

MINUTES OF MEETING

ON EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE AT MINISTRY OF NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS & COORDINATION

15th October 2014

Advocacy and Consultative Meeting on Ebola Virus Disease Preparedness

The Ministry of National Health Service Regulation and Coordination (NHSR&C) in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) Pakistan organized the advocacy and consultative meeting. The meeting was held on 15 October 2014 at the Ministry of NHSR&C Committee Room. Minister of States for the Ministry of NHSR&C, Mrs Saira Afzal Tarar chaired the session.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of Federal Ministry of National Health Service Regulations & Coordination and attached Institutions and Provincial Health Departments, representatives of Medical Directorate (GHQ) Pakistan Army, Civil Aviation Authority, UN agencies (WHO and UNICEF) development partners and FELTP. (List of participants & Agenda placed at Annexure I and II)

Proceedings:

- 1- The Director General Ministry of NHSR&C in briefed the participants about the objectives of the meeting. In his remarks, he specifically appraised that through this meeting an overview of current Ebola Virus Diseases Outbreak and IHR 2005 would be presented and country specific recommendations would be formulated to combat EVD outbreak in Pakistan.
- 2- After introduction Secretary Health welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of convening the meeting. In his remarks he urged the participants to actively participate in the discussions during the meeting in order to frame set of recommendations focusing on infection prevention, control, Surveillance, contact tracing, screening at points of entries, diagnosis, health education /awareness other relevant areas
- 3- WHO contact person presented an overview of Ebola Virus Disease and its possible risk to the Pakistan. The participants were also briefed about Ebola Virus Disease epidemiology, characteristics of the diseases/virus, clinical management, diagnosis, prevention & control and its challenges for the health care system.
- 4- The National IHR Focal Person presented an overview of IHR 2005. He also explained the timeline and process of IHR implementation, context of IHR and Public Health Emergencies of International Concern and the status of IHR implementation and its challenges in Pakistan.
- 5- Discussions:
 - a. In his remarks the representative of Pakistan Army briefed about the measures taken by the Pak Army Contingent in Liberia. He also explained about the steps taken by the Army regarding the preparedness, quarantine of troops, isolation facilities for any suspected cases and plan for capacity building of the staff.
 - b. The participants deliberated on the country preparedness for the Ebola Disease outbreak. All the participants actively participated in the discussions on different areas

and specially reviewed the needs for infection control, quarantine, screening at Points of Entries, Referral and contact tracing, management and awareness raising campaigns. The participants also discussed different strategies which could be appropriate for the EVD detection and response in Pakistan.

- c. All the provinces were advised to expedite the request by the Ministry of NHSRC to share the details with the National IHR Focal Point about the hospitals where facilities of isolation of any suspected cases would be managed. The Ministry also offered that the medical and support staff from the identified hospitals would be trained in collaboration with WHO on infection prevention and Control and steps would be taken to enhance their capacity on infection prevention and control.
 - d. The participants also emphasized the need for overall strengthening the surveillance and response system as other public health events of potential concern will continue to emerge and challenge the public health system of the country.
- 6- In his remarks Dr. Michel Thieren, WHO representative for Pakistan emphasized on the importance of preparedness against the Ebola Virus Disease and said that we are looking at a problem which is not yet a problem in Pakistan but it is posing a threat globally. Cases and deaths have been reported from member states other than the countries where intense transmission is going on now. He further stressed that we should commit on something we are aiming at which is, to fully control the situation when a case enters in the country. We have to have all the stake holders on board and come up with a solid plan of action and implementation to counter any threat of EVD/outbreak at its earlier stages. We can achieve our aim by establishing good vigilance to detect any case entering the country with strong coordination at POEs, Preparation for case management, arrangements for shifting/transportation of patients, implementing SOPs and risk communication, raising awareness among community and health care providers.
- 7- The Minister for State in her concluding remarks asked the provincial/AJK/FATA health departments to identify appropriate hospitals in their respective provinces where isolation facilities for referral and management of suspected cases of Ebola could be arranged. She also emphasized the need for strengthening the Ebola Screening at the Points of Entries with special instructions for capacity enhancement of health facilities at the major airports of the country in collaboration with Civil Aviation Authority, FIA (Immigration) staff and major airlines operating in Pakistan.

Recommendations

- I. **Formation/notification of a coordination body** with representation from Federal and Provincial Health departments, partners and stakeholders with clearly defined Terms of References. The Coordination body will provide guidance, coordinate, and monitor the implementation of the preparedness activities.

- II. **Composition** of the Coordination Body on Ebola

Convener: Assad Hafeez, Director General Health, MHSR&C, Tel : 051-9245108-109,
Fax No: 051 9245110 email: az10@hotmail.com

Secretary: National IHR Focal Person (Dr Muhammad Salman, Tel No 0333 5384248, Fax No: 051 9255099, email: salman14m@gmail.com)

Members:

1. Provincial DG Health Punjab
2. Provincial DG Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
3. Provincial DG Health Sindh
4. Provincial DG Health Balochistan

5. Provincial DG Health AJK
6. Director Health Services Gilgit Baltistan
7. Provincial DG Health FATA
8. Health Representative ICT
9. Health representative CADD
10. Representative Medical Directorate Pak Army
11. Director, Central Health Establishment
12. Dr Musa, Rahim Public Health Officer WHO Pakistan (Focal Person for Ebola)
13. Dr Tania Goldner Chief of Health Section, UNICEF Pakistan (Focal Person for Ebola)
14. Dr Rana Jawad Asghar, Resident Advisor FELTP-Pakistan (CDC)

III. **Identification of hospitals in each province / region** for establishing isolation ward/room(s) equipped with infection prevention and control measures and designate staff for training to manage Ebola cases. The Proposed Hospitals for establishing Isolation rooms for Ebola case management in provinces/regions are as below, however, all the provinces shall send the final names of the hospitals after consultations with provincial health authorities in writing. :

- i. Jinnah Hospital Karachi in Sindh
- ii. Services Hospital, Lahore in Punjab
- iii. Fatima Jinnah Chest and General Hospital, Quetta in
- iv. Hayatabad Medical Complex (HMC) Hospital Peshawar for KP and FATA
- v. District Headquarter Hospital Gilgit in Gilgit Baltistan
- vi. Abbas Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS) Muzaffarabad in AJK
- vii. Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Islamabad (ICT)

IV. **Enhancement of vigilance** by Immigration & CHE staff to detect travelers, contacts of Ebola cases and suspected cases from the affected countries, basic health assessment, management, referral, immediate notification and strengthening coordination among the health authorities and the relevant departments (Immigration, CAA, Airlines etc.) at the Point of Entries (orientation and training sessions on Ebola)

V. **Capacity building on surveillance** (case detection, tracking and contact tracing) case management, Infection Control and prevention through orientation training of health professionals and care workers (Health manger, doctors, Nurses, paramedics and support staff)

VI. **Training of health care providers** & support staff on Ebola case management, proper referral, and sample collection and transportation, Infection prevention and control

a. WHO will provide Technical support/trainings in two areas ;add time line please:

- i. Orientation sessions on Ebola for health staff and the relevant departments at the POE (departments involved, CHE, CAA, Immigration, airlines airport operators etc.) to enhance vigilance and coordination to detect, assess and notify travelers, contacts of Ebola case and suspected cases entering the country from the affected countries during Oct – Nov 2014
- ii. Training on SOPs on case management, transportation of patients, laboratory sample collection in Nov 2014.

b. Army Medical Corps (Medical Directorate GHQ): will manage their own troops coming from western Africa (peace keeping) support in staff training and establishing isolation wards for Ebola patient in GB, AJK, FATA and Balochistan

- c. FELTP: will conducted training on Ebola Virus Diseases case detection, surveillance and response as and when required for the identified staff of the organization/institution to address their training needs.

VII. **Strong advocacy campaign, Awareness raising and Communication plan:** Focusing on the awareness raising among the health care provider, general public, travelers and media, with clear messages by avoiding creating any confusion and Panic in the public. The UNICEF will support in awareness raising and will work with the National focal person on communication and provincial Health department and support developing IEC material and dissemination of the information.

VIII. **Shipment of Samples:** Samples from infected persons will be collected only by trained persons, who will pack the samples according to the standard protocol for sample packing and transportation and shall arrange sending the samples to the Virology Department, National Institute of Health, Islamabad. The NIH will arrange shipment of samples to the Global Laboratories in collaaboratio with WHO.

IX. **District health authorities to be kept in loop if /in order to trace an infected person/family and notify any case to the IHR focal Point as soon as possible.**

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Agenda

9:00 – 9:30	Arrival of Participants and registration	
9:30 - 10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inauguration Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recitation from Holy Quran ○ Introduction of participants • Welcome and Objectives of the meeting by Director General Health • Opening remarks by Secretary MO NHR&C 	Dr Asad Hafeez Muhammad Ayub Shaikh
1000 -1030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on Ebola Virus Disease: Introduction and an over view of the current outbreaks and potential risk to Pakistan 	Dr Musa Rahim WHO
1030 -1100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Health Regulation 2005: an introduction and overview (an international obligation of the member states) 	Dr Muhammad Salman, NIH, NFP-IHR
1100 – 1200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on the Pakistan specific risk of Ebola and the preparedness to mitigate the risk 	Each province/department
1200 -1230	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of preceding and recommendation of the meeting 	WHO/NIH
1230 – 1240	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarks by Country Representative WHO 	Dr Michel Thieren
1240 -1250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing remarks and speech by the Chair (Minister of States for the Ministry of NHR&C) 	Mrs Saira Afzal Tarar
1250-1330	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refreshments and closing 	