Guide for Rapid Response teams (Uganda)

BASIC COMPOSITION OF THE RAPID RESPONSE TEAMS

♦ DDHS
♦ Clinical person (clinical officer or doctor)
♦ Laboratory person
♦ Surveillance Focal Person
♦ Health Educator
♦ Health Inspector

DEFINED ROLES OF THE RAPID RESPONSE TEAMS AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL

♦ Conduct a rapid assessment of a possible outbreak (epidemic-prone diseases and other disasters).
♦ Confirm the existence of an epidemic
♦ Assess the impact on health
♦ Assess the local response capacity and immediate needs
♦ Present results of the investigation to the DDHS and other relevant people who need to know (MOH, local population for action.

For details refer to the “Ten steps to investigate an epidemic.

APPROACH TO CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION OF A REPORTED OUTBREAK/ RUMORS

♦ Each rumor / report must be investigated immediately (within 24 hours).
♦ The RRT should liaise with the health personnel and the community leaders of the affected Health Sub-District.
♦ Before proceeding to the field, the team should confirm that the Rapid Response Kit has all the requirements (refer to the check-list of the kit).
♦ Each member of the team should have a copy of the “Ten steps to investigate an epidemic” for use in the field.
REQUIREMENTS FOR RAPIDLY RESPONDING TO AN OUTBREAK

Rapid Response Kit

Items required

- Sanitation tools, disposable bags, washing basins, hand washing facilities, water container, Flashlight, cotton wool).
- Basic protective wear - (Gloves, Aprons, Masks, Caps, Boots, Goggles, Gowns, Towels)
- Transport (Convenient mode of transport, Fuel.
- Disinfectants (JIK, Soap)
- Stationery (Note books, pens, calculators)
- Laboratory equipment (microscopes, reagents, slides, specimen bottles, test tubes, lancets, pipette, alcohol, immunization oil, spirit lamp, transport media, swabs, M/S, lab). Refer to Mr. Guma for advice.
- Manual/guideline, e.g. Case Definition booklet, laboratory guideline, disinfect ion guideline etc.
- Basic clinical equipment (Lumber Puncture Needles, Giving sets (cannula and butterfly needles) disposable syringes, Stethoscope, Thermometer.
- Appropriate Bags for packing in the Rapid response kits

For the detailed content of an emergency kit, please refer to the WHO guideline

EXERCISE

Different scenarios of receiving reports:

1. Report of an outbreak / health problem from the community X (through person or media).
2. Abnormalities noted in Health unit HMIS monthly summaries.
3. Weekly report of an outbreak from HSD / Health Unit.

Given the above three scenarios, as a RRT, how would you proceed to investigate (probe).

Conduct a field visit for the practical component.

Present the report.
BASIC ELEMENTS OF A REPORT FOR AN INVESTIGATION

♦ Title of report
♦ Background information (what prompted you to investigate)
♦ Aim of investigation
♦ Methodology for investigation.
♦ Summary of major findings.
♦ Conclusions and recommendations.