WHO-MOH

Planning Meeting for the WHO GIEESC meeting

23-25 July 2013, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Background:

Trinidad and Tobago is an island nation of the West Indies, located immediately north of Venezuela. It has a population of 1,346,350 (2011) 94% of which is concentrated on the larger, main island of Trinidad. The nation is divided into 5 segments by the Ministry of Health, the North West, North Central, Eastern, South West, and Tobago Regional Health Authorities.

As a high-income country, it enjoys a relatively high life expectancy, 71 years. In 2011, total expenditure on health per capita was $1,488 or 5.7% of GDP. However, it does have an elevated maternal mortality rate (46/100,000) and much lower rations of physicians (11.8) and nurses (35.6) per 10,000 population than the regional average of 20.4 physicians and 71.5 nurses.

The Ministry of Health lists 114 health facilities, the majority of which are located in the South West Regional Health Authority. The Ministry of Health has utilized the WHO Tool for Situational Analysis to Assess Emergency and Essential Surgical Care at over half of its facilities, and continues to conduct assessments. The Ministry of Health of Trinidad and Tobago will also be hosting the 5th Biennial WHO Global Initiative for Emergency & Essential Surgical Care (GIEESC) Meeting on October 14th and 15th 2013 in collaboration with the WHO Country office (WCO).

Objectives:

- A WHO –MOH meeting on WHO Emergency & Essential Surgical Care (EESC)
- Visits to government health facilities
- WHO-MOH Planning meeting for the WHO GIEESC Meeting in Oct 2013
Meeting Presentations and Discussions:

- Meeting participants included the minister of health and director of the International Cooperation Trinidad & Tobago, director of MOH Quality & Safety, directors and experts from academia, executive members of professional societies (surgical, anaesthesia, orthopaedics, obstetrics, paediatrics, nursing, national medical association) and doctors and nurses from hospitals.

- Participants were facilitated to the applicability of the WHO Integrated Management for Emergency & Essential Surgical Care (IMEESC) toolkit:
  - evidence-based decision making for policies and plans for improving surgical care systems towards universal health coverage
  - preliminary analysis of assessment of surgical capacities utilizing the WHO Situation Analysis of EESC in Trinidad & Tobago was shared for evidence based planning
  - improving quality & safety of surgical care: norms and standards at various levels of care, best practice implementation at point of care (wards, operating room, postoperative and emergency room, labour room, ICU), monitoring and evaluation of progress and outcome of training
  - education and training tools including Emergency & Trauma Care training resources to improve life-saving and disability-preventable surgical interventions in management of injuries, pregnancy-related complications and other surgical conditions
- Collaborative activities with national and Caribbean surgical societies on development of tools to monitor quality and safety of anesthesia and surgical services were discussed.
- Interest for media exposure for the EESC program and upcoming WHO GIEESC meeting and the World Congress on Surgery, Obstetrics, Trauma and Anesthesia involved interviews at the National TV and Radio channels.
- Potential EESC WHO Collaborating Centre (WCC) potential hub for distance learning and practical training to improve quality on EESC.
- Research, monitoring and evaluation of progress in surgical care systems is required.
- Visits with MOH included:
  - Scarborough Hospital, Tobago
  - Eric Williams Medical Science Complex Hospital, Port of Spain, Trinidad.
Recommendations and Action Plan:

- MOH and WCO a draft scientific paper on situation analysis of EESC at various levels of care
- The MOH will Monitor & Evaluate the progress of improving of surgical care systems through working with professional societies of surgery and anesthesia to support the training of non-specialist doctors
- The MOH and WHO will work on the development of accreditation system to improve quality & safety of EESC
- The contents of the WHO IMEESC Toolkit will be used as e-learning and distance learning tools
- The MOH and WHO will plan on developing a potential WCC on EESC
- The MOH and WHO country office will continue to support the upcoming WHO GIEESC Meeting
- Emphasize on advocacy by engaging with media, professional societies, and academia for the upcoming WHO GiEESC meeting
Meetings Participants

Participants
1. Dr Ian Ramnarine  Cardiac & Thoracic Surgeon, St. Clair Medical Centre
2. Dr Lakhan Roop  Associate Lecturer, U.W.I.
3. Dr Deryk Chen  Senior Lecturer/Unit Coordinator, Anesthetics/Intensive Care, U.W.I.
4. Dr Hariharan Seetharam  Professor, Anesthesia & Critical Care Medicine, U.W.I.
5. Dr Carol Solomon  Scarborough Hospital
6. Ms Sharlene Baptiste-Smith  Scarborough Hospital
7. Ms Sarah Celestine-Balfour  Scarborough Hospital
8. Dr Andrew Bill  Scarborough Hospital, General Surgery
9. Dr Amma Seal  Scarborough Hospital
10. Dr Jean Robert Richard  Scarborough Hospital
11. Dr Singh  Scarborough Hospital
12. Ms Anthonette Patterson  President, Caribbean Nurses Organizations
13. Ms Marva V. Lawson-Byfield  Chief Nursing Officer, MOH Jamaica
14. Ms Debrah Lewis  Vice President, International Confederation of Midwives
15. Ms Irma Purisch  Managing Director, Johns Hopkins Medicine International
16. Dr Fizan Abdullah  Associate Professor of International Health, Johns Hopkins Hospital

MINISTRY OF HEALTH, Trinidad and Tobago
17. Dr Faud Khan  Minister of Health Trinidad and Tobago
18. Dr Nathaniel Duke  Tobago Regional Health Authority
19. Dr Mr David Constant  Director, International Co-operation
19. Ms Gina Joseph  Director, Corporate Communications
21. Ms Jennifer Andall  Manager, Health Sector Human Resource Planning and Development

WHO
23. Dr Meena N. Cherian  WHO, HQ, EESC program, Geneva, Switzerland
24. Dr Bernadette Theodore Gandi  WHO Representative Trinidad and Tobago, WHO AMRO/PAHO