Health Systems Recovery in Ebola Affected Countries: WHO Reflections

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Universal Health Coverage in the New Development Era
Toward Building Resilient and Sustainable Health Systems

Conference Report

December 16, 2015
Tokyo, Japan

Shinzo Abe | Prime Minister of Japan

World Health Organization
Returning to normal: The road to early recovery starts with the health system
April 2015

As part of early recovery efforts, WHO continues to work closely with national authorities and partners in the high-transmission Ebola countries on how to rebuild confidence and trust in health systems and services. Nurse Sai Conteh works at the Kambia Government Hospital and needs to know what to do in case one day a patient with Ebola-like symptoms comes to the hospital. She looks back at what she has learnt and how different her daily work looks like.

Sai Conteh attending a training on how to better protect herself from becoming infected with Ebola, Sierra Leone

Four weeks ago, Sai Conteh, a senior nurse anaesthetist at the Kambia Government Hospital in Sierra Leone, was trained on how to protect herself against becoming infected with Ebola virus. She has never worked before in an Ebola treatment centre. But as part of early recovery efforts, Sai needs to know what to do if one day a patient with Ebola-like symptoms comes to the hospital where she works.

"When Ebola started to hit my country, many health care workers, including myself, had little knowledge on what to do and how to protect ourselves," says Sai. "None of us ever dealt with Ebola patients before or worked in an Ebola treatment centre, as the disease was new to us."

The Kambia government hospital stayed open throughout the Ebola outbreak, even after one of its doctors died of Ebola. For a while, suspected Ebola patients were kept in a separate area in the hospital premises until the tests had been completed. From there they were transferred to agricultural huts for their isolation, from which they could walk into the forest to be cremated when they died.
To build functional and resilient national and sub-national health systems that deliver safe, efficient and high quality health care services that are accessible, equitable and affordable for all Sierra Leoneans.

Differentiating our phases...

GETTING BACK ON AGENDA FOR PROSPERITY

From National HS Recovery Plan, Sierra Leone
"The 2014 Ebola Virus Disease (EVD, or "Ebola") outbreak continues to evolve in alarming ways, with the severely affected countries, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, struggling to control the escalating outbreak against a backdrop of severely compromised health systems, significant deficits in capacity, and rampant fear."
Dr. Francis Kateh…from the Liberian Frontline

If I were able to plan for this moment 3 years ago I would have…

1. Built a strong primary health care system with infection control & patient safety embedded within the system.

2. Established long term trust in health care providers through community engagement (patient-provider partnerships).

3. Ensured a supply chain of essential supplies required for IPC and patient safety.

4. Developed a cadre of IPC & Patient Safety officers for the future.

5. Focused on strong safe service delivery as the basis for "preparedness".
## 2015 WHO Strategic Response Plan

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<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
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<td>1. Stop transmission of the Ebola virus in affected countries</td>
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<td>2. Prevent new outbreaks of the Ebola virus in new areas and countries</td>
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<td>3. <strong>Safely reactivate essential health services and increase resilience</strong></td>
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<td>4. Fast-track Ebola research and development</td>
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<td>5. Coordinate national and international Ebola response</td>
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Shocks, Recovery & Resilience

- Service Delivery
- IPC & Patient Safety
- Surveillance
- Essential services
- Health workforce
- Recovery

WHO QHC
- Quality
- Health for all
- Integrated
- Resourceful

Strategic Frameworks & Country Support
- Partnerships for Improvement

Universal Health Coverage
- Palliation
- Promotion
- Rehabilitation
- People
- Prevention
- Treatment
- Quality
Six Reflections
Point 1: Link Global Drive with Local Action

Ebola Recovery Assessment

- Complex multi-sectoral recovery processes requiring national & regional implementation approaches.
- Making the case for health services within a wider context of national recovery with multiple agencies.

Global Work on Ebola Early Recovery

Global Political Will at Highest Level

Investment Plan for Building a Resilient Health System: Liberia

National Health Policy and Plan (2011-2021) Goal:
Improved health status of the population of Liberia on an equitable basis

ASSURED UNIVERSAL COVERAGE
With health & related services, even when there are health threats

ACCESS TO & UTILIZATION OF SAFE AND QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES
EMERGENCY RISK MANAGEMENT
APPROPRIATE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEM

21. Encourages Member States, in collaboration with other stakeholders where applicable, to plan or pursue the transition of health delivery systems towards universal coverage while continuing to invest in and strengthen health-delivery systems to ensure and safeguard the range and quality of services and to adequately meet the health needs of the population.
Point 2: Keep Quality in the UHC Equation

Universal Health Coverage
What's in the Cube?

But look at the cube again...

"What good does it do to offer free maternal care and have a high proportion of babies delivered in health facilities if the quality of care is sub-standard or even dangerous?"

Margaret Chan,
World Health Assembly - May 2012
Point 3: Streamline Technical Resources

- 20+ WHO technical programs/units
- Integrated library of tools & resources in a single source.
- Potential to act as a knowledge management and learning portal on recovery in a systematic way.
- Used in Ebola affected countries through WHO Country Offices but **will be released for all countries.**
Point 4: Focus on structures...stay concrete!

- One-third of health care facilities do not have an improved water source
- One-fifth do not have improved sanitation
- Need tangible action or global health governance discussions sound empty!
Point 5: People, people, people!
Point 6: No global health security without local health security

Global health security: the wider lessons from the west African Ebola virus disease epidemic


- The Ebola virus disease crisis has drawn attention to the well recognised importance of reducing collective vulnerability to infectious disease threats that cross national borders, but also to a second, equally important aspect of health security that is less appreciated: individual health security. This security comes from personal access to safe and effective health services, products, and technologies.

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ありがとうございます！