

IHR implementation: Preparation in CAREC Member Countries

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***Serving
21 Member Countries
in the English and Dutch
Speaking Caribbean***

**(CAREC)
PAHO/WHO**



Outline

- What is IHR
- IHR implementation timeline
- Public health emergency of international concern
- Country responsibilities for IHR
- Status of implementation in CAREC Member Countries



What are the IHR?

- Legal instrument
- Agreed by WHO member states
- Agreed code of conduct
- Aims for global health security
- Latest revision in 2005



IHR(2005) Implementation Timeline

- June 15, 2007 - IHR (2005) came into force
- June 2009 – Member States to assess ability & develop plan to meet core surveillance requirements
- June 2012 – Member States to have developed core surveillance capacities
- States can apply for additional 2 year extension



Public health emergencies of international concern (PHEIC)

- Constitute a public health risk to other States through international spread of diseases
- and
- Potentially require a coordinated international response
- Includes PH threats caused by infectious diseases, chemical agents, radioactive materials and contaminated food



Public health emergencies of international concern (PHEIC)

Assessments criteria in the decision instrument:

- Seriousness of public health impact of the event
- Unusual or unexpected nature of the event
- Potential for the event to spread internationally
- Risk that restrictions to travel or trade may result because of the event



Is a case or cluster of cholera a PHEIC?

- Must meet 2 or more of the 4 criteria in the algorithm in Annex 2 of IHR
- Depends on the situation
- Cholera is one of the diseases that always requires utilization of the decision instrument
- Note: even if not PHEIC, can still consult with IHR regional focal point (e.g. have limited capacity)

PHEIC reporting timeframes

- National level assessments to be conducted within 48 hours
- Notification to WHO within 24 hours:
 - of identifying PHEIC in State
 - of potential PHEIC in another State
- Response to WHO within 24 hours for verification of health related events

IHR requires

- Strengthened national capacity in: surveillance, prevention, response and control; and public health security in travel and transport public
- Prevention, alert and response to PHEICs
- Global partnership & international collaboration
- Legal issues and monitoring: Rights, obligations and procedures; and progress monitoring



Key obligations for States

- Designate National IHR Focal Point
- Assess events and notify WHO of PHEICs
- Respond to requests for verification of information on PHEICs
- Respond to public health risks which may spread internationally

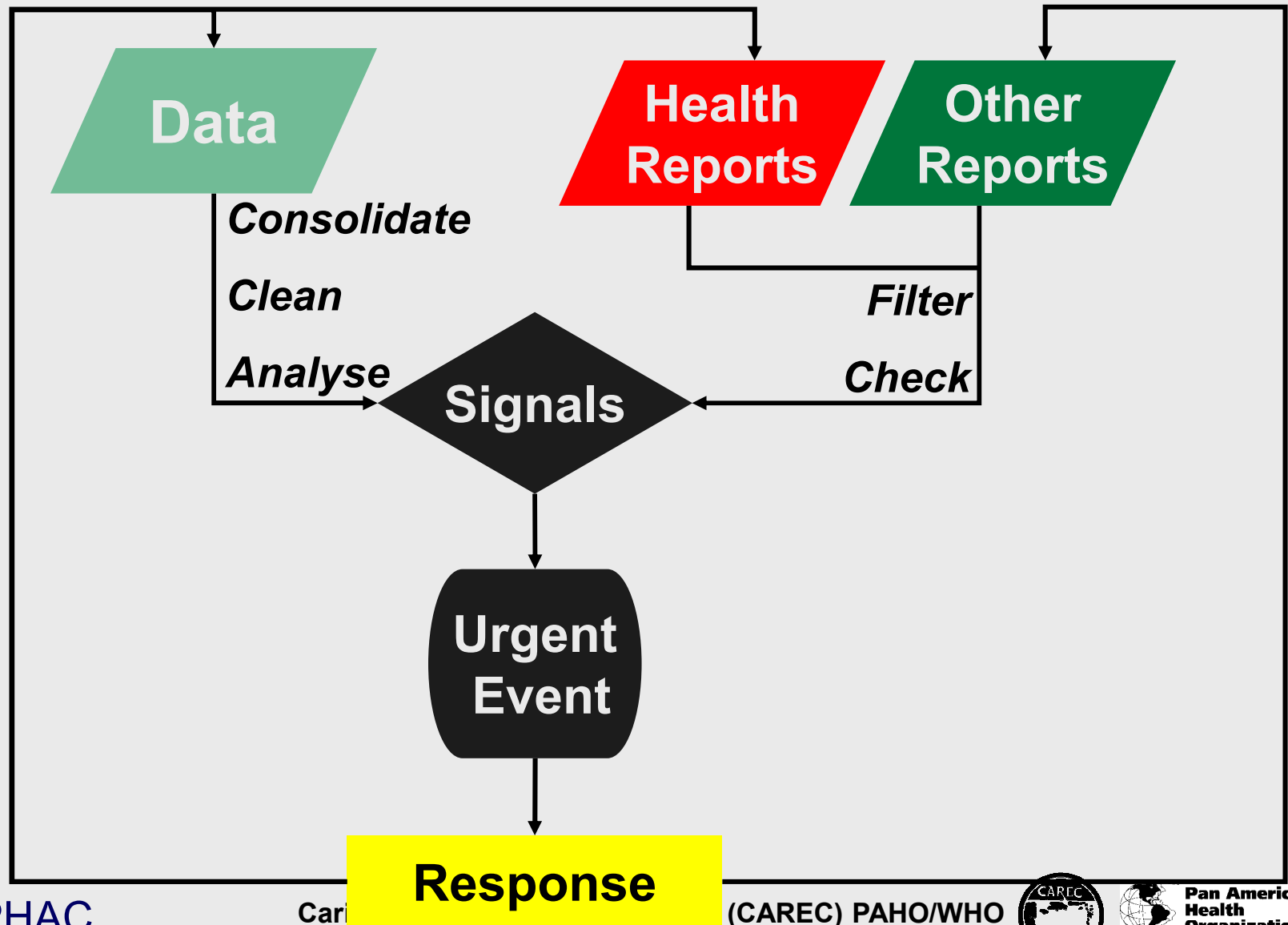


Key obligations for States (cont'd)

- Develop, strengthen and maintain capacity to detect, report and respond to public health events (at local, intermediate and national levels)
- Provide routine inspection and control activities at international airports, ports and ground crossings
- Provide public health rationale and scientific justification for additional measures which significantly interfere with international traffic



Information for a Public Health Purpose



Source: PHAC

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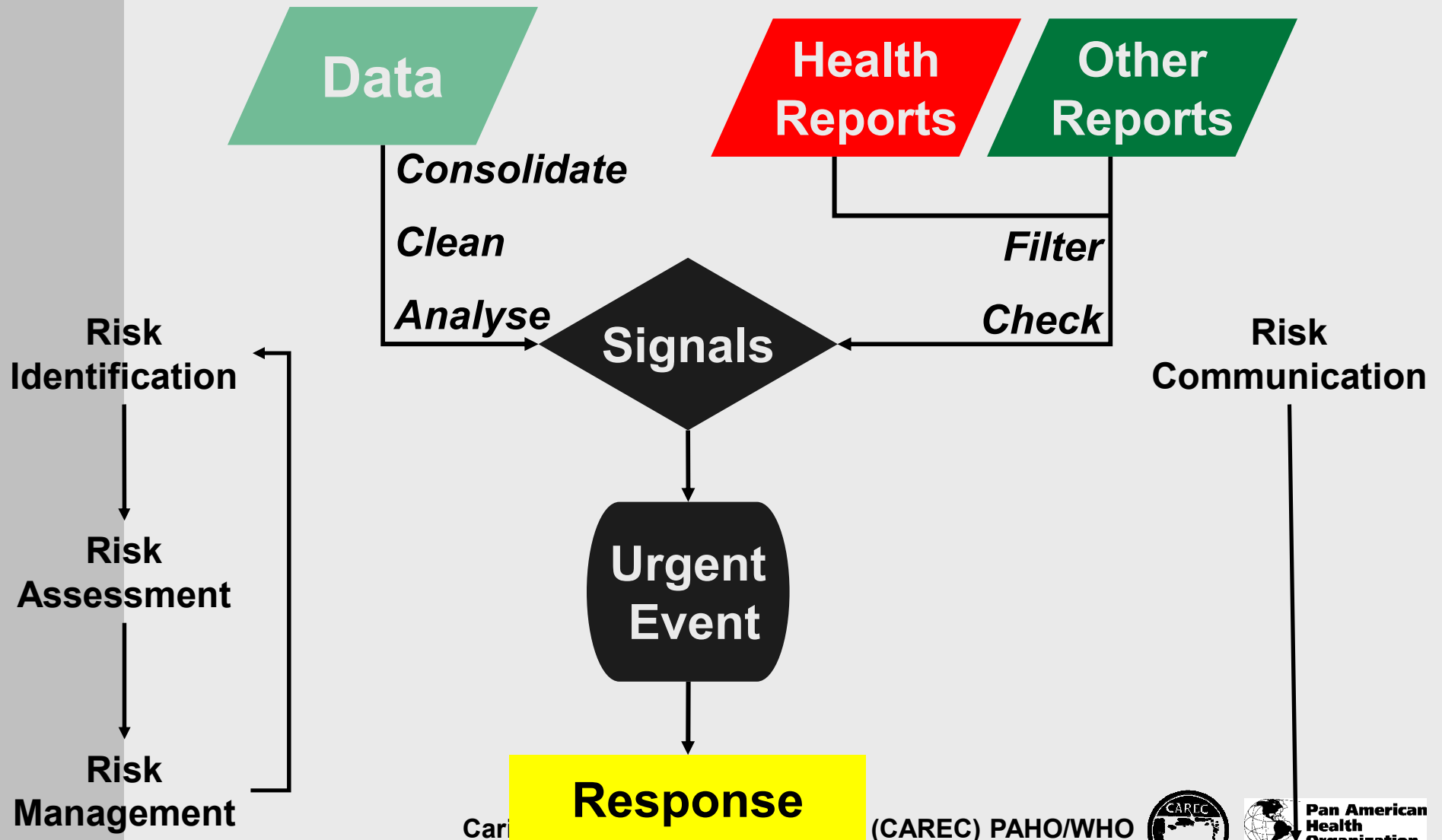
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Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Information for a Public Health Purpose

Source: PHAC



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Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Status of implementation of IHR

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Evaluations of CD surveillance systems

- Completed in 18 countries:
 - ANG, ANT, BAH, BDS, BEL, BER, BVI, CAY, DOM, GRE, GUY, JAM, MONT, SKN, STL, SVG, SUR, TNT
- 1 completed short UK assessment: TCI
- Not completed in 4 countries: ARU, CUR, STM, BES

Plans of action

- Countries have plans of action
- In various stages of implementation
- Pandemic flu reinforced the need for efficient surveillance systems able to:
 - rapidly identify changes in disease trends
 - produce timely data

IHR National Focal Points

All countries have named IHR Focal Points

But

Often a person, not an office

PHEICs

- Countries assessing events and notifying PAHO IHR Focal Point
- Countries responding to requests for verification of information on PHEICs
- Countries did well with reporting during pandemic



Thank you
for your kind attention

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