Joint WHO-MoH workshops on Improving the Quality of Emergency & Essential Surgical & Anaesthesia Services through an Integrated Management of Essential and Emergency Surgical Care for 5 East Caribbean (EC) countries Barbados, Grenada, Dominica, St. Lucia and Anguilla

30 June -5 July 2008

Objectives:

• Field visits to health facilities at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of care in Barbados; Grenada; Dominica
• Meet with PWR Barbados and AMRO/PAHO country offices focal persons and MoH in Barbados, Grenada, Dominica, St Lucia and Anguilla
• Introduce the WHO Integrated Management for Emergency and Essential Surgical Care (IMEESC) toolkit for improving the quality of emergency, surgical and anaesthesia services towards strengthening health systems

Background

• Joint WHO-MoH workshops on Improving the Quality of Emergency & Essential Surgical & Anaesthesia Services through Integrated Management of Essential and Emergency Surgical Care were held and included participation from the
following countries: Barbados, Grenada, Dominica, St. Lucia and Anguilla.

- Introductory session to the workshops on Improving the Quality of Emergency & Essential Surgical & Anaesthesia Services through an Integrated Management of Essential and Emergency Surgical Care for 5 EC countries included:
  - Debriefing session with PWR Barbados and technical teams
  - Elluminate (a global live web based conference for discussions, distance learning, sharing best practices) session with 5 EC countries Barbados, Grenada, Dominica, St. Lucia and Anguilla
  - Overview of Global Initiative for Emergency & Essential Surgical Care (GIEESC)
  - Country presentations of situation analysis using the WHO Situation Analysis to Assess the Emergency & Essential Surgical Care Tool (http://www.who.int/surgery/publications/QuickSitAnalysisEESCsurvey.pdf)
  - Introduction of WHO Integrated Management for Emergency and Essential Surgical Care (IMEESC) toolkit

Discussions:
  - applicability of the WHO-IMEESC toolkit in strengthening capacities at front line to improve the quality of services and equipment related to emergency and surgical care
  - integrated approach to training on cross-cutting themes in emergencies, surgical procedures, and linked equipment
  - utility of the WHO situation analysis tool in assessing emergency & essential surgical care

Visits to the Healthcare Facilities
- Field visits was made to the general hospitals, medical health centres (Type 1,2,3), polyclinics and district hospitals in Grenada, Dominica and Barbados
- Individual meetings and discussions were held with Permanent Secretary in MoH, directors of medical and nursing training programs, teaching hospitals, medical health centres, and polyclinics in Grenada, Dominica and Barbados

Recommendations
The discussions from each of the country workshops and meetings resulted in the following overall recommendations (specific recommendations will be available from the individual country workshop reports):

- Basic life saving and disability preventing emergency, anaesthetic, and surgical intervention needs to be addressed at both secondary and primary level of care particularly in relation to emergency preparedness, trauma and pregnancy-related complications
- Standards in emergency and surgical care need to be in place in order to strengthen the health systems
- Auditing of health systems is needed to identify the gaps to access life saving emergency services which urgently need to be filled
- Situation analysis of access to emergency & essential surgical care is necessary to identify the medical health facilities, equipment, and health personnel required to fulfill various levels of care
- Dominica, Barbados, Grenada and St. Lucia will complete a situation analysis to assess emergency & essential surgical care and send completed forms to WHO/AMRO/PAHO Barbados office
- Collected data will be entered in the global database, analysed, and shared with WHO/PAHO for dissemination to the countries
- Workshop reports to be prepared separately for Barbados & St. Lucia, Grenada, and Dominica to highlight country-specific needs
- WHO IMEESC toolkit with the WHO manual SCDH will be disseminated to each of the East Caribbean countries through WHO/PAHO Barbados
- WHO Best Practice Protocols should be incorporated through training workshops for health providers (emergency, surgical and anaesthesia services)
- Parts of the WHO standards in the IMEESC toolkit should be proposed for incorporation in medical and nursing students teaching curriculum in the 4 EC countries
- WHO IMEESC toolkit should be used for continuing performance development in emergency, surgical and anesthesia services and linked to other programs
- Report of the workshop should be prepared for dissemination on website

Acknowledgement

At the close of the workshop, acknowledgement was given to all participants including guest, representatives from Ministry of Health of Barbados, and health officials from Grenada, Dominica, St. Lucia and Anguilla for commitment to increased access and quality of essential emergency, anaesthetic and surgical care in the eastern Caribbean region.
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