence=1>
- WHO Benchmarks for IHR Capacities: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241515429>