Update on WHO Activities in Global Health Security

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Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, 1996-2006

Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response

WHO Strategic Response

- **International Mandate**
  - Close collaboration with WHO member states under the framework of the revised International Health Regulations
- **Decentralised Structure & Capacity**
  - Ability to act as a regional and global co-ordinating force with Regional Office hubs and 142 country offices
- **Experience**
  - Building national public health capacity and co-ordinating urgent international action and communication (e.g. SARS)
- **Partnerships**
  - Networking with and mobilization of the best technical institutions including the Global Influenza surveillance Network, the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)

International Health Regulations (2005)

- The International Health Regulations (IHR) as revised in 2005 represent a major step forward in international cooperation and collective action in the fight against the spread of epidemics and pandemics.
- They embody a unique strategic approach for collective defence against these threats.
- Compliance with these modernized Regulations will help ensure that the world is not taken by surprise when outbreaks occur and that disruptions to trade, commerce, and business continuity are minimized.
- They will increase the speed of outbreak detection, allowing more rapid application of life-saving interventions and more rapid alerts to the international community about the evolving situation.

IHR: Five key changes

- **Broader scope**…Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)
- **Clear Decision Instrument** - Annex 2
- **Operational…..** Real time information sharing and co-ordination
- **Core Capacities….**New obligation: National surveillance/response capacities
- **Flexible Recommended Measures…..** adapted to risk assessment
- External advice/Transparency….. Emergency Committee, Review Committee
**WHO Epidemic Alert and Response**

- Strengthening Core Capacities in preparedness, early warning and response at national level
- Threat-specific preparedness and contingency planning (influenza, meningitis, yellow fever, smallpox, plague, haemorrhagic fevers, accidental and deliberate epidemics)
  - Diagnostic/research tools
  - Drug and vaccine development incl. International Stockpiling
  - Training in epidemiological/technical info and social mobilization
- Sensitive global disease intelligence gathering and verification
- Collaborative risk assessment, effective information management and rapid risk communication and tracking of disease spread
- Rapid provision of technical support and deployment of field response teams from GOARN as well as international stockpiles.
- Scientific co-ordination for disease understanding and characterisation as well as development and assessment of control measures and interventions
- Real-time global coordination using the Strategic Health Operations Centre

**Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response**

**2000/2006**

- More than 50 countries
- More than 50 GOARN partners sent staff to the field
- More than 450 experts
- More than 70 outbreak response operations, including Avian Flu, SARS, Ebola, Marburg, Plague...
Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response

Global Laboratory Network and Directory
- Identify and link assets of public health, diagnostic/R&D, and high consequence agent laboratory networks
- Platform which allows laboratory network partners to work together under WHO coordination during outbreaks and emergencies of international importance
- Development of surge capacity plans for large-scale events
- Platform to establish relationships and maintain standards by jointly conducting training, evaluations, validations and exercises

Public Health Perspective
Laboratory biosecurity as a complement to laboratory biosafety
- Laboratory biosafety describes containment principles, technologies and practices implemented to prevent unintentional exposure to pathogens and toxins, or their accidental release. (Laboratory biosafety manual, 3rd edition, 2004)
- Laboratory biosecurity describes the concept, process and objective of managing biorisks associated, in laboratories, with valuable biological materials, increasing their protection, control and accountability in order to prevent their unauthorized access, their loss, theft, misuse, diversion or intentional release. (Working definition developed in draft Biorisk management: Laboratory Biosecurity, 1st edition)

Smallpox Readiness
Research
- Oversight
- Basic Products
Surveillance
- Intelligence & Verification Laboratory
Vaccine
- Vaccines Supply Policy
Response
- Protocols, Teams, Training
- Case Mgmt. Coordination & Logistics
Public Health Information
- Guidelines, Fact Sheets, Clinical Diagnosis Guides
- WHO Archives

Guidance for Public Health Preparedness
Managing the health risks of the deliberate use of biological and chemical agents or radioactive material: Guidance on national capacity assessment in press

THANK YOU