



High-level Summary and Recommendations

Strategic Partnerships for Country Planning Workshop Post – JEE: The Development of Tanzania's 5-year National Action Plan for Health Security 15-17 November 2016

Context

The magnitude and frequency of disease outbreaks and health emergencies in Africa, new emerging risks such as Zika, the expansion of known diseases like Cholera and Ebola and the re-emergence of others such as yellow fever, demonstrate the urgent need for sustained preparedness and capacity building in WHO Member States. Tanzania is no exception, experiencing outbreaks such as Cholera, Rift Valley Fever, Dengue, Anthrax, Aflatoxin poisoning with high morbidity, mortality, and socio-economic impact.

WHO Member States have agreed to work together to prevent, detect and respond to public health emergencies under the International Health Regulations (2005). A World Health Assembly (WHA) decision in May 2016 requested WHO to develop a global implementation plan that includes immediate planning to improve delivery of the International Health Regulations (2005). The Global Action Plan recommends that Member States, with the support of WHO and development partners, develop and implement 5 year national action plans. In August 2016, the AFR Regional Strategy for Health Security and Emergencies was adopted by the Regional Committee in Addis Ababa. It sets the framework and milestones for ensuring health security in the WHO African region. Member States have also agreed to work towards Universal Health Coverage and to build resilient health systems which can adapt and respond to challenges posed by outbreaks and other emergencies.

Tanzania, like several Member States in the WHO/AFR region, is committed to implementing the WHO IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. This includes the voluntary Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR core capacities that should be followed with a national action plan to achieve and sustain core capacities. Tanzania, was the first country to conduct the JEE in February 2016 and the first to call a workshop to develop the National Action Plan for Health Security (15 – 17 November, 2016).

Tanzania National Action Plan Workshop

The main objective of the workshop was to develop a 5-year National Action Plan for Health Security, based on the JEE recommendations and other complementary assessments. In line with the Strategic Framework for Health Emergency Preparedness, priority activities were framed taking into account One Health, health system strengthening and whole of society, whole of government approaches. The Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children has ensured that proposed activities are linked with on-going national strategies and guidelines, including the National Health Policy reviews, Health Sector Strategic Plan IV, the Health Sector All Hazard Emergency Preparedness and



Response Plan, the One Health strategy, the GHSA roadmap, the AMR Action Plan and ongoing Workforce Capacity initiatives.

Over 130 participants attended the meeting organised by the Tanzanian government. Multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral experts of Tanzania including a Member of Parliament attended the 3-day meeting along with, national representatives from countries in the AFR region that have also conducted the JEE, namely: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Liberia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone. Representatives from UN agencies (WHO, IOM, FAO), NGOs (AMREF, PATH) and donors and other technical partners (Public Health England, DFID, CDC (US), DoD, DTRA, State Department, USAID, GIZ, FAO, Global Affairs Canada, OIE, Alliance for country assessments, SKOLL Foundation, SACIDS, WBG, AfDB, Denmark, Finland, Germany and Switzerland on behalf of Tanzania Health Development Group) attended the meeting.

The meeting highlighted the commitment of the government of Tanzania to strengthen health security, the importance of national financing for sustainability and the role of parliaments in national funding decisions, the key role of community engagement, private sector engagement and the importance of resilient health systems in health security. The meeting further emphasised strong country ownership, WHO leadership and active partnerships to develop and implement the National Action Plan and to match resources to gaps.

The main outcome of the meeting was the draft Tanzania National Action Plan for Health Security, with key priorities and cost drivers identified for detailed costing and time bound milestones and targets for a phased implementation. Funding gaps and potential funding sources were also identified, including domestic funding, Global Partnership, IDA financing by the World Bank and the Health Basket Fund.

The National Health Security Plan will be a coordination platform to map and ensure interplay between multiple sectors and other existing plans at all administrative levels of the country. The plan will be implemented under the guidance of the Prime Minister's office and a multi-sectoral high level technical group, accountable to the Prime Minister's Office, with representatives from all relevant line ministries, and WHO, will be formed to administer the plan, and to monitor and evaluate its implementation.

The government, donors and technical partners expressed their solidarity and support to take forward the Action Plan for Health Security in Tanzania.



Recommendations

Government of Tanzania:

1. Formalize and ensure the functionality of integrated multi-sectoral high level and technical platforms for the implementation of the plan,
2. Prioritize the finalization of the legal instruments and national guidance tools in line with the One Health approach;
3. Strengthen collaboration with potential partners and the East African Community, regional boards and others, to jointly ensure capacity building; advocacy for IHR and cross border collaboration using the East African Legislative Assembly, the African Union Commission and the Pan Africa Parliament;
4. Put in place a robust and transparent monitoring, exercising and evaluation mechanisms to ensure timely and effective implementation of planned activities and milestones; and document and share best practices;
5. Advocate at the highest levels for sustainable domestic financing of the action plan, including with the Parliament
6. Review existing national and international funding mechanisms such as Global Fund, to determine where these funds can be used in support to the activities of the Action Plan

WHO and Partners:

1. Jointly support the Government of Tanzania in the implementation of the national action plan;
2. Advocate with national authorities for domestic financing of the national action plan;
3. Provide technical guidance to help harmonize the implementation of the various initiatives, plans and tools;
4. Promote a coordinated forum for joint review of implementation of progress with the leadership of the national authorities;

Next Steps

1. Organize a costing workshop by 15 January 2017
2. Finalize the costed National Action Plan for Health Security
3. Submit action plan as proposal to Prime Minister's Office by 15 February 2017
4. Formalise an Inter-ministerial Multi-agency Task Group reporting to Prime Minister's office with responsibility for the delivery of the Action Plan, its monitoring and evaluation and benefit realization by 30 March 2017
5. Launch of the Action Plan by 30 March 2017
6. Carry out phased implementation of Action Plan and monitoring of implementation
7. Organize a partnership forum meeting for resource mobilization by June 2017.