Ebola virus disease preparedness strengthening team

Mauritania country visit 10–16 November 2014



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Executive summary

Given the spread of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) epidemic in the subregion, there is a considerable risk that cases will occur in countries that are not currently affected. If there is an adequate level of preparedness, however, the disease can be contained before a major epidemic develops. In this context, WHO responded to a request from the Mauritanian Health Ministry to dispatch an international team on a "preparedness support" mission, between 10 and 14 November 2014. The team met with stakeholders (the Ministry of Health, United Nations agencies, technical and financial partners) at bilateral and multilateral meetings. Field visits, limited to the capital city, enabled the team to observe the efforts that had been made at first hand. A table-top exercise and a review of the WHO consolidated checklist were conducted during a workshop at the WHO Country Office, which was attended by over 50 participants. These activities, in conjunction with the programme of visits, helped to identify the main strengths and weaknesses and to make recommendations to improve immediate response capacity for an EVD epidemic. The most urgent of the proposed recommendations are to:

- provide personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for managing cases of EVD and training in its use;
- bring the Nouakchott Ebola treatment centre into line with the relevant standards;
- establish technical subcommittees of the monitoring unit to develop appropriate procedures;
- raise awareness at community level;
- mobilize partners (including the Red Cross and Red Crescent) for contact tracing and burials;
- ensure that basic hygiene measures (such as hand-washing and wearing gloves) are adopted at all health facilities; and
- plan and implement technical training.

Mobilization of the Ministry of Health and WHO to implement the response plan should be supported directly by technical and financial partners.

Introduction

Mauritania, a country bordering the epicentre of the EVD epidemic, intends to stay free of the disease by preparing for the worst. A WHO team was deployed in November 2014 to assess preparedness efforts made at country level.

Mauritania is located in north-west Africa, covering 1.03 million km² and with a population of 3 335 188 in 2013. It is divided into 12 regions (*wilaya*) and the capital district of Nouakchott, which are subdivided into 55 districts (*moughataa*).

The country's health care infrastructure consists of small health clinics, health centres, departmental and regional hospitals, hospital centres and specialized reference and training centres. There are many private clinics and laboratories, but they are rarely integrated into the surveillance or response activities of the Ministry of Health. The geographical distribution of public health care facilities is shown below.



Surveillance for infectious diseases such as cholera, measles, meningitis, EVD and influenza is conducted through Mauritania's Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) system.

The ongoing EVD outbreak in West Africa poses a considerable risk to all countries in the region. With adequate preparation, introduction of the virus can be contained before a large outbreak develops. So far, EVD has been imported from the three affected countries to five other countries: Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Spain and the United States.

In August 2014, the WHO Director-General declared the outbreak of EVD a public health emergency of international concern and issued a number of recommendations to control the outbreak in affected countries and prevent and manage its introduction into unaffected countries. The Emergency Committee of the International Health Regulations (2005) urgently recommended that countries that

have land borders with affected countries:

- "urgently establish surveillance for clusters of unexplained fever or deaths due to febrile illness; establish access to a qualified diagnostic laboratory for EVD; ensure that health workers are aware of and trained in appropriate IPC procedures; and establish rapid response teams with the capacity to investigate and manage EVD cases and their contacts"¹ and
- "reinforce preparedness, validate preparation plans and check their state of preparedness through simulations and adequate training of personnel."²

In addition, the Emergency Committee highlighted the "importance of continued support by WHO and other national and international partners towards the effective implementation and monitoring of these recommendations."

A consultation between WHO and partners on EVD preparedness and readiness, held in Brazzaville, 8– 10 October 2014, agreed on actions to support neighbouring countries unaffected by EVD in strengthening their preparedness in the event of an outbreak. WHO has developed a preparedness strategy for 15 countries to ensure the necessary capacity to manage importation of EVD. One element of this strategy is deployment of international preparedness strengthening teams to assess countries' current level of preparedness and to plan activities for strengthening the management of EVD.

The mission to Mauritania took place on 10–14 November 2014 in Nouakchott.

Objectives

The immediate objective of the visit was to ensure that Mauritania is as operationally ready as possible to deal with cases of EVD and can effectively and safely detect, investigate and report potential cases, notify them and organize an effective response to prevent the occurrence of a larger outbreak. The mission identified the actions required for timely preparation within 30, 60 and 90 days.

Team

The support team was composed of representatives from WHO Geneva, the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the National Public Health Institute of Quebec (Canada), the WHO Regional Office for Africa and a private logistics consultant. The support team worked with stakeholders at national level (National Public Health Institute, National Public Health Research Institute (INRSP)) and with technical and financial partners in the country (WHO, UNICEF, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the Red Cross, Médecins san Frontières, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United Nations Population Fund).

The members of the mission team were:

Sebastien Cognac (team leader), Laboratory Strengthening and Biorisk Management, WHO

¹ http://who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2014/ebola-20140808/en/

² http://who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2014/ebola-2nd-ihr-meeting/en/

Amina Benyahia Chaieb (epidemiology and contact tracing), Department of Global Alertness and Response, WHO

Nicolas Isla (epidemiology and contact tracing), Global Health Security Officer, WHO

Cristina Valencia (epidemiology and contact tracing), Fellow of the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Timon Marszalek (logistics), consultant, disaster management

Anne Fortin (epidemiology and contact tracing), Director of Public Health, National Institute of Public Health in Quebec

Jocelyne Sauve (epidemiology and contact tracing), Chief of Scientific Unit, National Institute of Public Health in Quebec

Activities

All the activities conducted during the mission are outlined below. See also Annex 1.

Event	Location	Description
Meeting with WHO Representative	WHO Country Office	Introduction of team and briefing on preparedness measures taken by Mauritania supported by WHO
Briefing with the Director of the United Nations Office in Mauritania	WHO Country Office	Introduction to mission objectives by WHO Representative and team
Audience with the Minister of Health	Ministry of Health	The Minister of Health and the Secretary-General of Health welcomed the team. Introduction to mission objectives by WHO Representative

<section-header></section-header>	Nouakchott International Airport	The team visited the international airport and met the head physician, who presented the airport's health facilities and procedures for screening, isolation, reporting and patient referral. The airport receives four to eight flights a day from countries including Guinea; the latter have been cancelled since detection of the outbreak. Health staff conduct temperature screening of all passengers on the runway upon disembarkation with a handheld ThermoFlash.
Visit to Ebola treatment centre	Nouakchott suburbs	The team visited the planned Ebola treatment centre (ETC) recently constructed by the Ministry of Health with guidance from WHO and Médecins sans Frontières. The ETC is not yet operational but is designed to isolate and treat all EVD cases in Mauritania. In case of an outbreak, more ETCs will be set up at district and regional levels.
Visit to Port de l'Amitié	Nouakchott port	The team visited the Port de l'Amitié, designed primarily for cargo, and discussed health preparedness measures. Currently, no passenger vessels enter the port. All crew members disembarking from vessels undergo temperature screening by port health authorities. Crews of vessels arriving from affected countries are prohibited from disembarking. Local port authorities who enter vessels are given basic protective equipment.
Visit to INRSP	Abdel Nasser, Nouakchott	The team visited the INRSP and discussed laboratory capacity and procedures for EVD diagnosis. Currently, the INSPR does not have the capacity to test for EVD. The laboratory is responsible for sending samples to the closest WHO reference laboratory (the Institut Pasteur in Dakar). The INSPR provides a member of the surveillance team and collects samples in Nouakchott and sometimes in the regions, although at regional level, samples are usually taken by district or regional health authorities, packaged and transported to

the INSPR.

Day 2

Meeting with Médecins sans Frontières	WHO Country Office	The team met with Médecins sans Frontières to discuss preparation of the ETC and their role in preparedness and management of a potential epidemic.
Visit to the national hospital (Cheikh Zayed)	Nouakchott	The team visited a regional hospital in Nouakchott to evaluate the level of preparedness at a general health centre. The team visited the emergency room, paediatric ward and internal medicine unit. The hospital has an isolation room for suspected cases and has a few PPE kits donated by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for H1N1.
Meeting with technical and financial partners World Health Organization	WHO Country Office	Meeting with partners to introduce the objectives of the mission and the current status of the outbreak Discussion of the role of partner agencies in supporting the Government of Mauritania in enhancing its preparedness
Working session with the Disease Control Unit World Health Organization	WHO Country Office	Discussion on current surveillance system. Overview of notification system at national level and assessment of current notification and surveillance of EVD cases Preparation of report and division of labour among mission team members Outline of simulation exercise and expectations of moderators and leaders
Day 3		
Event	Location	Description

Simulation exercise preparation	WHO Country Office	Review of all simulation documents and step-by-step explanation of checklist. Preparation of documents and forms to be disseminated to participants. The team adapted the scenario to the context of Mauritania.
Security debriefing	United Nations High Commission for Refugees Mauritania	The mission team attended a mandatory security debriefing at country level to better understand the security risks in the country.
Visit to the storage centre	Nouakchott	The logistics team member visited the Ministry of Health warehouses and met with the warehouse keeper and assistants. Discussion on the stockpile management strategy.
<image/>	Ministry of Health	The team attended the weekly monitoring unit meeting. The agenda included the current epidemiological situation, the outcome of the USAID preparedness meeting in Douala (Cameroon) and updates from partners. The main point of discussion was the availability of PPE.
Second visit to INRSP	Abdel Nasser, Nouakchott	Visited the virology unit of the institute and discussed diagnostic capacity and preparedness with staff. Strengths, weaknesses and gaps were identified.

Day 4	
Event Location Description	
Simulation exercise WHO Country Office Simulation exercise led by t WHO consultants Approximately 70 participant	vo ts
Review of checklist WHO Country Office Plenary session, then six	
Working groups of one or two WHO personnel and nation experts to discuss each item the checklist. At the end of day, the results of the group discussion were presented during a plenary session.	o I on he
Summary of day, report writing WHO Country Office WHO mission team drafted preliminary report, listing strengths and weaknesses f the group exercises. Each it on the checklist was review and revised by all members consolidated document was generated and will be share with the Ministry of Health.	om m ed A
Day 5	
Event Location Description	
Presentation of recommendations to the WHO Representative WHO Country Office Meeting with WHO Representative to commun findings from the week. Discussion of next steps.	cate
Report to the United NationsUnited Nations OfficeMeeting with the UnitedResident Coordinator and Heads ofMauritaniaNations Resident Coordinator	or,

United Nations agencies		WHO Representative and heads of main United Nations agencies. Results of the week communicated. Strong engagement from different agencies. Discussion of next steps
Recommendations given to Ministry of Health	Ministry of Health Mauritania	Meeting with the Secretary- General and the Disease Control Unit. Reporting of observations and recommendations. Discussion of next steps
Writing the report	WHO Country Office	Finalization of the report. Different sections were assigned to each expert on the team. Both an English and a French version have been produced.

Preparedness evaluation

1. Overall coordination

Strengths

- Proactive ministry: establishment of and EVD monitoring unit and preparation of budgeted response plan; procurement of equipment and needs assessment; numerous directives and guidelines
- EVD monitoring unit includes officials from the Ministry of Health and other ministries and technical and financial partners; meets weekly
- EVD committees of partners also established at regional level
- Several technical subcommittees of the EVD monitoring unit (communications, hygiene, contact tracing)
- Support and facilitation by the WHO Country Office

Weaknesses

- Although the EVD monitoring unit includes Government officials from other sectors, they do not participate regularly. If a national outbreak were to occur, the absence of other sectors will certainly present an obstacle to optimal organization of response.
- Response plan not updated
- Subcommittees have only just been formalized.
- The directives should be translated into standard operating procedures.
- Information for clinicians and health centres does not circulate rapidly enough.
- There is no emergency operations centre or incident management structure, either centrally or regionally, although they are being considered.

Recommendations

- Update the response plan and institute monitoring.
- Establish an emergency operations centre for real-time coordination of operations at central level (within 30 days).
- Coordinate, harmonize and disseminate terms of reference and standard operating procedures for each component.
- Assess the feasibility of establishing an emergency operations centre in each region, to report to the national centre (within 30 days).
- Conduct simulations to test the reactive capacity of the centres (within 30 days).

2. Rapid response teams

STRENGTHS

- Two multidisciplinary rapid intervention teams incorporated into the EVD monitoring unit
- Members of teams are trained in taking specimens from suspected EVD cases and sending them for testing.
- Ambulances available at ministerial level for transporting suspected cases

Weaknesses

- Rapid response team understaffed and underequipped (no epidemiologist, psychosocial support)
- No rapid response team operational procedures
- Shortage or lack of ambulances at regional level
- Ambulances not adapted for EVD patients

Recommendations

- Strengthen composition and operational procedures of rapid response teams (all disciplines represented) (within 30 days)
- Strengthen the material resources of the rapid response teams, particularly PPE (within 30 days).
- Ensure that rapid response teams have a map showing district health facilities that could admit a suspected Ebola case (within 60 days).
- Conduct simulations of case management in the field (within 90 days).

3. Public awareness and community engagement

Strengths

- Existence of a communications strategy for EVD control, prepared on a participative basis
- Existence of communications officers and Ministry of Health spokesperson to answer questions on EVD
- Availability of media, specifically mass media (radio, television), capable of disseminating information on EVD
- Radio and television messages on EVD already being broadcast and giving the hotline number
- Awareness-raising leaflets distributed to certain target populations

Weaknesses

- Reactive response strategy adopted by Ministry of Health could give rise to rumours
- EVD hotline not functional
- Major stakeholders with social mobilization and opinion-forming capacity (religious chiefs, politicians, traditional healers) have not yet been identified or involved in information and prevention.

Recommendations

- Finalize as soon as possible a communications operational plan with monitoring and evaluation, media monitoring (radio, television, Internet) and rumour management components (within 30 days).
- Within the communications operation plan, develop a package of key messages that are validated, pretested and translated into the principal national languages (within 30 days).
- Reactivate social mobilization committees at all levels, and specifically at peripheral level, with precise terms of reference and a monitoring mechanism (within 30 days).
- Organize training or refresher training in communications for all influential stakeholders, specifically the media, religious chiefs and other opinion-formers (within 30 days).
- Extend the mailing list of stakeholders in EVD at the Ministry of Health and other ministries to disseminate official information from the national response unit (within 30 days).

4. Infection prevention and control

Strengths

- Posters on EVD and hand hygiene distributed in health centres in Nouakchott and in the interior of the country.
- Hand hygiene awareness-raising was organized for health workers in public and private sector facilities 5 or 6 months ago.
- Isolation units have been established at hospitals in Nouakchott (National Hospital, Friendship Hospital, Sheikh Zayed Hospital, Mother and Child Hospital), regional hospitals on the border with Mali (Aioun, Nema, Keifa and Selibaby hospitals) and at points of entry.

- Hand hygiene and basic precautions are applied very unevenly.
- Material for hand hygiene and basic precautions (soap, alcohol solution, gloves and masks) is not consistently available.
- A training programme in hand hygiene and basic precautions for health workers has been

developed but not implemented.

- Although designated, the most important hospital-based isolation units are not yet in operation.
- Health workers, including hygienists and cleaners in hospitals, health centres and health posts, have not been trained and do not have access to personal protective equipment (PPE).
- There is no financial or other specific incentive to become involved in EVD management. No compensation is envisaged for health workers in the event of infection or death.
- Basic isolation units have not been designated in all health centres.

Recommendations

- Institute a training programme for health workers, focusing on hand hygiene and basic precautions, and assess acquisition of expertise (60 days).
- Ensure availability of equipment for hand hygiene and basic precautions nationwide (soap, water, aqueous alcohol solution, gloves, masks).
- Designate basic isolation units at health centres.
- Train health personnel in the use of PPE and ensure that PPE is available, prioritizing the mobile and emergency services of basic isolation units at health centres and hospitals in the regions and Nouakchott.
- Make provision for incentives, including financial incentives, for health workers involved in treating EVD cases, and ensure compensation (for health workers and their families) in the event of illness or death.

5. Case management

Strengths

- Nouakchott ETC under construction with an estimated capacity of 5–10 cases; two more sites identified in Nouakchott
- Treatment facilities at district (*wilaya*) level that could rapidly be turned into ETCs have been identified along the border with Mali (one at Selibaby hospital, one at Kiffa hospital in Assaba Wilaya and one at Aioun hospital).
- Ten (?) ambulances available
- Médecins sans Frontières has offered to train medical, water, sanitation, hygiene and logistics personnel.
- Graveyard identified

- The Nouakchott ETC does not correspond to WHO or Médecins sans Frontières standards and is not operational; too small; no triage area; no clear distinction between high- and low-risk zones and services; case definitions not applied; too many entry and exit points in the perimeter and the building; sand inside perimeter; service areas lacking (washing, drying, waste, dressing, rest areas, shops, canteen); no protection against insects; sinks (?) should be replaced and toilets designated; lacking a visitors' area, morgue, waste disposal area; no back-up electricity or water supply
- No ETC identified at local level (*moughataa*)
- Ambulances not equipped with physical separation between driver and patient; no personnel and no communication equipment
- No definitions or codes for items, no emergency importation procedures
- Ministry of Health stock at almost maximum capacity, no item definitions, no inventory

- No mobile decontamination teams
- No standard operating procedures for supplies, locations, warehousing, medical profiles, logistics, water, sanitation or hygiene
- Burials: no equipment, no personnel, no standard operating procedures or terms of reference (the Hygiene Commission is responsible), no body transport system in the capital or elsewhere
- Graveyard not approved by the community

Recommendations

- Acquire PPE (within 30 days).
- Ensure that the ETC conforms with WHO norms (within 30 days)
- Identify, equip and train ETC personnel (within 30 days).
- Identify, equip and train ambulance teams (within 30 days).
- Operationalize hygiene subcommittee; develop standard operating procedures and transport arrangements (within 30 days).
- Officially designate graveyards in Nouakchott, and identify graveyards in the interior of the country (within 30 days).
- Identify, equip and train burial teams (within 30 days).

6. Epidemiological surveillance

Strengths

- Hotline number 101 is established and functional 24 h/24 h, 7 d/7 d for reporting all diseases at community, district, regional and national levels.
- Surveillance has detected suspected cases, all of which tested negative.
- Case definitions and case investigation forms have been distributed to district, regional and national hospitals.
- Staff in Nouakchott and four regions bordering Mali have been trained in EVD case detection and management.
- Various national nongovernmental organizations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent willing to conduct surveillance in communities

- Hotline, in the National Hospital in Nouakchott, has only one central line for all incoming calls and can receive only one call at a time.
- No hotline notification protocol
- No formal evaluation of EVD surveillance has been conducted at country level.
- EVD surveillance protocols are not formalized.
- Flow of information among health care structures is not standardized.
- Hotline staff lack training in managing calls and giving information on EVD.
- Case definitions and case investigation forms are lacking in dispensaries and health centres.
- Staff in dispensaries and health centres require training in EVD case detection and management.
- Local nongovernmental organizations, religious leaders and other actors have not been systematically implicated in community surveillance for EVD.
- Simplified case definitions for community surveillance are not available.

• No database has been generated to collect EVD patient information

Recommendations

- Add lines to the main hotline.
- Train hotline staff in specific Ebola issues (providing information and guidance to suspected cases, using the correct notification line)
- Standard form for hotline staff collecting and notifying information
- Train all health care workers in detection, notification and management of EVD.
- Standard notification protocol for all health care facilities
- Provide case definitions and case investigation forms to all health care facilities in the country.
- All health care facilities should have a telephone that has access to the hotline.

7. Contact tracing

Strengths

- Staff in Nouakchott and the four regions bordering Mali have been trained in EVD contact tracing.
- Contact tracing for suspected cases initiated by health care workers

Weakness

• Not all regions have health care workers trained in the principles of contact tracing.

Recommendations

- Identify and train teams to trace contacts.
- Develop an EVD-specific protocol and the necessary management tools (forms, databases, notification process) for contact tracing.
- Develop a list of resources required for contact tracing

8. Laboratory

STRENGTHS

- Existence of a clearly identified national laboratory (INRSP) that participates in the EVD monitoring unit and coordinates the management of specimens and training of national technicians, who could take part in interventions by rapid response teams and ensure liaison with the WHO collaborating centre (Pasteur Institute of Dakar)
- The laboratory technician at the health centre in each district visited recently (about 10 in the four regions bordering Mali) has been trained in the use of PPE, the types of specimens to be taken (dry tube and EDTA) and the triple-packaging technique.
- Arrangements in place since 2004 with the Pasteur Institute of Dakar for confirmation of viral haemorrhagic fevers and epidemic-prone diseases, and for diagnosis of EVD
- Current arrangement with DHL express company, financed by the WHO budget for acute flaccid paralysis, extended to epidemic-prone diseases, for shipment of suspected EVD specimens
- Two people certified to transport infectious material to the INRSP

Weaknesses

• Lack of PPE adapted to EVD at INRSP and health districts. The only available PPE was supplied by

USAID and WHO in preparation for the H1N1 influenza pandemic.

- Limited availability of specimen-taking kits at central and peripheral levels
- Very limited availability of P620-type (UN2814) triple-packaging units for air transport of category A specimens at central level (about 10 units) and none at peripheral level
- Laboratory technicians in several districts have not yet been trained in specimen-taking or storage and packaging of specimens from suspected EVD cases.
- The delay between shipping a specimen to the Dakar Pasteur Institute and obtaining the result is 5 days, sometimes more, instead of 24–48 h prior to the epidemic, probably because of the heavy workload of the Dakar Pasteur Institute.
- No detailed training for district laboratory technicians in transportation of specimens
- No standardized procedures for collection of specimens and shipment to the reference laboratory at national and subsequently international level
- Some doubts about the arrangements with DHL for handling suspected category A EVD specimens
- Inadequate biosafety level at INRSP to permit PCR testing for Ebola virus, despite molecular biology equipment for influenza diagnosis (ABI 7300 thermocycler) provided by the US Naval Medical Research Unit 3.

Recommendations

- Ensure that specimens from suspected cases of EVD are suitably identified as such on the routing slip and that the Dakar Pasteur Institute is properly informed to facilitate priority handling (within 30 days).
- Meet with potential transporters and negotiate arrangements for shipping specimens from suspected EVD cases. Verify whether World Courier operates in Mauritania (World Courier has a worldwide contract with WHO for handling these specimens) (within 30 days).
- Ensure procurement of P620 (UN2814) triple-packaging units, specimen-taking kits (with sharps disposal boxes) and PPE adapted for EVD (within 30 days).
- Train district laboratory technicians in techniques for transporting infectious substances (within 90 days),89qb and retrain them in use of Ebola PPE as soon as it has been received and distributed (within 60 days).
- Require procedures for taking blood specimens in line with WHO recommendations (within 60 days).
- Devise procedures for shipping specimens from peripheral areas to the diagnostics laboratory (within 30 days).
- Certify more staff for transporting infectious substances (within 90 days).
- Identify a technical and financial partner who could strengthen capacity and biosafety at the INRSP in use of PCR for diagnosing EVD, and/or supply a mobile laboratory (within 90 days).

9. Capacity at points of entry

Strengths

- Plan in place at all points of entry
- Thermoflash available, teams identified and trained, isolation area identified

- No suitable PPE for personnel managing cases of EVD
- At the airport, a plan exists but the medical component must be improved and a specific EVD plan

incorporated into the airport emergency plan.

- Ambulances must be fitted with isolated compartments.
- Isolation areas are not all readily identifiable and not all ready or completely adapted to EVD requirements.
- Health measures are not tested; numerous shortcomings at this level

Recommendations

- Acquire suitable PPE and specimen-taking kits.
- Incorporate the health plan into the civil aviation emergency plan.
- Fit ambulances with compartments.
- Expedite the preparation of isolation units, or establish new units.
- Reinforce hygiene measures.
- Improve the working environment of health workers.
- Establish standard operating procedures for health measures and PPE.
- Expedite training for laboratory technicians, ambulance crews, stretcher bearers and other personnel.
- Strengthen the medical team.

10. Overall budget

Strengths

- Mauritania has identified the costs for building its EVD control capacity.
- The country is in liaison, via the EVD monitoring unit, with major financial partners.
- The country can count on WHO support at national level to coordinate donor mobilization.
- The country has been proactive in procuring some equipment recommended by Médecins sans Frontières and WHO.

Weaknesses

- The costs associated with the EVD threat have not been updated recently.
- Despite urging by the World Bank for donors to contribute to EVD preparation, financial partners have been slow in following through their promises to Mauritania.

Recommendation

• Update the budget forecasts on the basis of of an internal mission to assess border health posts, the WHO mission and a WHO-USAID workshop in Douala.

Conclusions and next steps

The mission to support EVD preparedness achieved its objective with the support of the Ministry of Health, technical and financial partners and the WHO Country Office in Mauritania. The field visits, the simulation and the workshop to review the consolidated list helped to identify the main strengths and weaknesses and to make recommendations to the Ministry of Health and WHO. The rapid organization of the mission and its short duration did not permit the team to visit the regions or to carry out a simulation exercise under field conditions. Recent visits to border areas by the Ministry and WHO,

however, made it possible to identify the needs of the regions.

Of the proposed recommendations, those that should be given special attention for rapid action are:

- Provide PPE suitable for EVD and training in its use.
- Ensure that the Nouakchott EVD treatment centre meets the relevant standards.
- Establish technical subcommittees of the EVD monitoring unit to develop appropriate procedures.
- Raise awareness in communities.
- Mobilize partners (including the Red Cross and Red Crescent) to trace contacts and perform burials.
- Ensure that basic hygiene (such as hand-washing and wearing gloves) is practised in all health facilities.
- Plan and implement the necessary technical training.

Mobilization of the Ministry of Health and WHO should be backed by direct support from technical and financial partners in order to implement the response plan.

Annex 1. Ebola virus disease response plan



Annex 2. Results of the simulation exercise

Rapport des évaluations de l'exercice de simulation de table et améliorations suggérées

Mauritanie - 13 novembre 2014

CONTEXTE

Le exercice de simulation de table a été réalisé le 13 novembre 2014 en Mauritanie, dans le cadre de la mission internationale de soutien à la préparation à la « riposte Ebola » dans les pays non-affectés. L'exercice avait pour objectifs de

• Partager les informations sur les mesures de préparation et de riposte à la circulation éventuelle du virus Ebola en

- Partager les inverses d'interdépendance entre: o Les acteurs de la santé l'active acteurs
- Identifier les chaînes de responsabilités
- Identifier les chaines de responsabilités Revoir les processus de gestion des opérations lors d'un cas d'infection à virus Ebola Confirmer les dispositions prévues relativement à la notification, la coordination et les communications internes avant et après la confirmation d'un cas d'infection à virus Ebola. Examiner les aspects liés à l'équipement de protection individuelle et aux autres besoins logistiques (désinfection, enterment, etc...) et la gestion des cas et des contacts avant et après la confirmation. Examiner les aspects du préviement et du laboratoire, les des points d'entrée et du financement Passer en revue les communications publiques (communauté et médias)
- .

METHODE

L'exercice consistait en 14 vignettes (ou mises en situation) et questions associées, d'un scénario se déroulant sur 6 sernaines débutant par l'introduction d'un cas suspect de maladie à virus Ebola à une épidémie à l'échelle nationale. Ce scénario était divisé en 3 phases :

- Détection, gestion des cas, notification et recherche des contacts Confirmation des cas et diffusion de l'information Epidémie à l'échelle nationale

Au total, plus de 50 personnes ont participé à l'exercice de simulation. Le présent rapport présente, dans sa première partie, les résultats d'évaluation de l'exercice de simulation par les participants incluant leurs réflexions spontanées sur les zones d'amélioration potentielles de l'état actuel de préparation du pays. La deuxième section du rapport fait était des discussions qui ont eu cours pendant l'exercice de simulation tel que noté par les rapporteurs.

RÉSULTATS DU QUESTIONNAIRE D'ÉVALUATION

Au total 34 participants ont complété le formulaire d'évaluation. Aucune information n'a été documentée sur la catégorie de participants ou l'organisation d'appartenance.

Le tableau 1 présente les résultats aux questions d'appréciation sur l'atteinte du but établi, sur la qualité des discussions et l'utilité des leçons. Les résultats sont présentés pour 33 participants, puisqu'un n'a répondu à aucune des questions. Globalement, les participants étaient en accord ou fortement en accord avec l'atteinte des objectifs de l'exercice de simulation et le bon deoré de discussions et de lecons tirés de l'exercice.

Tableau 1

Contenu	Fortement d'accord % (n)	D'accord % (n)	En désaccord % (n)	Fortement désaccord % (n)
1. La discussion a atteint le but établi.	32 % (11)	63 % (21)	3 % (1)	-
 Les scénarios et les questions ont donné lieu à de bonnes discussions. 	55 % (18)	45 % (15)	-	-
 Le travail a permis de soulever d'importantes questions et de tirer des leçons utiles. 	61 % (20)	36 % (12)	3 % (1)	-

Surveillance épidémiologique	 Renforcement de la surveillance épidémiologique 	1
Recherche de contacts	 Renforcement et formation pour le suivi des contacts 	1
Laboratoire	Aucune mention	0
Points d'entrée	 Renforcement du dispositif / des unités d'isolement de base 	2
Autresthèmes	 La rapidité dans toutes les composantes 	1

Enfin, les commentaires suivants ont été évoqués au sujet de l'exercice de simulation, la mission et son suivi

La simulation a été très bien recue (1).

La simulation à été très bien reçue (1). Forte participation de la mission (1). Bonne préparation de la mission (1). La simulation devrait être complétée par des exercices de terrain, notamment dans les régions, en fonction des équipes et composantes(5). Absence des représentants religieux (1).

Absence des représentants religieux (1). Salle trop petite (1). Faire les exercices de simulation selon la réalité du pays et faire des comparaisons avec les pays affectés (1). Ajouter des questions sur les points d'entrée (1).

Les instructions sur l'exercice de simulation ont été remises aux participants, séance tenant, ainsi que l'horaire, la liste consolidée de l'OMS et un formulaire d'évaluation.

Les invitations avaient été acheminées par courriel le 11 novembre aux personnes des organisations suivantes : Direction de lutte contre les maladies, DSBN, Cellule communication, DMH, DRAS Nouakchott, Commissariat Aéroport, ANAC, Point focal RSI, Ministère de la Défense, Ministère des affaires islamiques, Commissanta la écurité alimentaire, Ministère de l'Intérieur, Ministère de l'Intére de l'Intérieur, Ministère de l'Intére de l'Intére de l'I (PNUD, UNICEF, UNFPA, OCHA, PAM), Droits de l'homme, MSF, ACF, Croix Rouge française, Croissant Rouge, Banque mondiale, <u>Medicos del Mundo</u>.

Ces personnes/participants étaient regroupés en 4 catégories :

□ les acteurs/joueurs : les participants du pays et partenaires techniques et financiers responsables de la riposte. Ces derniers devant se regrouper selon les composantes de la riposte, adaptées de la liste consolidée de l'OMS à savoir

- 1. coordination et budget,

- surveillance épidémiologique et recherche des contacts,
 équipe d'intervention rapide,
 communication et sensibilisation des communautés,
 prévention et lutte contre les infections, prise en charge des cas
- laboratories,
 points d'entrée

□ les facilitateurs: Anne Fortin, Jocelyne Sauvé de l'équipe de mission

- les rapporteurs: les autres membres de l'équipe de mission
- Iss observateurs: les autres nersonnes/narticinants

Seul les acteurs/joueurs devaient répondre aux questions du scénario. Cependant, une période était réservée aux observateurs

Le tableau 2 présente les commentaires généraux mentionnés par 32 participants sur les points d'amélioration pour le pays, selon les composantes de la liste consolidée de l'OMS. Toutefois, un certain nombre de commentaires n'ont pu être documentés en raison d'une écriture difficile à lire.

Tableau 2

Composantos	Dointe d'amélioration	122
composantes	Points & amenoration	192
Coordination	 Rôles et responsabilités : clarification du rôle des différentes sous-commissions, 	6
	clarification du rôle du niveau régional et des tâches au niveau de la pyramide	
	sanitaire	
	 Encouragement de rencontres régulières des sous-commissions 	1
	 Mise à jour du plan de riposte 	1
	Mise en œuvre du plan de riposte : élaboration d'un plan d'opérationnalisation de la	3
	riposte, opérationnalisation des directives ministérielles, élaboration des procédures	
	 Partage/Circuit de l'information 	3
Équipe d'intervention rapide	Ajout du soutien psychosocial	1
Communication et Mobilisation communautaire	Élaboration d'un plan de communications	3
	 Communications plus efficaces, plus ciblées avec implication des communautés 	2
	 Sensibilisation et implication des communautés/supervision des acteurs locaux 	3
	 Sensibilisation des représentants religieux dans l'accompagnement des familles 	1
	pour les enterrements sécuritaires	
Prévention et contrôle des infections	 Renforcement de l'hygiène sanitaire 	2
	 Identification et renforcement des unités d'isolement de base 	2
Gestion des cas – CTE	 Renforcement des centres de traitement Ebola 	2
	Renforcement et formation : équipes de prise en charge, personnel médical et	6
	paramédical	
	 Disponibilité du matériel/équipements (EPI, thermomètre à la frontière) 	6
Gestion des cas – Inhumations	 Besoin d'amélioration avec implication de la communauté 	3

RAPPORT- EXERCICE DE SIMULATION

ASPECT	MESURE PRÉVUE	Commentaires
Alerte, et premières interventions	Mise en place de la « ligne 101 » Information grand public sur cette ligne	Ligne partiellement connue des participants. Confusion quant auxobjectifs d'une telle ligne : info population vessus déclaration de cas. Essaie sur place de joindre la ligne part un participant: Cénec. Une seuel ligne serait disponible Ligne fonctionnelle toutefois en après midi Le Ministère est conscient des difficultés liées à cette ligne et travaille à son amélioration. Souhaite acheminer les appels vers un centre d'appel
	Ligne 101 arrive au standard du CH de Nouakchott. Le standardiste envoie l'info au médecin de garde, ou un surveillant général ou 1 administrateur de garde qui contacte la DLM (Direction de lutte à la maladie) DLM transfert l'Info à la DRAS qui va sur le terrain pour confirmer l'information. Si l'information est confirmé (possibilité d'un cas d'Ebola), une EIR (équipe d'intervention rapide) est envoyée sur le terrain.	Pas de procédure écrite sur ce que doit faire le standardiste et sur comment l'Information doit circule entre les différents paliers
	2 EIR pour le pays. Composition de chaque équipe : 1 médecin, 1	Équipement de protection individuelle des EIR insuffisant en qualité et quantité

ASPECT	MESURE PRÉVUE	Commentaires
	laborantin et un hygiéniste ? (pas clair : parfois on parle d'un hygiéniste, parfois d'un infirmier)	
	Définitions de cas disponibles aux CH et centres de santé	Pas clair pour les points de santé
	Directives sur conduite à tenirs i cas suspect préparées par DLM et distribuées L'infirmiere ou le médecir qui fait le questionnaire isole le patient et on attend l'équipe d'intervention rapide	Pas de procédures écrites Salles d'isolement pas toujours disponibles dans les centres hospitaliers, etitorque disponible, pas toujours fonctionnelles Pas d'instruction précise ou directive pour la famille du cas suspect
	EIR va faire les prélèvements où se trouve le patient (un médech entuninfirmer se déplacent La DLM appuie pour envoyer un technicien de labo pour faire les prélèvements) 2 prélèvements sontfaits: un reste sur place et un est envoyé.	Pas ciair qui prescrit la prise de sang EPI (kit Ebola) non disponibles partout 10 EPI dans chaque hôptal de chaque région frontalière. 2 au niveau de chaque EQE et 2 au niveau des centres de santé Confusion dans la discussion sur nombre de « kit Ebola » disponible Besoin de former le personnel paramédical pour les prélèvements sécurisés.
	L'équipement pour les prélèvements est aux normes Le prélèvement est acheminé à Dakar. DLM, OMS et INRSP contactent l'Institut Pasteur à Dakar. Envoi par DHL	Triple emballage pour le transport est en nombre insuffisant. (9 triples emballage au niveau de l'INRSP). Ils ne sont pas prépositionnés. L'OMS a fourni des triples emballages UN3373 pour

ASPECT	MESURE PREVUE	Commentaires
		cat B mais pas UN2814 pour Cat A. Ceci pourrait être problématique
	Disponibilité d'ambulances pour transport des patients	Ambulanciers pas encore formés.
	Lors d'une alerte récente, mobilisation rapide : infirmier, autorité sanitaire, ministère avec avion pour prélèvement qui s'est avéré négatif.	Cas suspect non suivi et difficulté à refaire un 2 ^{ieme} prélèvement qui était nécessaire car 1≅ prélèvement fait 24H après le début des symptômes
	Agrandir le tableau, au besoin	
Gestion des cas suspects	Formation théorique et pratique faite pour la définition des cas, comment se protéger et comment prélever (pour les techniciens). 40 personnes seraient formées	Formation très limitée pour l'instant : au total 40 personnes ont été formées ; 80% à 90% des travailleurs visés sont non formés
	Formateurs ont tourné dans les 4 régions frontalières avec le Mali. Avec des films, des PPT etc. Les	Pas d'exercice pratique sur habillage et déshabillage pendant la formation car « Kit Ébola » en nombre très limité
	équipes de Nouakchott ont été formées ainsi que 4 régions frontalières avec le Mail (formateurs sur place, ppt, films, etc.) MSF avait filmé et ce film a été projeté.	Formation à multiplier. Car la dernière fois c'est le virologue de l'INRSP qui est parti sur le terrain pour faire le prélèvement. Car les gens sont soit non formés, soit n'ont pas les kits de prélèvements.
	Les CH et Centres de santé disposent de Kit Ébola	Nombre très limité (voir section Alerte)
	Des gants thermoflash ont été distribués. Les campagnes de sensibilisation ont pour but d'augmenter leur usage.	A noter : EPI de base (gants et masques) nécessaires pour différentes situations, non seulement Ébola, seraient distribués en quantité

ASPECT	MESURE PRÉVUE	Commentaires
		suffisante dans les centres de santé et points de santé selon le MSSS, mais, non utilisés de façon courante par le personnel. Raisons évoquées : difficultés d'aprovisionmement? Faiblesse des protocoles? Formation insuffisante?
	Isolement des cas suspects - Sensibilisation des régions faile par EIR - Recommandations officielles de la DLM via une directive. Un guide serait élaboré - Les structures prioritaires dont les Points d'entrée ont élé ciblés pour la sensibilisation	Mais pas de salle d'isolement de base dans toutes les structures. Procédure d'isolement des cas suspects pas claire. Pas de procédure écrite.
	Information aux familles : ne pas toucher les cas suspects	Pas de protocole formalisés pour les membres de la famille des cas suspects
	SI le cas est dans un centre de santé ou un hôpital : le cas est complètement isolé de la famille et des visiteurs	
Notification	Infirmier informe l'autorité sanitaire avec mise en quarantaine du suspect et des contacts	Pas de procédure formalisée pour gérer le flot d'information
	Personne ne mentionne le RSI.	

ASPECT	MESURE PRÉVUE	Commentaires
	SI un cas était confirmé, il seraittransféré dans un centre d'isolement	Dans la situation fictive d'un cas confirmé à <u>Selibaby</u> , le centre d'isolement traitement identifié estune alle de l'hôpital. Ce centre est raporté non conforme en raison de sa proximité avec la pédiatrie
	C'est l'autorité régionale, qui une fois informée, va coordonner l'envoie d'ambulance si un transport est requis	
	MSF va offrir du support au Ministère de la santé pour la gestion des cas confirmé, un centre de traitement sera ouvert. A Nouakchott, il y a un site identifié. Des terrains ont été identifié dans différentes parties du pays. Il s'agit parfois de parties d'hôpitaux, ou de zones dans certains hôpitaux. Ailleurs, il y a un engagement de MSF de monter un centre en quelques heures.	
	SI NSF 3 installe, l'organisme fournil les équipements et s'installe, avec une équipe. Equipe déja dentifiée par NSF. MSF peut compters sur du personnel expérimenté qui a servi en Guinée Le personnel doit être complété par le personnel national. Le staff paramédical doit être fourni par le ministère.	Le personnel fourni par le pays devra être identifié et formé
	SI décès d'un cas, DLM a fait circuler une directive.	Équipes de prise en charge des cadavres ne sont pas formées

ASPECT	MESURE PRÉVUE	Commentaires
Recherche et suivi des contacts	Identification des contacts par le médecin de l'équipe d'Intervention rapide	Pas de protocole formalisé pour la recherche de contacts
	Pour l'instant, le suivi des contacts est assuré par la DLM avecles autorités de santé et les personnels de santé sur place. L'intention est de faire alliance avec le Croissant rouge elou la Croix rouge pour assurer le suivi des contacts. Il y a des points focaux de surveillance dans chaque région qui peut être mobiliés pour le suivi des contacts.	Pas de protocole formalisé pour le suivi des contacts
	Un anthropologue est prévu et a été identifié	Pas encore en place
Inquiétude et anxiété du public	Déploiement de plusieurs mesures et outils pour sensibiliser le public: fiches dans les centres de santé, dépliants dans les écoles, spot à la télévision tous les sois. Tv spot : principalement sur les mesures d'hygène; la ligne 101 est mentionnée dans les spots	
	Une certaine mobilisation sociale a <u>lieue</u> le long des frontières	Mobilisation communautaire relativement limitée
Confirmation des cas et gestion des cas confirmés	La confirmation d'un cas vient du labo Le ministère relaie l'information aux régions	Pas de protocole écrit pour gérer le flot d'Information

ASPECT	MESURE PRÉVUE	Commentaires
	Un hygiéniste connait la procédure	Pas de réel protocole de gestion des cadavres Pas ou peu de sacs mortuaires
Dispositifs aux points d'entrée(<u>PoE</u>)	21 <u>PoE</u> – gestion de la sante : responsabilité de la DRAS. <u>PoE</u> fort rapport quotidiennement à la DRASS	Difficile de savoir si il existe un plan de contingence global
	Salles d'isolement disponibles dans les PoE (points d'entrée)	
	Agents au 17 points d'entrée terrestres (dont le bac de Rosso) : al intrimeirs et un ambulancier qui appartiennent à un poste de santé de la locatité lis sont intégrés à une équipe avec un policier de l'immigration ils ont un <u>thermo(lash</u>), sants et masques. Dispositif de lavage des mains.	Très long frontières : beaucoup de personnes entrent au pays ailleurs que via les points d'entrée officiels
	Ports et aéroports : Il y a 2 PoE à Nouakchott (port et aéroport) et 2 à Nouadhibou (port et aéroport)	
	Aéroport: plan d'urgence général existant (médicale ou autre). Réunions de sensibilisation spécifiques sur Ebola effectuées au niveau de l'aéroport. Compagnie concernée, de même que le personnel de l'aéroport. Manuel d'exploitation claire pour les compagnies aériennes. Une équipe médicale est présente pour chaque arrivée	Dans la pratique aucun exercice de simulation n'a été effectué. Compte rendu que la procédure n'est pas explicite par rapport aux premières mesures préventives.

ASPECT	MESURE PRÉVUE	Commentaires
	d'avion. Prise de températures pour les arrivants	
	Ambulance au niveau de la société de l'aéroport. Une tente sera prévue si besoin sur le tarmac si un cas est suspect dans l'avion.	Pas de centre médical permanent, juste un poste de santé mis en place. Inquiétant selon le dirigeant de l'aéroport
	Port de Nouakchott: Une équipe médicale est présente pour chaque arrivée de bateaux. Ambulance présente La liste des bateaux est fournie depuis le 1/8 avec la liste des 2 demiers ports visités. Pilotes mettent des gants et des masques avant de monter à bord. L'équipage est examiné pour la température avant de laisser monter les dockers à bord.	
	Les équipages venant des pays affectés ne sont pas autorisés à descendre au sol sauf raison impérieuse.	
Développement des symptômes chez les contacts	Non abordé	
Epidèmie à l'échelle	du 3 sites de traitement identifiés à Nouakchott.	

AS	PECT	MESURE PRÉVUE	Commentaires
pay	ys		
		Réunion tous les mercredis de la <u>celllule</u> de veille avec les partenaires.	Retard à la mobilisation des partenaires sauf OMS et MSF par rapport au plan soumis.
Élé cor me pré	éments à prendre en nsidération si non entionnés écédemment		
-	EPI	Abordé précédemment	
-	Décontamination	Désinfection des maisons : pulvérisateurs mis en place dans les régions frontalières avec le Mali (<u>Pop</u> et CS). C'est le rôle de la croix rouge	Pas de procédure en place Lignes directrices existantes ne sont pas arrivées au niveau des ménages Equipe en charge de la désinfection non opérationnelle.
-	Labos	Abordé précédemment	
-	Communication – média et grand public – réseau de la santé - autres	Transparence du ministère de la santé. Sites internet très dynamiques. Il y a un comité dans chaque région dirég par le gouverneur. Le ministère est informé très vite et souvent avant que la preses soit informée. Si besoin, un communiqué peut têre tait. Le chargé de communication a déjà parlé à la télévision lors des précédentes alertes. Sous-commission communication prévue lund à 10 hà 10MS. Affiches au niveau des structures de santé. Dépliant pour les écoles, spots à la télévision. Communiqué de presse	Nécessité d'être plus proactif dans les communiqués officiels. Communiquer même lorsqu'on n'a pas d'information confirmée Difficulté d'atteindre les populations illettrées des zones plus reculées. Souhait d'organiser des séminaires pour préparer les messages. Pour les émissions radio il sera proposé qu'il y ait une interactivité.

ASPECT	MESURE PRÉVUE	Commentaires
	fait par la cellule de veille en français, arabe et langues [nationales. Le plan opérationnel est en cours d'élaboration	
-	Chef de la communication du ministère de la santé relève les insuffisances du pays par rapport à la préparation du pays à une éventuelle survenue d'un cas Ebola. Vigilance extrême ou le point focal communication du MoH est sollicité continuellement. Communique pour le grand public doit être étudié avec précaution pour ne pas submerger le ministère. Caravane pour sillonner les zones frontalières. Commission se réunit avec les cellules de veille. Ligne 101 est mentionnée sur les affiches et les spots mais a été utilisée de façon abusive par la population Communiqué de presse fait par la cellule de veille. Plan de stratégie de communication finalisée mais aussi un plan opérationnel est en train d'être finalisé pour savoir quels messages diffuser et comment les diffuser. Processus en cours	
- COordination	Via la cellule de veille	Pas de comité de gestion de crise à proprement parlé