

Prioritizing Actions for Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness

Science-based Approaches for Prioritizing Capabilities for Preventing, Detecting, and Responding to Infectious Disease Epidemics and Pandemics at the Country Level

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

Purpose

The purpose of this symposium is to convene experts and interested groups in global health planning, including those in government, academia, nonprofit, and the private sector from both health- and non-health sectors, to discuss strengthening capacity for evidence-based prioritization of global health capabilities. Objectives of this meeting are the following:

- Discuss the needs and gaps for assessing and enhancing country capacity that are used to national action planning.
- Gain insight into how countries and organizations currently prioritize actions and investments for epidemic prevention, detection, and response.
- Assess evidence for effective prioritization approaches to building disease surveillance and risk communication capabilities.
- Identify governance structures that can support robust and reliable systems for global health investments.

8:00am–8:10am EDT

Opening Remarks

Lisa Hilmi, CORE Group

8:10am–9:30am EDT

Political and Economic Context for Sustainable International Epidemic Preparedness: International Governance and Finance (Session 1)

The goal of this forward-looking discussion is to highlight critical needs, challenges, and gaps in international and national governance and financing for developing and maintaining critical capabilities needed to prevent, detect, and respond to future epidemics.

Moderator: Dr. Mercy Mwangangi, AMREF Kenya

Speakers:

Sara Hersey, World Health Organization Health Emergencies
Priya Basu, Pandemic Fund Secretariat, World Bank Group
Saul Walker, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)

9:30am–9:40am EDT

Break

9:40am–11:00am EDT

Political and Economic Context for Sustainable International Epidemic Preparedness: Regional and Country Efforts and Building Trust (Session 2)

The goal of this forward-looking discussion is to highlight critical needs, challenges, and gaps in science, public health, and health security for strengthening and maintaining critical capabilities needed to prevent, detect, and respond to future epidemics.

Moderator: Dr. Mercy Mwangangi, AMREF Kenya

Speakers:

Ayoade Alakija, African Vaccine Delivery Alliance, *Pre-recorded Video*

Irma Makaliano, University of the Philippines

Duncan Selbie, International Association of National Public Health Institutes

Jailson Correia, Instituto de Medicina Integral Professor Fernando Figueira

Wessam Mankoula, Africa Centers for Disease Control

11:00am–11:50am EDT

Action Groups Preview

Situational Awareness in the Context of Health and Diseases

Larry Brilliant, Pandefense Advisory

Building Trust, Transparency, and Risk Communication Capabilities

Richard Garfield, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Strengthening Global Health Security through Strong Country-Level Infrastructure for Effective Governance, Financing, and Accountability

Julie Wahl, Resolve to Save Lives

Global Health Capacity and Functionality Assessment

Jessica Petrillo, US Agency for International Development

Countries' and Organizations' Experiences in Preparedness and Response Planning

Erwin Calgua, Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala

11:50am–12:00pm EDT

Next Steps

Participants will be asked to prepare responses to questions or complete worksheets (as relevant) for discussion during the next session, which will be held on May 18, 2023.

Lisa Hilmi, CORE Group

END OF DAY 1

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023

8:00am–8:10am EDT

Recap from Day 1 and Plan for Day 2

Lisa Hilmi, CORE Group

8:10am–9:30am EDT

Health Security Action Areas: Issues and Opportunities

The goals of these discussions are to review success and failures, use of assessment tools, identify outstanding gaps and determine critical areas for action to sustainably improve capabilities in three areas.

Please find a Jamboard to contribute to each of the concurrent discussions [here](#).

Concurrent Discussions

Situational Awareness in the Context of Health and Diseases

The goal of this discussion is to re-set expectations at a higher-level of what can be done to keep both public health and the general public aware of changes in disease risks as early as possible by combining many current surveillance systems with new sources of disease data to form near real time awareness of constantly changing disease risks. Topics covered in this discussion include:

- Current tools for disease surveillance and the international tools used to evaluate the effectiveness of these systems
- Routine methods and genetic surveillance for assessing situational awareness
- Recent innovations in detection in detection of novel diseases and use of closer-to-real-time monitoring of critical changes in endemic disease
- Recent experience including new types of disease surveillance and combinations of traditional and new methods to improve situational awareness
- Integration of surveillance tools to realize near-real-time situational awareness

Moderator

Larry Brilliant, Pandefense Advisory

Discussants:

Mark Smolinski, Ending Pandemics

Patipat Keng Susumpow, Opendream Co

Channe Suy, Co-Founder, Kawsang

Building Trust, Transparency, and Risk Communication Capabilities

The goal of this discussion is to review existing guidance and frameworks for risk communication, highlighting approaches that are particularly effective for communicating risk about epidemics and describing approaches that have been demonstrated to be less effective or ineffective in communicating risks.

Moderator

Richard Garfield, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Discussants:

Katelyn Jetelina, Your Local Epidemiologist

Rania Elessawi, UNICEF

Baruch Fischhoff, Carnegie Mellon University

Strengthening Global Health Security through Strong Country-Level Infrastructure for Effective Governance, Financing, and Accountability

Please find an issue brief for review [here](#).

A country's performance during an infectious disease outbreak is only as strong as its ability to leverage multisectoral partnerships; coordinate at national, subnational and community levels; and continuously develop and strengthen health and public health system capacity to prevent and respond to outbreaks. The goal of this discussion is to examine how improving global health security begins at the country-level and how countries can strengthen their public health architecture for epidemic preparedness and response through effective mechanisms for governance, financing, and accountability. This group will focus on the following questions:

- How might countries /organizations ensure effective multisectoral governance at country-level?
- How might countries /organizations foster accountability among partners and stakeholders that drives continuous quality improvement and well-prioritized investments?

By the end of this session, participants have examined real-world examples of mechanisms and approaches for strengthening governance, investments, and accountability and how they might be applied to in their own settings. Key concepts include:

- Governance at country level: establishing strong stakeholder engagement and governance structures through dedicated preparedness teams
- Financing/investments at country level: Well prioritized plans allow for well-prioritized investments. For investments to make sense there should be a sound operational process where activities are well-prioritized and managed in a transparent fashion that allows donors to align their contribution
- Accountability at country level: Systems that track progress and finances, identify implementation bottlenecks and support decision making and drive agendas have the potential to generate greater accountability and quality improvement

Moderators

Julie Wahl, Resolve to Save Lives

Gisela Scaglia, Former Member of Parliament Argentina

Discussants

Aminu Magashi Garba, Africa Budget Network

Immaculate Nabukenya, Makerere University

Abraham Ejigu, Resolve to Save Lives, Ethiopia

Ernesto Báscolo, Pan American Health Organization

Prioritizing Actions for Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness

9:30am–9:40am EDT

Break

9:40am–11:00am EDT

Cross-Cutting Action Areas: Issues and Opportunities

The goals of these discussions are to review success and failures, use of assessment tools, identify outstanding gaps and determine critical areas for action to sustainably improve capabilities in three overarching areas.

Please find a Jamboard to contribute to each of the concurrent discussions [here](#).

Concurrent Discussions

Global Health Security Capacity and Functionality Assessment

Please find an assessment worksheet [here](#). An initial list of assessment tools have been provided; please add relevant information in anticipation of the concurrent discussion.

Please find a Jamboard [here](#). This Jamboard will be used to add suggested actions for addressing identified gaps.

Timely access to quality, actionable data underpins effective prioritization of investments to address GHS capacity and functionality gaps. The goal of this session is to discuss and identify critical needs, challenges, gaps, and opportunities to improve GHS capacity and functionality assessment tools, their use, and the use of the data they generate to inform decision making on strengthening and maintaining critical capabilities needed to prevent, detect, and respond to any future epidemics. Participants will discuss the following issues:

- Identify challenges in the use of existing tools (including accessibility) and opportunities to improve them.
- Identify opportunities to improve interoperability, interconnectedness, and integration of assessment tools and data.
- Identify opportunities to improve linkages between capacity/capability guidance and assessment tools.

Moderators

Aamer Ikram, National Institutes of Health Pakistan

Jessica Petrillo, U.S. Agency for International Development

Discussants:

Anne Liu, Gates Ventures

Dr. Magda Robalo Correia e Silva, Institute for Global Health and Development

Charles Bebay, ECTAD Regional Manager for Eastern and Southern Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization

Countries' and Organizations' Experiences in Preparedness and Response Planning

The goal of this discussion is to identify lessons and best practices for preparedness and response at the national level, and identify actions on policy and practice for improving preparedness and planning for the next pandemic by learning from what went well and what went less well in national contexts.

Examples exist of countries on good planning practices to address the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. These countries have observed strong and weak points in the national system through systematic monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools (e.g., IHR, Joint External Evaluation, Universal Health and Preparedness Review).

Before engaging in discussion about these topics, participants will hear from two examples of countries from different perspectives. This discussion will focus on the following questions:

- What are the actual practices in a term of multisectoral approach that the country is adopting as a result of learning in this symposium from the M&E tool?
- What's the nature of the reinforcement process of preparedness and response planning at the national level?

Participants will be asked to suggest approaches and actions to guide each country's decision to implement and strengthen the use of their preparation and response plans with academia, donors, and private partners.

Moderators

Soawapak Hinjoy, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Health, Thailand
Erwin Humberto Calgua Guerra, Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala
Arminster Kaur Deol, Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

Discussants:

Karim Jacqueline Pardo, Ministry of Health Peru
Jeffery Cutter, Ministry of Health Singapore
Ali Ardan, Health Systems in Emergencies Lab, World Health Organization
Regional Officer for the Eastern Mediterranean
Julio Croda, Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso do Sul

11:00am–11:45am EDT

Large Group Discussion: Highlights from the Action Groups
Facilitator TBD

11:45am–12:00pm EDT

Closing Remarks
Lisa Hilmi, CORE Group

END OF DAY 2

Prioritizing Actions for Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023

9:00am–9:15am EDT **Recap from Day 2 and Plan for Day 3**
Lisa Hilmi, CORE Group

9:15am–10:15am EDT **Review Action Group Topics**
Facilitator TBD

10:15am–10:30am EDT **Closing Comments and Next Steps**

MEETING ADJOURN

RELEVANT ARTICLES

- Gooding, K., Bertone, M.P., Loffreda, G. et al. How can we strengthen partnership and coordination for health system emergency preparedness and response? Findings from a synthesis of experience across countries facing shocks. *BMC Health Serv Res* 22, 1441 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-022-08859-6>
- Saqif Mustafa, Yu Zhang, Zandile Zibwowa, Redda Seifeldin, Louis Ako-Egbe, Geraldine McDarby, Edward Kelley, Sohel Saikat, COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plans from 106 countries: a review from a health systems resilience perspective, *Health Policy and Planning*, Volume 37, Issue 2, February 2022, Pages 255–268, <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czab089>
- Smolinski MS, Crawley AW, Olsen JM, Jayaraman T, Libel M. Participatory Disease Surveillance: Engaging Communities Directly in Reporting, Monitoring, and Responding to Health Threats. *JMIR Public Health Surveill.* 2017 Oct 11;3(4):e62. doi: 10.2196/publichealth.7540.
- Suy Lan C, Sok S, Chheang K, Lan DM, Soung V, Divi N, Ly S, Smolinski M. Cambodia national health hotline - Participatory surveillance for early detection and response to disease outbreaks. *Lancet Reg Health West Pac.* 2022 Sep 6;29:100584. doi: 10.1016/j.lanwpc.2022.100584.
- Fieldhouse JK, Randhawa N, Fair E, Bird B, Smith W, Mazet JAK. One Health timeliness metrics to track and evaluate outbreak response reporting: A scoping review. *EClinicalMedicine.* 2022 Sep 5;53:101620. doi: 10.1016/j.eclinm.2022.101620.
- The Podd surveillance system in Thailand won the Trinity Challenge. A contact would be Patipat Susumpow (Keng). Here is a link to the Trinity Challenge prize write up: <https://thetrinitychallenge.org/awards/winners>
- Initial Success: Ginsberg, J., Mohebbi, M., Patel, R. et al. Detecting influenza epidemics using search engine query data. *Nature* 457, 1012–1014 (2009). <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature07634>
- Lazar D, Kennedy R. Opinion: What we can learn from the epic failure of Google Flu Trends. *Wired* (2015). <https://www.wired.com/2015/10/can-learn-epic-failure-google-flu-trends/>
- Bloomberg Opinion. The worst Covid strategy was not picking one. Bloomberg. (2023). <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2023-opinion-lessons-learned-from-covid-pandemic-global-comparison/>
- Bright RA. Avian Flu in Cambodia. ThinkGlobalHealth. 2023. <https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/avian-flu-cambodia>