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MEETING OF AFRICA CDC AND NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTES IN AFRICA

26 – 28 February 2018



“It is clear that we must find an African solution to our problems, and that this can only be found in African unity. Divided we are weak; united, Africa could become one of the greatest forces for good in the world.” – Kwame Nkrumah, 1953

On July 2017, the Heads of States and Governments of the African Union committed to accelerating the implementation of International Health Regulations to protect Africa’s economy and health security.

National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) have a pivotal role to play in achieving economic and health security in Africa.

Africa CDC is mandated to assist in the establishment and strengthening of NPHIs in all the Member States and harness public health assets in Africa through a regional integration.

It is in this regard that the Africa CDC hosted a meeting from 26th – 28th February 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to discuss strategies for establishing and strengthening NPHIs in the continent.

“Unity of Purpose” was the meeting theme to promote collaboration, coordination networking among NPHIs and partner organizations, and to strengthen health security in the continent.

In order to find an African solution to Africa's public health problem, the Africa CDC has developed a new public health order with five key elements (Figure 1)

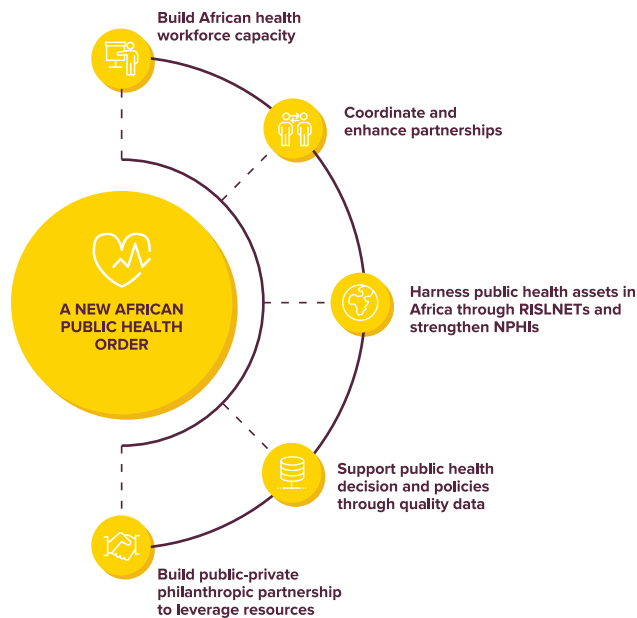


Figure 1: The new public health order for Africa

COMMUNIQUÉ

One of the outcomes of the NPHIs meeting was a Communiqué on strengthening and establishing NPHIs as part of a network of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Communiqué has 28 key points aimed to create consensus on the roles and responsibilities of the Africa CDC, Regional Collaborating Centres (RCCs), NPHIs, and partners in order to strengthen Africa's health security. The Communiqué:

- Recognizes a strong and functional NPHIs as critical to the acceleration of the implementation of IHR and ensures national commitment and ownership of compliance; and
- Advocates for the establishment of NPHIs as a core coordinating function in all national health systems.

NETWORK OF NPHIS

In order to strengthen collaboration and networking between the Africa CDC, RCCs, NPHIs, and academia, a communication model was developed and endorsed as shown in Figure 2:

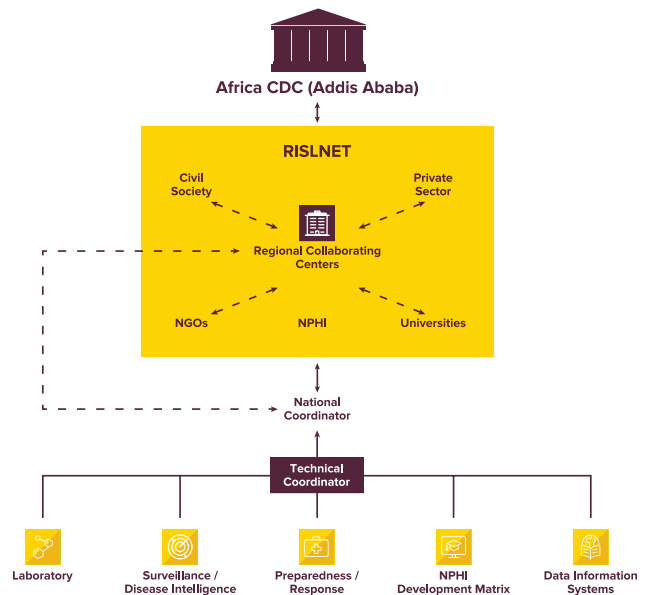


Figure 2: Communication and network of NPHIs with Africa CDC and RCCs

NPHI TOOLS

Three documents: 1) Framework for the establishment and strengthening of NPHIs; 2) Scorecard for evaluating and monitoring of NPHI development, and 3) NPHI legal framework, were developed and are currently being finalized.

DATA MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP IN LIBERIA

Africa's recent commitment to free movement of its people in the continent, open skies for airlines, and free trade agreements makes data sharing across the continent more imperative for cross-border surveillance and disease intelligence.

To realize the above commitment, acquisition, warehousing, and sharing quality health data/information in a timely fashion is important.

In order to build collaboration and trust for sharing of health data/information among NPHIs, the Africa CDC organized a workshop on data acquisition, warehousing, sharing, and timely use for public health impact with selected NPHIs in Africa from 4-5 June 2018 in Monrovia, Liberia.

“Data is oxygen for a public health institute.”

– Dr. John Nkengasong, June 2018

The 6-principle ACTION framework was defined:

- **Accelerate** our use of data and the progress of health systems through data
- **Capacity** is at the heart of our efforts. Collecting and analyzing data relies on human capabilities
- **Transparency & Trust** are preconditions of our collaboration
- **Impact** to Africans’ health and support of decision making is the final objective of collaboration
- **One architecture** ensures that all data systems work together so the sum is greater than the parts
- **Nobody** left behind, all Africans count

NPHI CORNER

INAUGURATION OF MOZAMBIQUE NPHI



The National Institute of Health in Mozambique inaugurated its new building on 13th June 2018 in the Presence of His Excellency Mr. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of Mozambique, Dr. Nazira Abdula, Minister of Health, Mozambique, Dr. John Nkengasong, Africa CDC Director, Senior Government Officials and Partners.

RISLNET ESTABLISHMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, WEST AFRICA, AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Laboratory research has a pivotal role for rapid disease detection and evidence based decisions. In order to support member states in disease detection and diagnosis, the Africa CDC, through the Regional Integrated Surveillance and Laboratory Network (RISLNET), is working to strengthen laboratory systems and networks in the African Union Member States.

The RISLNET is a platform of the Africa CDC designed to harness regional assets and create regional integration for disease surveillance and laboratory diagnosis.

The Africa CDC, in collaboration with the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), organized meetings for the Southern and Central Africa regions. The objectives of these meetings was to establish a network of RISLNET, implement laboratory quality management system, develop laboratory strategic plans, implement laboratory information systems, and develop biological specimen transportation systems in the regions.

Outcomes of the meetings were:

- Gaps of the national laboratory strategic plans of Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Malawi were identified.
- Buy-in for the assessment and mapping of P3 and P4 laboratories in three countries was obtained.
- An implementation plan and assessment tool for the laboratory mapping was developed.
- A consultant was recruited for the Central Africa region to support laboratory mapping and the establishment of RISLNET.

PUBLICATIONS

1. "No Public Health Without Migrant Health" (May 2018)

[https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanhiv/PIIS2352-3018\(18\)30044-4.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanhiv/PIIS2352-3018(18)30044-4.pdf)

2. "Health Ministers Adopt African Medicines Agency Treaty" (9 June 2018)

[https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanpub/PIIS2468-2667\(18\)30101-4.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanpub/PIIS2468-2667(18)30101-4.pdf)



Dr. Nazira Abdula (Middle), Minister of Health, Mozambique, Dr. John Nkengason (right), Director, Africa CDC, and Dr. Ilesh Jani (left), Director Mozambique National Institute of Health, discussed strengthening NPHIs in the Portuguese speaking countries of Africa. The Minister was requested to champion the new order of harnessing public health assets through regional integration

3. "Reliability of Hiv Rapid Diagnostic Tests for Self-Testing Compared with Testing by Health-Care Workers: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis" (24 April 2018)

[https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)31313-8.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(18)31313-8.pdf)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Africa CDC will organize a meeting on Public Private Philanthropic Initiative on 6th December 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The theme of the meeting is "A New Public Health Order - Safeguarding Africa's Health and Economic Security". The meeting has the following objectives:

- Establish a new public health order through private-public philanthropic engagement.
- Mobilize \$500 million by 2023 for accelerating International Health Regulations implementation.
- Improve health care access and delivery in Africa through increased private sector investments.
- Launch the Public Health Foundation for Africa.

AFRICA CDC'S RESPONSE TO EBOLA



High level visit to the Ebola virus disease outbreak epicenter in Mbandaka and Bikoro by the Hon. Minister of Health of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Dr. Oly Ilunga; the Director of Africa CDC, Dr. John Nkengasong; and colleagues. Expedient assessment of the gaps needed for an effective response to control the outbreak was critical.

In response to the Ebola outbreak in Mbandaka, Bikoro, etc, DRC, Africa CDC has:

- Activated the Emergency Operation Centre, the same day the Ebola virus disease outbreak was declared
- Deployed over 30 responders to support the local Ebola response
- Developed strategies for laboratory testing and networking, surveillance and contact tracing, and a Health Cordon strategy

Of the total 1706 contacts identified, 433 (25.4%) were traced and followed up by Africa CDC volunteers. The contacts were from Iboko (215), Bikoro (108), Itipo (85), and Mbandaka (25).

The Africa CDC Regional Collaborating Centres also played a critical role:

• Southern Africa

- Developed a standardized checklist for monitoring preparedness in the region
- Supported countries to develop preparedness plans
- Initiated screening at points of entry

• Central Africa

- Ebola preparedness plans developed
- Weekly sensitization meetings with member states via ECHO Zoom

- Organize a meeting in Brazzaville, Congo in the coming weeks with ministers of health to prepare the region, should the Ebola virus spread to sub/region

• Eastern Africa

- Preparedness plans in place
- Initiated ports of screening
- Weekly Ebola update meetings with member states



Deployment of Africa CDC Ebola Contingent by the great leadership of His Excellency Abdou Abbary, the African Union Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Africa CDC epidemiologist crossing the river Lolo in search of an individual who had been in contact with an Ebola infected person in Weli, Bosolo

◀ Contact Tracing

Since the beginning of the outbreak, a total of 1,706 contacts have been traced and followed for 21 days of which 517 (30%) were conducted by Africa CDC volunteers.

Workforce Development ▶

Based on the identified gaps and need of the Ministry of Health, Africa CDC supported training of a total of 320 experts on Ebola laboratory diagnosis (50), surveillance and disease intelligence (50), and border screening and monitoring (220).



Laboratory technicians and scientists from the Ministry of Health and INRB participating in a three days EVD Laboratory diagnosis training.



Ambassador Abdou Abarry, African Union Ambassador (2nd from left), handing over GenExpert machines and cartridges to Dr. Oly Ilunga, Minister of Health, DRC (3rd from Left)

◀ Laboratory Diagnosis

In order to strengthen laboratory diagnosis capacity for Ebola, Africa CDC has procured and supplied six GenExpert machines with 2000 cartridges.