

Ebola Virus Disease Preparedness

EVD Preparedness Meeting: Taking Stock and Moving Forward

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EVD Preparedness: Strategic Approach

- **All countries** urgently ensure that they are operationally ready to effectively and safely detect, investigate and report potential EVD cases and to mount an effective response.
- Accelerate and intensify longer term capacity building and health system strengthening
 - Renewed attention to the IHR
 - Commitment to address weaknesses highlighted by EVD outbreak
 - Sustainable partner engagement
- All WHO Regions have intensified EVD preparedness activities and support to countries



Strategy - Accelerating Ebola Operational Readiness

- Partners convened by WHO in Brazzaville 8-10 October 2014
- Identified 15 priority countries
 1. Guinea Bissau, Mali, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire (bordering countries with widespread and intense transmission)
 2. Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Mauritania, Nigeria, Togo, Niger, Ethiopia, South Sudan
- All other countries in Africa
- Countries in other regions
- Constantly re-assess risk and prioritize based on risk assessment



Methods

- 1. Engage major international partners**
- 2. Build on previous assessment, existing work and plans**
 - EVD preparedness checklist, tools, guidance
 - Country Visits
 - EVD plans
 - Exercises to test existing plans, identify & close specific gaps
 - Tailored support through 30, 60, 90 day plans
 - Partner communications & outreach
- 3. Preparedness Strengthening Teams (PST)**
 - 5 -10 persons per team
 - WHO and partners (CDC/US, ECDC, USAID, PHE, INSPQ, UNICEF, OCHA, John Hopkins, Suisse Tropical Public Health Institute, Erasmus Medical Centre-Holland, French Foreign Affairs, and others)



Current Status

- Country Visits completed between October and December 2014 :
 - Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mauritania, Cameroon, Guinea Bissau, Benin, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Togo, CAR, Ethiopia, Niger (14)
- Further visits
 - Nigeria and DRC, approach oriented towards lessons learnt
 - South Sudan planned
 - Other country requests (e.g. Tchad, Equatorial Guinea)
- Visited countries have:
 - Developed national operational plans with 30, 60, 90-day requirements
 - Partially/fully costed plans
 - Received technical support in identifying key areas for improvement, and initial capacity building in urgent areas (e.g. contact tracing, IPC, Case Management, logistics, etc.)



EVD Missions: Strengths

- Multi-agency, Multi-disciplinary Partnership
- 30/60/90 Plans based on different perspectives – existing country EVD plans review, discussions, field visits, desktop exercises, field exercises.
- 30/60/90 operational plans – Prioritization of actions and budgets
- Country involvement and ownership
- Mobilization of immediate support – logistics, training, setting up EOCs



Some Challenges

Addressing country readiness & preparedness gaps

- **Strategic: Overlapping agendas & initiatives**
 - Ongoing Priorities
 - New initiatives ex. vaccines and logistics
- **Immediate: Ebola budget & funds, HR support**
 - Scale of operational demands
- **Strengthening WHO CO readiness**
 - Country offices role in coordination and leadership – HR, training, guidance, tools
 - Interagency operational arrangements for integrated preparedness and response
- **In-country challenges:**
 - Coordination, logistics, surveillance, Infection Control and prevention.....



Some Issues highlighted

- Engagement of the donor community at the country and international levels to support budgeted 30,60,90 plans.
- Provision of tailored technical support in priority countries and engage local and international partners in implementing activities.
- Identification of support across groups of countries
- Need for documentation and fora to exchange/share experiences and lessons learnt



Some Issues highlighted

- Inter-country/cross-border capacities strengthening
- Need for repeated testing and improving of procedures through field exercises and drills.
- Strengthen WHO readiness within countries.
- Need to use Ebola awareness to accelerate & intensify longer-term strengthening of health systems, health security & the IHR
- Monitor progress and evaluate outcomes



Thank you

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