



Regional Update No. 4: Novel Influenza A/H1N1 Global Outbreak Date: 22 June 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ WHO raise pandemic alert phase from 5 to 6 on 11 June 2009
- ✓ South Africa reported the first confirmed case of H1N1 in South Africa on 18 June 2009.

Angola

No new updates to report.

Botswana

UNCT Preparedness – WHO is reviewing the UNCT Pandemic Influenza Contingency Plan.

Support to Government and Government Preparedness Actions - The EPR plan for H1N1 has been consolidated and sent to all members within the National Task Force which is comprised of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Agriculture, Immigration, The Police Force, Botswana's Defence Force, Civil Aviation of Botswana, Gaborone City Council health authority, Princess marina(National Referral Hospital), National Disaster Committee, WHO and UNICEF.

The National Task Force has established district level Rapid Response Teams to ensure preparedness and response plans at district level. Communication directives on the situation, progress of preparation in the country and what is expected of the districts Rapid Response Teams has been completed. The RRT will also be responsible for surveillance at ports of entry with daily reports sent on a daily basis to the National Task Force.

WHO continues to provide technical support through the National Task Force. WHO has procured tami-flu, kits of personal protection equipment, medical equipment such as respirators and 870 viral transport media for the Ministry of Health (MoH). Additionally, an isolation facility in Gaborone (Block B) has been identified.

Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials have been disseminated to the public. Following WHO's raising the alert level from Phase 5 to Phase 6 on 11 June 2009, a press conference led by the MOH to inform the media about country's preparedness and response plan for Phase 6.

Comoros

No new updates to report.

Lesotho

UNCT Preparedness - The UN-Lesotho Pandemic Task Team has revised its Preparedness and Business Continuity Plan for H1N1. The UN-Lesotho Pandemic Task Force is preparing for functional simulation exercise in July 2009, with support from the Southern Africa Regional Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA ROSA).

Briefings sessions to sensitize staff about Influenza A continue to be held frequently. An inventory of Tamiflu and personal protective equipment for the UN system has been completed and stocks can cover all UN staff members, while personal protective equipments stocks are only available for essential staff.

Support to Government and Government Preparedness Actions - WHO and FAO continue to work with the Ministries of Agriculture and Health in strengthening their capacity for preparedness and response. In particular, WHO has supported the Health Sector in conducting orientation sessions for District Epidemic Preparedness and Response Teams. The Health Sector with the support of WHO has updated its Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan and developed guidelines for the management and control of Influenza A aimed at health workers.

FAO provided technical guidance to the Department of Livestock Services for the surveillance of pigs in the country. The Department trained personnel (Rapid Response Team) in the collection of samples.

With support from WHO, the MOH, national public awareness campaigns are ongoing with Public Service Announcements (PSA's) frequently broadcast to the public so as to ensure continued vigilance.

Madagascar

UNCT Preparedness / Support to Government:

1. Coordination and response readiness:

- Crisis response cell established and first meeting held on 28 May. Co-chaired by RC and WHO Representative. Members to include representatives of UNICEF, UNCG, World Bank, OMT, UNDSS and OCHA. Technical advisors to be assigned as needed.

2. Contingency plans:

- UN contingency plan review being finalized, coordinated by the Resident Coordinator, with the assistance of OCHA and WHO.

3. Continuity of critical operations:

- Updating and/or elaboration of Business Continuity Plans on-going, and linked to finalization of UN contingency plan (see above).

Support to Government and Government Preparedness Actions-

Contingency plans - National preparedness and contingency plans for pandemic influenza being fine-tuned and reviewed in terms of financial implications, with support from WHO and OCHA.

Malawi

UNCT Preparedness – The UN Medical Services Plan and the UN Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan has been revised, although it is yet to be submitted for approval to UNCT. The Communications Subgroup of the AHI Taskforce has finalized and disseminated flyers, posters and leaflets to sensitise staff.

Support to Government and Government Preparedness Actions – WHO donated US\$15,000 towards an assessment of healthcare workers, police, transport, Revenue Authority officers' capacities at all at the points of entry and designated central hospitals. Training to laboratory technicians and immigration officials is being provided by the Government with

support from WHO. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials have been disseminated to the public targeting travelers.

A multi-sectoral Business Continuity Plan (BCP) for the government is needed.

Mauritius

No new updates to report.

Mozambique

UNCT Preparedness – The UN Country Team (UNCT) continues to revise its Contingency plan and Business Continuity Plan (BCP). Updates on Influenza A continue to be shared to all UN staff focusing on the status of the epidemic, prevention measures and preparedness activities underway.

Support to Government and Government Preparedness Actions – WHO continues to advise the Ministry of Health on the current Influenza A situation. WHO supported the Ministry of Health (MOH) with the recruitment of an expert for RT-PCR training of national reference laboratory staff. From 15-17 June 2009, WHO supported a 3 -day workshop for the training of national Reference Immunology laboratory staff on RT-PCR for Influenza A H1N1 diagnosis.

WHO provided financial and technical support towards a Regional Workshop on Influenza A/H1N1 preparedness aimed at 15 health workers from central provinces among them clinicians, surveillance officers and Entry points Health workers. Additionally, WHO provided a hundred kits of personal protective equipment and 1,000 gloves from ITS/ESA to the Ministry of Health.

Namibia

UNCT Preparedness - A healthcare service provider for running a UN Fever Clinic for staff and their dependents is being explored.

Support to Government and Government Preparedness Actions – WHO and UNICEF continue to support the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) by participating in the National Health Emergency Management Committee, which is held twice a week. WHO has procured 1,000 doses of Tamiflu and 75 kits of personal protective equipment (PPE) for MoHSS. WHO is in the process of printing case management guidelines and posters on Influenza AH1N1 for use by public and private practitioners.

Information, Education and Communication materials to sensitise the public about Influenza A, its signs and symptoms, how transmission occurs, preventative measures have been developed and is being disseminated to travellers in and out of the country (at Airports) on AH1N1 influenza prevention and control.

Seychelles

UNCT Preparedness –The country has completed revising its Contingency plan, including the purchase of sufficient medical supplies for all staff members.

Support to Government and Government Preparedness Actions - Influenza information leaflets and flyers will be available at strategic locations at the airport for passengers. MOH continues with Flu lab surveillance for "Non-H1N1 flu " including lab investigations.

Following the announcement of Phase 6, WHO and MoH held a press conference for all the media institutions. The media agreed to step up dissemination of H1N1 information.

On 09 and 10 July 2009, UNDP, WHO and the Regional Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for Southern Africa (OCHA ROSA) with the Ministry of Health and the Department for Risk and Disaster Management (DRDM) will host a table-top simulation exercise to test the Contingency Plan.

South Africa

UNCT Preparedness - The country reported the first confirmed case of H1N1 in South Africa on 18 June 2009. The patient, a 12 year old from the United States of America, flew into South Africa on Sunday, 14 June 2009, presented with flu-like symptoms and was admitted to a private hospital on Monday morning. The patient fitted the criteria as a suspected case and was dealt with in accordance with the World Health Organisation and Department of Health guidelines in this regard. The patient was kept in isolation and discharged after a few days in hospital. He is well and recovering in isolation at home. All contacts have been followed up and given the necessary advice and treatment.

Support to Government and Government Preparedness Actions – The Department of Health has stepped up safety precautions, including health officers boarding aircraft where cabin crew highlight suspected cases. Health officers have been positioned at all ports of entry.

In addition, the Department of Health is developing a communication strategy. Additional measures taken in response to the outbreak include; reviewing status of preparedness for pandemic influenza at Ports of entry (OR Tambo and Cape Town); status of preparedness in Health faculties. The efficacy of thermal scanners has been questioned given that scanners were operational at the airport. Meanwhile, there is a need for thermal scanners at other airports such as in Cape Town, where international passengers also arrive in large numbers.

Swaziland

UNCT Preparedness – The UNCT continues to update its Contingency Plan for pandemic influenza. An inventory of current vaccine stocks for Tamiflu and protective equipment has been completed, and additional stocks have been procured for use by identified essential staff.

Support to Government and Government Preparedness Actions – WHO is providing technical support to the multi-sectoral pandemic preparedness Committee. With the declaration of of pandemic Phase 6, WHO held a press conference on 16 June 2009 with the MOH to sensitise the media on the implications of the declaration.

Zambia

No new updates.

Zimbabwe

UNCT Preparedness – The AHI Task force is developing a Contingency plan.

Support to Government and Government Preparedness Actions – WHO supported the MoH identify isolation facilities of suspected cases at Harare international Airport as well as Beitbridge, Nyamapanda and Mutare Infectious hospitals. have been identified as well as arrangements for ferrying suspected cases from the airport to health facility.

Assessment missions are being planned Chirundu and Kariba ports of entry during early week of July.

for all airports (Bulawayo, Victoria Falls and Nqabuko airports) and border posts to assess levels of preparedness in the areas of case management, infection control, medical supplies and the capacity of existing port health authorities.

There is need to provide communication materials for port health offices and district hospitals.

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