Effective Networking in Biosurveillance for Health Security

A workshop at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the International Association of National Public Health Institutes

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Coordinators

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Aim

> To agree on a common concept and to develop an action plan for NPHI collaboration to strengthen effective biosurveillance networking for Health Security

Agenda

1. *Introduction*

Slide presentation (10 min): Dr. Hugo Lopez-Gatell. National Institute of Public Health, Mexico.

- What is Health Security?
    - Consensus elements and potential discrepancies
- Scope of Public Health Security
    - Human security and social development
    - Catastrophes and unexpected events: natural or human-made (unintentional)
    - Health events that threaten national security
    - Unconventional threats: intentional release of biological, chemical, radio-nuclear agents
    - Risk assessment, management, and communication
    - International Health Regulations (IHR) implementation: global rules to enhance national, regional and global public health security.

Slide presentation (10 min): Dr. Celia M. Alpuche Aranda. National Institute of Public Health, Mexico

- Needs and challenges of biosurveillance for Health Security

    - Methods &Technology
    - Surveillance
    - Laboratory Diagnosis
    - Information technology
    - Networking: harmonizing minimal conditions for a local, national, regional and global effectiveness of surveillance.
    - Quality and opportunity of the information

2. *Workshop*

Specific topics for discussion:

1. Identify current and potential contributions of National Public Health Institutes to biosurveillance for Public Health Security
2. Define action plans for INPHI to reinforce networking initiatives to strengthen global surveillance and health security

Logistics for group discussion

- 40 minutes of group discussion
- 5-10 participants per group
- Definition of a Reporter per group
- Discussion of the suggested topics and other topics considered by the participants of the group
- Definition of at least one strategy and specific aim and action per topic (matrix)
- Preparation of 1-3 slides per group with outcomes of the discussion using the matrix format

Presentations and general discussion of outcomes, 30 minutes

- 5 minutes presentation for each group outcomes
- General discussion to summarize in final outcomes of the workshop

Notes from the workshop

Networks and coordination

Remaining challenges

- Heterogeneous conceptual frameworks for health: determinants vs. risk factors (and others)
  - Social determinants and risk factor perspectives are not mutually exclusive
- Heterogeneous mandates of NPHI represented in IANPHI. Some have national government mandate to coordinate, others do not
- Heterogeneity in political-territorial organization between countries may challenge the ability to inter-country NPHI networking
- Capability development at the local level (eg. laboratory)
- Inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration is a major challenge
- NPHI should work (together) in empowering themselves to improve their capacities and leverage on public policy-making

Critical aspects of success

- Peer and horizontal collaboration and confidence
- Trust is essential to create and maintain networks and effectively use them to build regional (or global) capacity
- *One-Health* (Health Assessment at the Human-Animal-Ecosystem interfaces) approach is a very useful aspect of Health Security
- Syndromic surveillance is a useful methodological approach (or conceptual model) for more effective and collaborative surveillance. Fragmented etiologic surveillance may be less productive to this aim (as it leads to conflicting classification of health problems)
- Work on performance evaluation (and impact evaluation) is a potential way to empower NPHI

The way forward

- Strengthen, expanding or implementing regional networks of collaboration
- Interdisciplinary and Cross-disciplinary perspectives and work (beyond One-Health) should be assure (e.g. Economics, Law)
- Human capacity development (e.g. through FELTP) is a crucial aspect of Public Health capability development
- Cross-border collaboration
- Work with industry to develop diagnostic technics and methods useful to improve local capacities (e.g. point-of care)

- IHR capacity development can be a reference for minimum Public Health capacities. Which ones can (should) we start working on? What can be the specific contribution