Session 9
National Action Plans for Health Security: Lessons Learnt

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Health Emergency Operations plan

Brief History of its conception and development

The Health Emergency Operations Plan (HEOP) is the revised version of the Health Sector Emergency Risk Management Framework, which was developed in 2014. So the groundwork for our current HEOP was well established. The revised and renamed HEOP was developed this year (2018) and was endorsed by the Minister of Health in May.

The revised version of HEOP was developed with collaboration and input from multiple Government and non-government agencies. It was an endeavor that received the full cooperation from the Ministry of Health of Maldives and the aid of WHO.

The HEOP is an easy to comprehend and user friendly guideline that outlines how the country should respond to different levels and varieties of hazards and health emergencies.

CHALLENGES

Development phase
- New Concept
- Multisector agreement to the various areas of the plan
- Funding to establish the Emergency Operations Command center (WHO came to our aid in this).

Revision
Plan underwent multiple revisions and several meeting with stake holders (in reality it is to be taken as a dynamic and evolving plan that will be revised every 3 years in the hopes of keeping up with the Global and national strategies and developments.)

Implementation
The HEOP was developed with an Emergency Operations Command center as well.
We are still in the phase of getting the multiple sectors familiarized with the HEOP and the roles of EOC.
There will be a learning curve and multiple trainings to get the HEOP fully operational

We were able to try out the HEOP during our recent seasonal ARI peak.

Actions Taken in line with the HEOP for the Influenza seasonal peak in 2018
- Convened the HECC
- Formed the TAC
- Coordinated with multi-sectors of Gov and N-Gov
- Coordinated with WHO country office
- Managed to bring the situation under control
- Better Risk Communication
- Learnt from previous years outbreak of Influenza

Figure 1: National ARI trend (2015-2018)
We developed a pandemic preparedness plan in 2009 which was revised in 2015 and 2017. The plan will be revised again to in 2018 to align it with the HEOP.
Conception of NAP-IHR

The Idea was conceived and formed following the Joint External Evaluation of IHR in 2017.

Development

Several technical groups from different sectors relevant to IHR were brought together to work on the NAP-IHR and a main IHR committee was assembled in a workshop to finalize the NAP-IHR

Areas of priority

Workforce development
Risk Communication Plan
A Plan to address a Chemical or radiation event

IHR and Maldives

We have an established IHR committee in Maldives which is comprised of all the relevant Government Sectors. We have at least 2 IHR meetings annually and more if an outbreak occurs

Challenges
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• Lack of funding in the government for some of the areas of IHR as they are a lower priority to the government
• High level and political commitment and multi-sectoral collaboration with relevant partners still needs much strengthening
• Not meeting deadlines for the activities outlined in the NAP-IHR
• Long term sustainability is a challenge.
• A Business Continuity plan needs to incorporated into the HEOP
• Gender specific Areas need to be incorporated into some of the hazard specific plans
Thank you