The Role of Community Based PHC in COVID-19

May 19, 2020
TODAY’S OBJECTIVES

- Describe why and how community health workers – as part of primary health care teams – are vital for effective COVID-19 response and sustaining primary health care systems

- Share experiences of how government colleagues are responding to COVID-19

- Identify specific investment opportunities, resources and connections that can help you support your country colleagues respond to COVID-19
Effective Epidemic Response Relies on Community-Oriented Primary Health Care

Our collective response to COVID-19
WORLD GOES ON RED ALERT
UNIT 3: EBOLA FACTS AND SAFETY

HOW EBOLA IS SPREADING IN LIBERIA

Ebola is spreading in Liberia right now.

Body fluids are things like:

- Blood
- Sweat
- Saliva
- Mucus

Ebola enters the body through:

- Touching or eating body fluids
- Contact with an infected person or body fluids
- Through small cuts or sores

Do Not:

- Wear makeup or perfumes
- Touch your nose or mouth
- Have sex

Do:

- Wash your hands frequently
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Wear masks
3. In the last three weeks, have you cared for anyone who was very ill, nauseous, vomiting, bleeding?

- Yes
- No
Number of Confirmed Ebola Cases/Day up to 9th May 2015
as moving average per day in the last 21 days
THE BEST EMERGENCY SYSTEM IS AN EVERYDAY SYSTEM -- THAT CAN SURGE IN A CRISIS
EPIDEMICS CAN LEAD TO A COLLAPSE OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

The 50% reduction in access to healthcare services because of Ebola caused an estimated 10,600 additional deaths due to untreated conditions in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

Loss of doctors, nurses, and midwives from Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone estimated to have led to an approximately 75% increase in maternal mortality across the countries, ranging from a 38% increase in Guinea to an 111% increase in Liberia.

17,300 children lost one or both parents to Ebola, more than 33 weeks of education were lost due to school closures, and there was a 30% decline in childhood vaccination coverage.

FACILITY-BASED DELIVERY: LIBERIA

Nationally, Liberia experienced a 3X decrease in facility-based delivery
FACILITY-BASED DELIVERY: KONOBO

In Konobo, the facility-based delivery rate remained high, dropping by just 3%.

SICK-CHILD TREATMENT: KONOBO

In Konobo, integrated community case management (iCCM) services were sustained throughout the course of the outbreak.

UNITING PREVENTION WITH CARE SAVES LIVES
COVID19 CHALLENGE 1: HOW TO ACHIEVE RAPID & SUSTAIN VIRAL SUPPRESSION?

1. TEST
   Widely
   14
   All contacts self-isolate for 14 days

2. ISOLATE
   All infected people + SOCIAL SUPPORT

3. FIND
   Everyone who has been in contact with infected people

4. QUARANTINE
   To get us all working again

Source: Resolve To Save Lives
### STRATEGY 1: COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS CAN HELP HEALTH SYSTEM "BOX IN" COVID19

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<th>Roles for community-based PHC teams</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PREVENT</strong></td>
<td>- Community education and engagement</td>
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<td>- Organize hand hygiene stations</td>
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<td>- Support, lead or reinforce IPC measures</td>
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<td>- Prepare for the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines</td>
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<td><strong>DETECT</strong></td>
<td>- Identify signs and symptoms</td>
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<td>- Conduct COVID-19 testing or support sample collection &amp; transport</td>
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<td>- Enter alerts into community event-based surveillance systems</td>
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<td><strong>RESPOND</strong></td>
<td>- Combat misinformation in COVID-19 areas</td>
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<td>- Support self-isolation (including food, social and medical support)</td>
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<td>- Monitor and refer patients for clinical deterioration</td>
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<td>- Contact tracing, symptom reporting and monitoring of contacts</td>
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South Africa’s mass screening helps stem the coronavirus tide

Use of community health workers to identify cases draws heavily on experience battling tuberculosis and HIV.

A woman is tested for Covid-19 in Johannesburg’s Alexandra township © Kim Ludbrook/EPA/Shutterstock
COVID19 CHALLENGE 2: HOW TO PREVENT PRIMARY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM COLLAPSE?

GFF leaders warn of emerging secondary global health crisis in primary health care due to COVID-19

STRATEGY 2: PROTECT PHC WORKERS AND MODIFY PHC PROTOCOLS

• Implement Infection Prevention & Control protocols across primary healthcare facilities, including creation of triage, respiratory illness clinics.

• Train frontline and community health workers in modified protocols to maintain essential health services at the primary healthcare level.