Workshop on Innovative Approaches to Establishing and Strengthening Regional Integrated Surveillance and Laboratory Networks for Disease Control, Prevention, and Clinical Care in Africa

March 27-29th, 2017 at Africa CDC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Review of current surveillance and laboratory networks in WHO AFRO Region





Guide for National Public Health Laboratory Networking to Strengthen INTEGRATED DISEASE SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE (IDSR)



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To provide an overview of existing and new frameworks and initiatives to strengthen surveillance and response activities

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To know the **current status** of laboratory networks in the WHO AFR Region

**Objectives** 

To sensitize participants on key achievements and outcomes, challenges and lessons learned in laboratory support to improve health security

To propose way forward for enhancing laboratory networks to support surveillance and response activities



#### **IDSR**

- Identify cases and events
- Report
- Analyze and interpret findings
- Investigate and confirm suspected cases, outbreaks or events
- Prepare
- Respond
- Provide feedback
- Evaluate and improve the system

All levels of the health system involved in conducting surveillance activities for detecting and responding to priority diseases, conditions and events.





#### IHR

- Combined approach with 4 components
  - 1) Annual Reporting
  - 2) After Action Review (AAR)
  - 3) Exercises
  - 4) Joint External Evaluation (JEE)
    - > 19 Technical Areas

Strong involvement of relevant partners who are also working toward global health security with One Health approach.





#### GHSA

**Vision:** A world safe and secure from global health threats posed by infectious diseases.

- February 2014: launched by leaders from 28 countries, WHO, OIE and FAO
- June 2015: G7 committed to assist the initiative
- September 2015: second GHSA Ministerial meeting held in Seoul, South Korea to support IHR, health system strengthening and PVS
- More than 50 countries now members of GHSA (14 countries from AFR)

GHSA helps countries to meet International Health Regulations (IHR) & Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway commitments



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#### **REPORT ON ONE HEALTH TECHNICAL AND MINISTERIAL**



Meeting to Address Zoonotic Diseases and Related Public Health Threats.

To strengthen prevention, detection and response to infectious disease threats, including zoonoses and AMR







#### **Current status of laboratory networks**

Emerging and Dangerous Pathogens Laboratory Network



Category B - Countries with VHF laboratory capacity and ensuring national confirmation of VHF

Category C- Countries without existing VHF laboratory capacity but have a laboratory capacity for confirmation of influenza viruses by PCR (Potential laboratory to be upgraded for VHF confirmation capacity)

Category D - Countries without VHF and other EDP laboratory capacity and sending VHF suspected clinical specimens to a designated regional reference laboratory

#### WHO/AFRO oversees a number of networks of national reference laboratories

- Influenza Laboratory Network,
- Emerging and Dangerous Pathogens Laboratory Network (EDPLN),
- Polio Laboratory Network,
- Measles and Rubella Laboratory Network,
- Tuberculosis (TB) Laboratory Network,
- Rotavirus Laboratory Network,
- HIV Drug Resistance Laboratory Network,
- Pediatric Bacterial Meningitis (PBM) Laboratory Network

Building the capacity for functional regional laboratory networks to conduct timely, accurate and safe detection during public health emergencies +++



#### **AFR laboratory capacity for diagnosis of PHEs**





Lab diagnostic testing algorithms +++

\* Member States



#### **Major achievements**



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WHO support for strengthening laboratory capacity



#### Laboratory proficiency testing



Bacteriology Influenza Arbovirus



## **Major achievements**

- Investigation of major outbreaks:
  - Dengue,
  - Zika,
  - Lassa Fever,
  - Hepatitis E,
  - RVF,
  - YF





Deployment of lab experts conducted in 11 countries in 2016

- Involvement of the regional reference laboratories:
  - PI Dakar,
  - NICD SA,
  - NMIM Ghana,
  - LUTH Nigeria
  - CPC Cameroon, etc
- for investigation, confirmation and field response of major outbreaks



## **Key outcomes**

#### Monthly Outbreak bulletins

Member States report over 100 public health emergencies annually

- 105 PHEs in 2016
- Infectious diseases (80%), confirmed by laboratory
- Other aetiologies:
  - disasters,
  - chemical events,
  - etc 🛚

#### Public health events reported in 2016





## **Key outcomes**

#### Weekly virological surveillance of influenza

Figure 1: Trend of influenza viruses reported in the WHO African Region, epi weeks 1 to 52, 2016



# 34,553 specimens were tested (16% positive for influenza virus)

Figure 2 : Geographic distribution of influenza viruses circulating in the WHO African Region by zone of transmission, epi weeks 1 to 52, 2016



# 18 countries share influenza virological data

Timely virological data to better inform national prevention and control activities including immunization

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## Key outcomes



- Risk assessment conducted for all major acute public health events
- Regional epidemics risk mapping

Information for evidence-based National action planning for preparedness

Laboratory data is critical to conduct outbreak risk analysis



#### Yellow fever and Zika risk mapping







## **Major challenges**



- Weak functioning public health laboratory systems and networking
- Inadequate international and national mechanisms for shipment of specimens
- Weakness of health systems
- Old or inadequately serviced equipment
- Lack of essential reagents and consumables

Accurate

Insufficient LQMS







- Inadequate biosafety and biosecurity regulations & guidelines
- Weak laboratory infrastructure
- Lack of regular maintenance of BSC

Real-time bio-surveillance with a national laboratory system to ensure timely, accurately and safely detecting and characterizing pathogens causing epidemic diseases remain a major challenge.



#### **Lessons learned**





Innovative approaches for sustainability of PHL (Clinical lab, training, research, PH activities)  Twinning initiatives for extending the range of tests in reference laboratories (S-S & N-S cooperation)



Importance of standardized algorithms for diagnosis of viral outbreak prone pathogens (yellow fever, etc)  Enhanced surge capacity during outbreak response (human resource, reagents, etc)



Extension of laboratory capacity during outbreaks (Cabo Verde/Zika, Niger/RVF, Benin/LV, Angola/YF, etc)

 Prioritization of laboratory activities using the new frameworks (JEE/NAPS GHSA, One Health, AMR)

Important component of prevention, preparedness, response and early recovery



# Way forward

# Regional strategy for health security and emergencies 2016–2020 (AFR/RC66/6, June 2016)



- A regional health workforce (lab experts) developed in collaboration with partners including the Africa CDC by 2017
- At least 80% of Member States have organized a joint external evaluation (JEE) of IHR core capacities by 2018 (laboratory services, AMR, Biosecurity & Biosafety)
- Over 90% of Member States are implementing IDSR including event-based surveillance systems with at least 90% country coverage by 2020 (laboratory data)
- At least 80% of Member States have a functional national laboratory system and network as described in the joint external evaluation (JEE) tool by 2020 (laboratory networking, One Health approach)



# **THANK YOU**

