

Quality assurance checklist for a health sector or sub-sector JANS

The purpose of this checklist is to provide those involved in organising a Joint Assessment of a National health Strategy (JANS) and JANS team leaders with a mechanism for quality assuring the JANS process and output. The checklist is based on experience in countries and feedback from partners, with the aim to highlight issues that need to be addressed at each stage, while avoiding repeating points covered in the JANS tool. It should be considered alongside the JANS tool, guidelines, frequently asked questions (FAQs) and paper on options for how to conduct a JANS, at: <http://www.internationalhealthpartnership.net/en/tools/jans-tool-and-guidelines/>

The checklist is designed for self-assessment. It is recommended that:

- The group organising the JANS completes Parts 1 and 3 while planning for the JANS
- The team leader of the JANS completes Part 2 during the JANS mission.
- The checklist is finalised at the end of the mission and saved alongside the JANS report.

Quality criterion	Yes	No	Not applicable	Comments on how well the criterion is met
Part 1: Pre - JANS planning and set up stage				
1	Has a multi-partner, "joint" group been involved in arranging the JANS, including Government, non-government and external partners?			
2	Have the purposes of the JANS been clarified and agreed?			
3	Is the national strategy sufficiently developed to be ready for assessment, given the purposes defined? Are there drafts of the budget, financing projections and monitoring framework? Has implementation capacity been considered?			
4	Have external development partners been asked how they expect to use the JANS findings; whether there are particular issues that they need to see well covered in the JANS; and their likely support to the strategy?			
5	Have external development partners' requirements for other types of assessments been identified (e.g. environmental, procurement or financial management assessments)? Is there scope to harmonise or share these, to minimise the burden on national partners and avoid duplication?			
6	Does the JANS team (or process) include the following skills: public health; health systems; finance; management information systems/M&E; and civil society engagement?			
7	Does the planned JANS process meet the principles agreed for joint assessments: a) country led; b) building on existing country processes; c) inclusive of relevant stakeholders; d) with an independent element?			
8	Are different stakeholders aware of the purpose and timing of the JANS?			
9	Does the workplan for the JANS include a visit to province or district levels?			

Quality criterion	Yes	No	Not applicable	Comments on how well the criterion is met
Part 2: During the JANS mission or process				
10	Has the JANS process interviewed or involved a range of stakeholders including political level; ministries that are important for implementation such as Local Government and Finance; representatives of different types of providers, including non-state; the decentralised level; and various parts of civil society?			
11	Has the JANS looked at the strategic plans for major disease programmes to check their technical quality and their consistency with the sector strategy's situation analysis, strategies, targets, budget and monitoring framework?			
12	Is there a clear focus on results and are the indicators and targets consistent across different levels, including sub-national levels? Do they include non-state actors' activities?			
13	Has the JANS addressed the specific concerns of development partners who are planning to make funding decisions based on the JANS?			
14	Has the JANS addressed all attributes in the JANS tool? Was there adequate data and material available to assess the attributes, including attribute 12 on institutional capacity?			
15	Has the JANS report clearly identified priority areas to strengthen the national strategy?			
16	Does the JANS report have a clear executive summary which sets out recommendations on priorities and also highlights strengths of the strategy?			
Part 3: Follow up to the JANS				
17	Is there a plan for follow up after the JANS – to review the recommendations, decide which to deal with by modifying the strategy, which to address during implementation, and which are not accepted?			
18	Is it clear who is responsible for amending the strategy and what will happen after that in terms of review and approval of the strategy?			
19	Is it agreed how the response to the JANS will be recorded and shared? For example, will the JANS team be asked to update their assessment in an annex to the JANS report or will authors of the national strategy record how they took account of JANS recommendations?			