



**Foreign Medical Team Meeting
on Ebola Response and the FMT Initiative**

**17th to 19th February 2015
Starling Hotel, Geneva, Switzerland**

Purpose of the meeting:

The purpose of the meeting is to consolidate learning from Foreign Medical Team (FMT) experiences in the management of Ebola into planning for the next phases of Ebola response, and inform the overall development of the FMT Initiative.

The Ebola section of the meeting will address three key issues;

- Maximizing the usefulness of currently deployed FMTs in Phase Two of the Ebola response “Getting to Zero”;
- Improving the safety and quality of all Ebola Treatment Facilities with a specific focus on identification of best practice and innovations;
- Planning for re-positioning of FMTs and future decommissioning of Ebola Treatment Facilities.

The FMT Annual General Meeting will build on the work of the FMT Working Group, and allow contributions from FMT providers and partners involved in FMT operations to the Work Plans and Working Groups of the FMT Initiative for 2015.

Background and Rationale:

The FMT Working Group was established in 2010 as part of efforts to systematically address problems with international medical teams responding to disasters, as was highlighted by the Haiti earthquake and Pakistan floods. The aim of the FMT Working Group was to start a process for increased coordination and accountability of FMTs including development of a registration system. There have been three annual meetings of the FMT Working Group all building successively on the previous work.

In 2013 the document “*Classification and Minimum Standards for Foreign Medical Teams in Sudden Onset Disasters*” was published. It provided benchmarks that international teams should meet when offering services to affected countries with the intent of leading to better coordination between aid providers and aid recipients. Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines provided an early opportunity to successfully put these into practice. The response to Ebola has further expanded the use of FMT principles into infectious disease and outbreak response and to also refine and improve FMT practice.

WHO is convening these meetings to bring together senior representatives from

countries affected by Ebola with key WHO, UN and international partners to consolidate learning from FMT experiences in the management of Ebola into planning for the next phases. The final day of the meeting, as the 4th annual meeting of the FMT Work Group, will integrate the lessons from Ebola into the overall development of the FMT Initiative.

Meeting objectives:

1. FMT providers understand Phase Two priorities, and hear from governments their plans for maximizing the impact of deployed FMTs in the remainder of the response.
2. FMTs are provided specific updates relevant to their field practice and actionable during this response.
3. WHO technical and standard setting teams have direct feedback from deployed agencies and field teams, allowing best practice updates to be reality tested.
4. Affected member states and FMTs receive an update of improvements planned for FMT coordination and support.
5. Ministry of Health and FMTs understand the technical requirements of safe decommissioning of Ebola Treatment Facilities, with an emphasis on WASH and logistics but with consideration of staff, training and maximizing legacy.
6. Ministries of Health have an opportunity to present their plans and requirements for re-activation of the health system and potential roles of FMTs.
7. Participants have a clear understanding of the discussions that led to the Executive Board Special Session and outcomes from its decision relevant to the Ebola Response, as well as the global emergency health response mechanisms, and its potential impact on FMTs.

Methodology and Planned Activities:

The meeting will be conducted over three days. The first two days will focus on the FMT response to Ebola while the final day will be dedicated to the FMT Initiative. The agenda will be composed of presentations of reviews, country reports and both technical and policy updates followed by plenary discussion. Workgroup sessions will allow in depth discussions of the specific issues to be considered, with specific country discussions to be co-led by the affected countries and WHO counter-parts.

Expected outcomes:

The FMT Ebola Meeting will produce recommendations that will be carried to the Ministries of Health and national coordination bodies by representatives from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone for consideration and endorsement at the national level. This will maximize the impact of deployed FMTs in the remainder of the response and consolidate country-by-country planning for phased approaches to the re-purposing of FMTs with decommissioning of Ebola Treatment Facilities and potential roles for FMTs in the re-activation of the health system.

The FMT Annual General Meeting will determine key activities within priority areas for the development of the FMT Initiative and assign priorities of work for 2015.

Dates and Venue:

The meeting will be held 17th to 19th February 2015 at the Starling Hotel, Geneva, Switzerland.