



Webinar on the major developments and outcomes from the Executive Board meeting at the World Health Organization from 25 to 30 January 2016

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WHO Executive Board 138

GSO Webinar
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Table of Contents

- Zika virus
- Ebola response and reform
 - Implications for emergency preparedness
- Governance reform
- Non-state actors
- Migrant health
- Non-communicable diseases
 - nutrition
 - violence
 - UNGA High-level summit preparations
 - World drug problem and summit
 - Road safety
- Communicable diseases
 - HIV, viral hepatitis, STIs
 - Smallpox
 - Antimicrobial resistance
- Chemicals
- MDGs/SDGs
- Wrap-up and impressions



Zika virus



Microcephaly

- NOT YET CONFIRMED
 - study currently underway
- Timing is right
 - about 9 months from first report of rash → first case of microcephaly
 - upsurge officially reported October 2015
 - 13 babies last year → hundreds confirmed (and as many as 1.5 million) this year
- Long-term considerations
 - education systems
 - policy
- Guillain-Barré syndrome



Mosquitos

- Aedes mosquito
- Virus will travel with vector: 4 million cases projected
 - environmental concerns
 - Cape Verde cases
 - *type of mosquito
- Vector control
- Community education and action
- PAHO
 - region accustomed to mosquito-born diseases
 - 2013 Chikungunya



Science and Support

- No treatment, no vaccine
- USA
 - call for enhanced vector control
 - laboratory support
 - donating diagnostic tests
- Current Test
 - 3-5 days
 - underreporting
- Co-infection



Governance

- Brazil reported early
 - reflects cooperation with IHR
 - Incident Manager reporting directly to Dr. Chan
- AMRO/PAHO
 - advisory publications
 - upcoming high level meetings
- Emergency committee meeting started February 1
 - declared public health emergency February 1
- Communication and information sharing



Ebola and emergency reform



Ebola

- Global consequences
- Review
 - it is the responsibility to strengthen their capacity
 - WHO has “key role” in supporting national efforts
- DG Response
 - WHO provide technical support for IHR implementation
 - External evaluation of IHR capacity
 - Transparency, accountability, timely sharing of information
 - WHO strong in standard setting



Role of IHR in Ebola response

- Elaborate implementation strategy
- Increase IHR awareness, ownership, leadership, and understanding
- Improve public health awareness/facilitate early warning response (PHEIC)
- Strengthen IHR core capacities
- Strengthen WHO secretariat



Emergency reform

- Surveillance system must trigger action
- Reporting
- One organization-wide program
 - US: need it “signed, sealed, delivered”
- OR strengthening of resources
 - MSF: WHO as “enabler of action,” not in charge



General reform: member state consultative process

- 22 recommendations made
 - Mexico: must be integral package
- Accept all or pick and choose?
 - “low-hanging fruit”
 - must finish by WHA 69?
- Intergovernmental working group established
 - mandate extended



Key Points

- Transparency and accountability
 - International Aid Transparency Initiative
- Health systems strengthening
- Information sharing
- EB/meeting reform
 - overbooked agendas
- Regional reform
 - communication between DG and Directors
- Human resources
- Nagoya protocol



Migrant health



Focus: the refugee crisis

- WHO EURO
 - Rome meeting
- Greece: “This isn’t just Europe’s problem”
- Health in camps
 - changing demographics
 - communicable AND noncommunicable disease
 - access as Human Right
- MSF: “Policy-made humanitarian crisis”



Long term

- Must address pull factors of migration
- Multisectoral/multilateral issue
 - Coherence between UN agencies
 - Stigmatization and social exclusion
- IOM: mobility
- Health systems
 - information sharing
- Secretariat: will continue support and increase work with other UN agencies



Noncommunicable disease



Overview

- Nutrition
- Violence
 - women and girls
 - integration
- UNGA High-level meeting on NCDs
- World drug problem
- Road safety
 - Brasilia
 - draft resolution



World drug problem

- Regulation
- Access
 - needs of regulated drugs for palliative care
 - severe inequalities
- Harm reduction
 - debate
 - needle dispensaries
 - structural barriers
- Multisectoral
 - partnering with law enforcement
 - spans multiple SDGs



Maternal, infant, and young child nutrition

- Inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children
 - International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes
 - conflict of interest
 - discussion until February 29
 - NGO comments
- ICN2 promises
- Global Nutrition Report
- Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity
 - accessible nutrition info
 - sugar tax
 - marketing
 - labeling
 - healthy food environments
 - increase access to healthy foods



Communicable disease



HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STIs

- Draft global health sector strategies
- Working together with HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STIs
- Aligning goals with SDGs
- Working toward universal health coverage
- There are 5 directions to take: info for focused action, interventions for impact, delivering for equity, financing for stability and innovation for acceleration
- Widespread support for “ambitious targets”
- No “one size fits all” approach



Smallpox Overview

- Independent advisory group
 - works on synthetic biology technologies and the impact on preparedness
- Concluded: risk of the re-emergence of smallpox has changed and that there is a need to update preparedness efforts and to adapt research frameworks
- Bio safety visits were made at the labs and reports are being finalized
- Continues on an operational framework for access to WHO's emergency stockpile of smallpox vaccine in response to a smallpox event
 - includes standards for donating vaccines



Smallpox Comments

For Destruction:

- Potential outbreaks
- Lab accidents
- Should be considered separately from synthetic biology
- Further studies will just delay timeline
- Bioterrorism

Against Destruction:

- Synthetic biology causes a threat
- Need more R&D
- Potential of another outbreak so need wild, live virus for vaccination development
- Bioterrorism



Smallpox Agreement

- Restrictions/regulations on synthetic biology
- Bio safety standards
- R&D
- Data sharing
- Advisory group
- Emergency response and preparedness



EXD/OHE Response

Clarity: there is no research occurring and no licenses anti-virals at this time but will wait for the report back from the ACVVR

Looking into regulations and also preparedness tactics for the variola virus will make amendments and have it ready for World Health Assembly



Antimicrobial resistance

- Main objective: to increase political awareness, engagement and leadership on antimicrobial resistance
- High level meetings are important for ensuring implementation and motivation and to update on this pressing issue
- The potential deliverables of the high-level meeting are also being explored, and include a resolution and a political declaration
 - Resolution could be specific or just highlight call for action
- Aim to generate global momentum and commitment with regard to both implementing the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance and including antimicrobial resistance in investment decisions.



AMR Comments

- Multi-sectoral approach
 - Local, national and global levels
 - Strengthen country offices
- Universal health care and R&D essential
- Need to address issues with funding and accessibility to resources
 - Low/middle income countries should receive more help
- Information sharing
- Education/awareness on health worker level
- Suggestions:
 - China: 1. identify problem and have consultations. 2. lay down rules and regulations. 3. establish a timeline
 - France: set up an advisory group to help monitor



DG AMR Response

- Important to have global level discussion but must have ground level discussions too so we can keep the motivation and commitment
- Need to approach this issue as a holistic society and cooperate at all levels
- There is a global surveillance system under construction
- More R&D
- Looks forward to future consultations



Chemicals



Overview

- Rapid increase of chemical use world-wide
- Focuses primarily on lead and mercury
- Estimated 25% of disease burden is linked to environmental factors including chemicals
- Many countries still lack the framework capacities to deal with this demanding problem
 - Example: only 59 countries have lead regulations in paint
- SDGs can help in fixing this problem
- Strengthening role of the health sector
- Extending efforts of the Strategic Approach International Chemical Management 2020



Definite agreement

- Enhancement of health sectors
- Research and Development
- Inter-sectoral approach
- WHO as a guide and leader



Mixed opinions

- Roadmap with indicators
 - proposed by Canada
- Policy needs to be addressed
 - lack of framework for regulations
- Update training for health care workers
- Address populations that are most vulnerable



Major Issue

- FIP brought up that the resolution did not include anything on pharmaceutical chemicals
- Requests this be included in the draft since many are impacted by pharmaceuticals
 - Megacities
- Willing to include reports



MDGs/SDGs



MDGs

- Overall very successful
 - Examples: Malaria, child and maternal mortality, HIV and TB
- Completion of goals is necessary
 - We should focus on these goals before moving toward SDGs
- Look at MDGs for experience and wisdom
 - **DATA SHARING**
- Should continue to work on MDGs and work toward SDGs with commitment, motivation and determination
- There was only 8 goals and 3 focused on health while with SDGs, there are



SDGs

- Linked nature with MDGs
- Multi-sectoral approach is essential to success
- Need clarity for role of WHO
 - MDGs had 8 goals but 3 were health related. SDGs have 17 goals but only 1 is health related. Health is not less significant but WHO should focus on more than health and link the goals
- Need a strategy for tools/funds/resources
- Should be open and flexible especially for developing countries
 - more efforts toward helping them and strengthening their own resources (country offices)
- **Universal health care**
 - Will help improve more than just health related goals
- **Accountability and data sharing**
- **Ensure no one is left behind**



Impressions

- The importance of scheduling
 - The hidden battles
 - These politicians are real people!
 - It is extremely difficult for one organization to approach the health of such diverse countries
- Accountability of Member States
 - Wording is everything
 - Evolution of technology and the impacts it has on the different sectors
 - Sense of hope



The presenters

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