



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY  
OF HEALTH AND CARE SERVICES

# Meeting on strengthening surveillance of WRD

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# One-day planning meeting

## Bonn 31 March 2014

- Develop a joint understanding of the scope and specific activities envisaged under Programme Area 2
- Specifically agree on the scope and purpose of the technical meetings (WASH and WRD).
- Decided on an expert meeting in Bonn in October.

# Meeting on surveillance of WRD

## Bonn 23-24 October 2014

- Organized by the WHO Regional Office for Europe
  - Together with the lead-Parties Norway and Belarus
- Attended by:
  - 33 participants from 18 Member States
  - experts from ECDC
  - WHO CC for Health Promoting Water Management and Risk Communication at the University of Bonn.
  - WHO CC for Research on Drinking-Water Hygiene at the German Federal Environment Agency.
  - Joint Secretariat.
- Financially supported by:
  - Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services
  - German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.

# Meeting objectives

- Review available evidence of the WRD situation in the WHO European Region
- Share countries' approaches and experiences in setting up, implementing and maintaining WRD surveillance systems
- Define key challenges and support needs for improving WRD surveillance systems
- Discuss the content, gaps and possible update needs for the technical guidance document on WRD surveillance, previously prepared under the Protocol's mandate.

# Meeting conclusions I

- WRD surveillance and outbreak response systems are essential requirements of the Protocol
- Majority of countries have surveillance systems and outbreak alert and response mechanisms in place.
- Importance of effective communication to public
- Country presentations confirmed that:
  - Web-based notification systems improve reporting in terms of timeliness and coordinated intervention throughout all levels.
  - Surveillance and outbreak investigation outcomes inform policy interventions and improvement programming at national level.
  - Outbreak registers support identification of deficiencies and prioritization of interventions spatially and over time.

# Meeting conclusions II - challenges

- Reporting challenges
  - Uncertain burden of WRD -> may compromise attention to WRD at policy level.
- Weaknesses more severe in rural areas due to lack of laboratory, human and financial capacities.
- Lack of linkage between DWM and WRD surveillance.
- Emerging pathogens and non-communicable disease outcomes are not well covered by many surveillance systems.
- Climate change may challenge WRD surveillance

# Meeting conclusions III

- 2011 technical guidance on WRD
  - Good basis for training activities. (But perhaps not for the local level.)
  - Need to disseminate to target audiences
  - There were several suggestions for amendments to be considered in a possible second edition.

# Follow up Actions after the meeting

- Review Protocol reporting template and Guidelines on the Setting of Targets
  - To measure more effectively the effects of targets
- Regional/sub-regional capacity building workshops on WRD surveillance and outbreak response systems:
  - Target countries
  - Develop a survey to identify and target needs in target countries?
  - Train the trainers?
  - Bring together relevant sectors (WRD and WQM)?
  - To be carried out 2015/16
  - Priority to countries with plans for follow up.
- Update the technical guidance on WRD based on the recommendations provided at the meeting?



# Nordic Baltic network for DW and Health Meeting Dec 2014

- Topics
  - Mandate of network
  - Protocol Water and Health
  - DW monitoring
  - WRD surveillance
- There's still time to register !
- Back-to-back planning meeting with WHO secretariat for further work on program area 2.1 and 2.3



Thank You for Your attention!