A WHO mission to review the surveillance functions at points-of-entry as required under the International Health Regulations (IHR) took place from 1 to 4 July 2013. As part of the assessment the team reviewed the national disease surveillance system points-of-entry surveillance, as well as the event-based surveillance system. In addition, they visited several points of entry around the country. Points of entry include international airports, ports and ground crossings through which persons, baggage, cargo and postal parcels may enter a country. International travel and trade bring many health benefits but can also pose public health risks which can spread internationally.

The IHR came into force in June 2007 requiring all Member States to develop, strengthen and maintain core capacities such as legislation, surveillance, preparedness, risk communication, and points of entry.

Oman has taken many steps to fulfil these obligations, including establishing a national committee, appointing a national focal point, strengthening the surveillance system, building national capacity and developing a detailed plan of action to ensure full implementation of IHR requirements.

Related links

Regional International Health Regulations programme

International Health Regulations (IHR 2005)

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