

Concept

**CORDS One Health Approach**

**Influenza H7N9 and Ebola in a pilot**

**One Health workshop**

 Dr Petra **Dickmann** MD, PhD

 dickmann risk communication drc⏐

 pdickmann@dickmann-drc.com

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**I. Background**

*One Health approach*

The human-animal-ecosystem interface is of particular interest for limiting the spread of the disease. The One Health approach aims to combine the forces in human and animal health sectors with industry and policy stakeholders; in their *Strategic Framework* international organisations conceptualise an intersectoral approach that brings together these different perspectives.[[1]](#footnote-1) An application of this approach to the complex situation of occurring diseases, such as Influenza H7N9 in Asia, or to improve the preparedness for diseases occurring in other countries, e.g. Ebola outbreak in West Africa, is considered highly valuable.

CORDS networks face the challenge of infectious disease surveillance and of information sharing, communication and coordination across sectors not only in one country, but they work across several countries and in cross-border regions. Their experiences inform the conceptual approach, with additional insights sought from advisors to CORDS.

*Strategy*

Considering the unique nature of CORDS networks with the challenges they face in the cross-border and international setting in the surveillance of emerging and re-emerging diseases, we propose to develop and hold three One Health workshops in the network regions each combing two networks: SE Asia with MBDS and APEIR; SE Europe/Middle East with SECID and MECIDS; and East and Southern Africa with SACIDS and EAIDSNet.

This workshop refers to the conceptual framework that is based on interactive, output-oriented and co-produced group work in a facilitated and safe environment. Facilitation is based on an ‘*enzymatic’* approach of facilitators to help structure the change progress in policy and practice.

**II. Conceptual approach**

*Aims and objectives*

The overall aim of this incubator workshop is to enhance the *trust* and *respect* that enables true collaboration. The strategic objectives are to

* Enhance awareness for the need for collaboration among stakeholders;
* Encourage commitment and political will;
* Agree on operational targets of collaboration; and
* Agree on shared benefits.

The workshop will use two diseases as proxies and examples: a) Influenza H7N9 as currently occurring in Asia; and b) Ebola as disease not-yet occurring, but imported cases are likely. The two diseases are used to elicit useful patterns of surveillance, detection and control in a multi-sectoral approach. This will not solve the problem of H7N9 or Ebola in the respective countries, but will serve as a springboard for activities that are going to last and are sustainable and contribute to better addressing the problems of occurring and not-yet occurring disease outbreaks and other health threats in the countries. The specific objectives and priorities are to

* Consolidate cooperation mechanisms;
* Improve routine information sharing and communication;
* Engage in joint risk assessment, and
* Participate in joint simulation and exercises.

*Setting*

Based on previous experiences with CORDS networks and other workshop settings, we suggest a

* Two-day workshop; plus third day of exercise;
* 21-24 participants from two networks countries;
* Representatives from animal and human health, food (poultry) industries, public policy-makers and food regulators;
* Small interdisciplinary/intersectoral working groups with precise assignments; and
* Moderated plenary sessions to generate collaboration and agree on comprehensive and sustainable ways forward.

**III. Agenda**

The One health approach requires the collaboration of different sectors and the aim of CORDS workshop is to bring different sectors form different countries together to talk and work *with* each other.

We envisage a group of 21-24 participants coming from human and animal health, food (poultry) industries, policy-makers or food regulators of the networks countries who all have first hand experience in the management of emerging health threats (e.g. H7N9) and have the authority to induce change in their organisations (senior level, e.g. Director). The hosting networks are committed to monitor and support the change process; this process will also be evaluated and these insights will feed into the CORDS One Health approach and further One Health workshops in the networks.

The overall principle is to work in small working groups and have moderated plenary sessions to discuss the results of the working group results. For the working groups, precise assignments with analysis and reflection tools will be developed and provided to guarantee focused working sessions with clear outcomes. The moderated plenary sessions are used to stimulate a debate and to agree on joint strategies. The exercise on the third day gives an opportunity to apply the insights and lessons of the previous days. This incubator event is understood as an enzymatic activity that brings people together and lowers the boundaries for collaborative actions and to induce and sustain change and progress.

*Day 1*

The starting point is to hear about the experiences on the ground from countries and sectors in regards to emerging health threats and avian influence H7N9 and Ebola in particular. For this purpose a first session – after a general introduction – will start off with small working groups to develop and give *country* presentations on surveillance mechanisms including information, communication and coordination routines; and ii) to develop and give *sector* presentations on health preparedness; both followed by a moderated plenary discussions about the situations. Part of the first day is to collect some insights into what works in regards to One Health – and what does not and what people wish to have in place.

*Day 2*

The second day starts off with parallel working groups of H7N9 and Ebola scenarios to be reflected through different lenses. Working group presentations are followed by a moderated discussion to extract the key aspects of the working groups results.

The afternoon of the second day is dedicated to implement the insights generated over the prior one and a half days into coherent actions that are going to last – and what agreements and supports is needed to maintain these actions and new routines. It is important to produce results and insights that are available for other networks and the broader community to allow some cross-fertilisation.

*Day 3*

The third day is dedicated to an exercise scenario. Groups will face the same starting scenario, but will then receive different injects for changes of situations that they need to respond to. The four-hour exercise will start in the morning and debriefing and lessons identified will take place in the afternoon. Exercise scenarios are great opportunities to ‘feel’ the need for changes and create the sense of responsibility to commit to long-term, sustainable progress.

*Evaluation*

The workshop and the exercise will be evaluated to improve the conceptual approach, actual agenda and exercise capabilities for future workshops.

**Draft Agenda**

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| Day 1 | **Raise awareness – Explore the complexity**Analyse and reflect the starting points |
| 09:00 – 9:3010:00 – 11:0011:00 – 11:1011:10 – 12:30 | **General Introduction***Pre-course assessment***Working group 1: Country** **surveillance** mechanisms including information, communication and coordination routines*Tea/Coffee break* **Country presentation****Moderated plenary discussion** |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch |
| 13:30 – 14:30 14:30 – 15:3015:30 – 15:4515:45- 16:3016:30 – 17:00 | **Working group 2**: **Sector preparedness** for emerging health threats (e.g. H7N9 and Ebola in particular)**Sector presentations***Tea/Coffee break* **Moderated discussion**: facilitating and blocking factors of collaboration and information sharingDay 1 Summary |
| from 19:30  | Dinner (19:30) |

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| Day 2 | **Translate insights into actions**Agree on joint ways forwards |
| 09:00 – 9:159:15 – 10:4510:45 – 11:0011:00 – 12:30 | **Recap of Day 1****Parallel, mixed working groups 3-5:** H7N9 and Ebola scenarios from different angles*Tea/Coffee break* **Working group presentations 3-5****Moderated plenary discussion** |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch |
| 13:30 – 14:30 14:30 – 15:1515:15 – 15:3015:30- 16:3016:30 – 17:1517:15 – 17:4517:45 – 18:00 | **Working group 6**: **Lessons for sectors** **Sector presentations***Tea/Coffee break* **Working group 7: Implications for countries****Country presentation****Moderated discussion**: Lessons for actions and implications Day 2 Summary  |
| From 19:30 | Dinner (19:30) |

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| Day 3 | **Exercise** |
| 09:00 - 13:00 | **Introduction to exercise****EXERCISE** |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 – 15:00 15:00 – 15:3015:30 - 16:3016:30 – 17:00 | **Debriefing Exercise groups***Tea/Coffee break* **Moderated discussion**: Lessons learned for actions and implications *Post-Course and Exercise assessment*Day 3 Summary  |
|  | End of Workshop |

**IV. Products**

This pilot workshop serves as a template and will result in a variety of products:

* One Health as module for further use in other networks;
* Working group material: 7 scenarios and analysis tools;
* One day exercise with material and injects; and
* Evaluation tool to demonstrate progress and justify spending.

**V. Dissemination strategy**

The concept, outcome and products of the incubator event can be used for dissemination, cross-fertilisation and advocacy purposes:

* Report of One Health approach for publication on CORDS website and network websites;
* Recommendations based on the report for further advocacy work;
* Scientific publication of concept and outcomes; and
* Event and exercise material (group work scenarios and analysis tools) to be offered as resources for networks on the CORDS website.
1. WHO;, OIE;, FAO;, Influenza; U, Unicef;, Bank W. Contributing to One World, One Health: A Strategic Framework for Reducing Risks of Infectious Diseases at the Animal-Human-Ecosystems Interface. 2008. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)