Infection Prevention and Control
Implementation and Progress updates:
Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone inter-country meeting

Background and rationale to the meeting
Preventing transmission from affected patients to the community and healthcare workers through implementation of infection prevention and control (IPC) standards and best practices has been one of the pillars of the response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Indeed, the lack of adequate IPC infrastructures and supplies and poor knowledge of the importance of IPC measures has been recognized as one of the main factors determining the unprecedented magnitude of viral spread in the affected countries.

Within the strategic plans for early and longer-term health system recovery developed by the governments of the three highly affected countries, IPC and patient safety are one of the highest priority areas for urgent development. Improving water and sanitation (WASH), IPC infrastructure and supplies and ultimately, practices in health-care facilities is crucial. Many lessons have been learned during the dramatic developments of the Ebola outbreak; affected countries have made immense progress in the field of IPC. However, putting in place a deeply rooted and sustainable system for IPC in health care requires major efforts and focus. Sharing progress, plans and strategic approaches among countries which face the same challenges will help identify the most promising strategies and identify possible synergies. Ministry of Health delegations will lead this meeting, presenting their progress and results, discussing current challenges to achieve sustained HCW behaviour change and approaches to IPC mentorship and validate the proposed DRAFT common IPC/WASH indicators (main output from last meeting). The role of WHO and invited partners will be to offer technical input as appropriate, and facilitate discussion, mutual learning and coordination among countries.

Objectives

- Discuss the current status of IPC and WASH activities in health-care facilities in each country describing progress and results in implementation of the national IPC recovery action plans and integration into essential health services
- Discuss current challenges to achieve actual HCWs behaviour change and how best to provide mentorship
- Validate IPC/WASH common list of indicators developed by a designated inter-country working group
• Share strategic plans for IPC and WASH improvement in the context of health systems recovery for medium-/long-term objectives
• Establish a mechanism for continuous sharing of IPC documents, tools and progress reports

**Expected outputs**

• A comprehensive meeting report describing each country’s progress and results, strategic objectives for 2016 and approaches in addressing HCW behavior change
• A final draft of the common IPC/WASH indicators and minimum requirements
• Defined priorities for quarters 1 and 2 of 2016
• Defined next steps and specific actions for the development of an effective mentorship program addressing HCW behavior change

**Invited participants:** MOH representatives, WHO and CDC representatives (COs & HQ), relevant partners in IPC/WASH from each country

**Sponsors:** Japanese funds

**Venue:** Kendeja Hotel, Monrovia, Liberia

**Date:** 17-19 February 2016
Agenda

Opening Ceremony - Day 1 morning

08:30  Introductions of participants

09:00  Words of welcome (Emmanuel Onuche Musa, deputy WR Liberia)

09:05  Opening and welcome remarks (Dr. Francis Kateh, Deputy Minister, Health Services and Chief Medical Officer, MOH Liberia)

09:20  Follow up of previous meeting and objectives of the meeting (Benedetta Allegranzi, WHO HQ)

09:40  Security Briefing and Administrative

09:50  Group photograph

Session 1. Country presentations on IPC status, progress and challenges in the context of recovery and health systems strengthening (Chair: Dr. Moumie Barrie, MOH Guinea)

10:00-12:45  Country presentations (MOH representatives) and discussion with focus on progress (as measured by IPC indicators) and integration and collaboration with essential health services

10:00  Guinea (MOH Guinea)

10:45  BREAK

11:00  Liberia (MOH Liberia)

11:45  Sierra Leone (MoHS Sierra Leone)

12:30  Plenary discussion

13:00-14:00 LUNCH

Day 1 afternoon

Session 2. Validation of IPC/WASH common indicators in the context of early recovery – Working session

14:00  Overview of IPC/WASH common indicators proposal and validation process (Anthony Twyman, WHO HQ)

- To provide a validated framework to strengthen and enhance national monitoring activity and data quality and provide a basis for prioritizing improvement actions
- To assist with implementation of quality improvement in the field of IPC and WASH
- To act as an alert system to provide information on trends that are of relevance internationally
- To provide a valuable opportunity to strengthen the IPC and WASH component of the WHO Service Availability and Readiness Assessment (SARA) methodology with potential to feed into HMIS systems
14:30-17:30 Working groups: Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone

Day 2 morning

8:30 Review of previous day and agenda (Francis Ojok, IOM)

**Session 3. Report back from working groups (Dr. Catherine Cooper, MOH Liberia & Dr. Benedetta Allegranzi, WHO HQ)**

**09:00-12:00** Group feedback from validation working session

09:00 Guinea

09:05 Sierra Leone

9:25 Liberia

9:45 Final discussion on key monitoring indicators

11:00 BREAK

**Session 4. View on the way forward from WHO HQ and AFRO (Chair: Nanah Kamara Sesay, MOHS Sierra Leone)**

11:30 Global view on IPC and WASH, updates and progress (Benedetta Allegranzi and Arabella Hayter, WHO HQ)

12:00 Update on IPC in the African Region (WHO AFRO)

12:30-13:30 LUNCH

**Session 5. Strategies and approaches for addressing healthcare workers behaviour through an effective mentorship program (Chair: Dr. Jean-Bosco Ndihokubwayo, WHO AFRO)**

13:30 The Duport Road cluster: Perspectives from quarantine healthcare workers & barriers to implementation of IPC practices influencing the development of a mentorship framework (Theodosia Kolee, WCO Liberia)

13:40 A pilot project for hospital hygiene on a routine basis. Preliminary results (Mamadou Dieng, Expertise France)

13:50 Overview of strategies and techniques for approaching behaviour change in the infection prevention and control (Julie Storr, WHO HQ)

14:30 Discussion
Day 2 afternoon

Session 6. Group sessions: Developing action plans and next steps for the development of an effective behavioural change & mentorship program (Chair: Julie Storr, WHO HQ)

15:30-17:30 Working groups (Break at 16:00):

1. Guinea (Facilitators Jean-Bosco Ndihokubwayo and Benedetta Allegranzi)
2. Sierra Leone (Facilitators Claire Kilpatrick and Sam Omar)
3. Liberia (Facilitators Anthony Twyman and Arabella Hayter)

Day 3 morning

8:30 Review of previous day and agenda (Dr. Yolande Hijazy, JHPIEGO)

Session 7. Report back from working groups (Chair: Julie Storr, WHO HQ)

8:45 Guinea
9:05 Sierra Leone
9:25 Liberia
9:45 Final discussion
10:30 BREAK

Session 8. Country reflections and insights gained from an activity or intervention that has shaped IPC implementation (Chair: Stacey Mearns, ERC Coordinator)

11:00 Liberia (MOH Liberia)
11:20 Guinea (MOH Guinea)
11:40 Sierra Leone (MOHS Sierra Leone)
12:00 Discussion

Session 9. Final conclusions, recommendations and key actions (Chair: Dr. Moses Massaquoi, Case Management Lead, MOH Liberia)

12:30 Recommendations and key actions for the way forward (all participants)
13:15 Final conclusions and closing ceremony (MOH & WR Liberia, other MOH delegations, AFRO)
13:30-14:30 LUNCH