

Building Sustainable Networks: Experience and challenges of EAIDSNET



Associate Prof. Julius J. Lutwama

Uganda Virus Research Institute,
Entebbe, Uganda

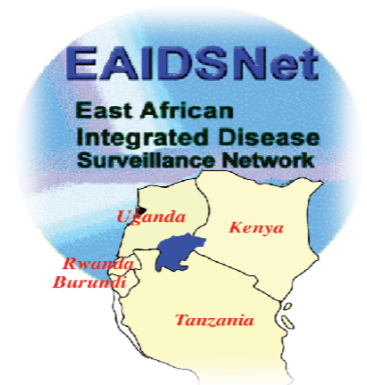


Overview

- EAIDSNET: The East African Integrated Disease Surveillance Network was established in 2000

Composition:

- Ministries of Health, Environment, Wildlife and Agriculture & Veterinary in the member states of East Africa.
- Research Institutes
- Health Training Institutes



Mission and Objective

MISSION

To improve epidemic preparedness, response and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases

OBJECTIVE

To enhance and strengthen **cross-country** and institutional collaboration through regional activities, coordination and collaboration for prevention and control of human and Zoonotic diseases under the One Health Initiative.

Coordination

- EAIDSNET is a formally adopted body of the EAC through the council of Ministers of the EAC.
- Among 8 activities of collaboration, the 1st and most important is “strengthening cross-border health services, disease surveillance and joint outbreak response”.
 - Harmonization of tools
 - Agreement on diseases for notification- immediate, weekly, monthly to Secretariat and neighbours
 - Responding together to outbreaks

Experience and challenges

1. INCREASE IN SIZE

- Originally established by MOH: Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda
 - Health Research Institutes: NIMR, KEMRI and UNHRO
 - Training Institutes: Makerere, Muhimbiri and Nairobi Universities
- Presently there are 6 six countries and soon will increase to 9 countries
- Responsible Ministries have increased: Health, Wildlife, Environment, Livestock, Water and Sanitation, Some countries with 2 MOH
- More Health Research Institutions and Universities.
- **Organisation, Coordination, Collaboration, funding of activities, all become challenging**

Experience and challenges

2. DISPARITY IN SYSTEMS:

- Health systems and training systems
- Standards of life
- Insecurity / Instability

3. LOSS OF INTEREST

- Changes in personnel
- Lack of transparency
- Political /economical interference

Experience and challenges

4. MANY OUTBREAKS

- Partners become overwhelmed and fatigued



5. FUNDING DIFFICULTIES

- Originally funded by RF, then by IDRC as network
- Later funding from projects e.g. Research scientists Leaders training project, World bank EAPHLN project, GIZ

- **All above challenges either affect or are affected by sustained funding**



EAIDSNET's realization in building sustainability

- Partners understanding the benefit of being in the network
- creating trust among all members developing cohesive programmes acceptable to all partners
- Having a coordinated organization structure for shared governance maintaining transparency and accountability,
- providing information as agreed to partners of the network,
- mobilizing technical and financial resources,
- engaging in cooperative agreements with international organizations

Way forward in building sustainability

Embracing Kotter's 8 stage process of creating major change

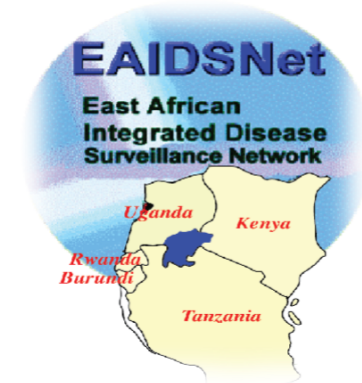


Way forward in building sustainability

- Note that:
 - To win funds you have to deliver
 - To deliver, you have to be well coordinated
 - The best way to win funds is to join efforts
 - The more you win funds, the more funds you win

Acknowledgements

- EAC Secretariat
- EADSNET Members
- SACIDS
- CORDS Board
- CORDS Secretariat



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION