

EBOLA: INTENSIFIED PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMME (IPP)

Building capacity in communication and community work to better manage the Ebola outbreak

1. Approach

The *Intensified Preparedness Programme* (IPP) is a project, initially funded by The Rockefeller Foundation for a six-month period, that offers:

- Capacity building training of trainers in affected and not yet affected countries;
- Online material to learn about this capacity building approach; and
- Executive briefings to advise risk management and risk communication.

Our *Intensified Preparedness Programme* (IPP) focuses on communication and community work to help build the capacity for preparedness and response, establish trust between communities and health care workers and enhance resilience in the communities.

This programme is based on innovative, culturally sensitive risk management and risk communication approaches that support both the short-term crisis response efforts and the longer-term capacity building that relies on networking and communication.

Our target groups

We work on the basis of strategic risk management and risk communication and we will provide trainings, briefings and online material for supervisors, coordinators, decision-makers to conceptualise and shape frontline health care approaches, risk management, community outreach and risk communication. Rather than deliver barrier-nursing trainings, our focus concentrates on infection control management: what works in African realities (e.g. community-driven isolation practice) and what is less likely to work (e.g. imposed lockdowns of entire areas or countries). The key is to learn and explore a new method through which communities can independently develop solutions that will work in the local context.

2. Workplan

Curriculum

We are currently developing a core curriculum that reflects our training approach: using facilitated small groups to learn and reflect on a method to identify culturally sensitive, flexible and community-based solutions that work in various settings. During the curriculum development period, we will engage key stakeholders from affected countries, international

organisations, senior experts in infectious disease management, community leaders, traditional and community based healthcare approaches. This curriculum is a work in progress: we will add the lessons learned from the each training as additional layers of this core curriculum to maximise the learning effect.

Pilot training

One pilot training was held in Kampala, Uganda, 25-26 November 2014 to test the approach, gather feedback and seek further input. The first pilot training addressed CORDS network representatives and aimed to build capacity in the networks to further disseminate the preparedness and response management and create a cohort of trainers.

Other piloting activities are briefings for international organisations to promote this approach, seek feedback and collaborate with international response activities.

In-country trainings

Building on the pilot training experience, in-country training will be scheduled from December 2014 on to help build the capacity of affected and not-yet affected countries.

The next in-country training will be held in Accra, Ghana, from 6-7 January 2015. We envision training a group of 18 participants from Ghana and surrounding countries who will impart instructive approaches, content, and techniques to a variety of populations across countries.

Other trainings in affected and not-yet affected regions will be scheduled.

Online material

We will provide a curriculum, training material and lessons learned from the period after December 2014 on the CORDS website, as dynamic resources evolve with the growing training experience.

Consultancy briefings

Additionally, we will offer on a flexible basis consultancy briefings for international and national leaders/executives for key decision-making in infectious disease emergencies. These consultations will be designed for the need requested. CORDS is well positioned to offer tailored advice through a range of formats, including 1-2 hour video-call briefings, one-day executive trainings, and other options as requested.

3. Contact

This is a fast moving project and we are updating our website (www.cordsnetwork.org) frequently. If you wish to obtain more information or speak to a member of the team, please contact Mr Paul Kaczmarek (paul@cordsnetwork.org) or Dr Petra Dickmann (petra.dickmann@cordsnetwork.org).