

Programme area 2.1

Progress of work on surveillance of water-related diseases and outbreak management

Lead Parties: Norway and Belarus

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11th meeting of the Working Group
on Water and Health,
Geneva, 3-4 April 2019

Protocol on Water and Health



Main focus for period 2017-2019

Planned activities:

- i. Development of **annotated training modules** on water-related disease (WRD) surveillance
- ii. Organization of **national capacity-building** activities on WRD surveillance and outbreak management
- iii. Review and revision of **technical guidance document** on WRD surveillance, including expert group meetings

Capacity building workshops

Training needs assesment

- * Electronic survey for target countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan)
 - * Country needs and focus areas
 - * Target groups
- * Training programme prepared addressing the needs
- * Training materials adapted

Training needs assessment questionnaire

Prevention and reduction of water-related diseases (WRD) is a priority programme area of work under the Protocol on Water and Health. Capacity building activities on WRD surveillance are planned under the 2014-2016 programme of work of the Protocol.

This survey aims at identifying the concrete capacity building needs on WRD surveillance and outbreak management in selected countries.

Part 1: Introduction

Please, describe how WRD surveillance and outbreak management is regulated and implemented in your country.

1) Is there a national plan or strategy or regulation related to WRD surveillance? Please briefly describe key elements and/or requirements.

2) Who are the main actors involved? What are their roles and responsibilities?

3) Please, describe how WRD surveillance and outbreak identification and response are organized in your country. Please specify whether outbreaks are normally handled at national or local level

Capacity building workshop in Armenia

Yerevan, 4-6 June 2018

35 epidemiology and hygiene specialists (Armenian NCDC and its regional branches

Content: tailored to the needs identified

- * **Overview of WRD and outbreak surveillance**
- * **Main approaches to WRD surveillance** and practice examples
- * Key principles and elements of **waterborne outbreak management**
 - * epidemiological investigation tools and risk communication
- * Hands-on group exercise on case study: computer based exercise based on a real outbreak investigation



Capacity building workshop in Azerbaijan, Baku 9-11 October 2018

35 participants (MOH, RHEC and district offices, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, and academia).

Content: tailored to the needs identified

- * **Risk-based surveillance of drinking-water quality**
- * **Overview of WRD** in Region and country
- * **Main approaches to WRD surveillance** and examples
- * **Outbreak management: detection, investigation and control**
 - * tools for epidemiological investigation
 - * risk communication
 - * group exercise on case study



iii. Technical guidance document on water-related disease (WRD) surveillance and outbreak management

Meeting of lead parties of programme area 2.1 (Bonn, 3 November 2017):

- * Develop a new practice-oriented **technical guidance document** WRD surveillance and outbreak management
- * Consensus on the Scope: water-related infectious diseases,
- * Agreed on content and structure
 - * Part 1: Key considerations in improving surveillance systems for WRDs
 - * Part 2: Outbreak management: main steps and key issues on WBOs; environmental investigation and risk assessments; risk communication; use of an outbreak scenario as example
- * Advised to prepare training modules once the document finalized
- * Consultant developed draft
- * **Core team meeting on WRD surveillance and outbreak management, (Oslo, 11-12 March 2019)**
- * Detailed technical review, feedback
- * Defined steps and timeline for document finalization



Actions and timeline

Actions	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV
Send updated draft to core team	28-Feb									
Core team meeting		11-12 Mar								
Prepare an advanced version addressing comments and feedback from core team			15-19 Apr							
Detailed peer review by experts of the updated advanced version				Feedback by end-May						
Prepare a final version addressing the peer review comments						15-Jul				
Language editing of the document							15-Aug			
EURO PUB technical clearance								15-Sep		
Design and printing of the document									Oct	
Translation into Russian										
Launch at MOP 5										MOP



Development of annotated training modules

- * Develop annotated training modules on water-related disease (WRD) surveillance based on the guidance document and needs identified at the national workshops
- * Postponed to 2020-2022 – to be developed after finalization of the new guidance document

Program period 2020-2022

Objectives and expected outcomes

The thematic area aims to support Parties and other States in implementing article 8 of the Protocol:

- (a) Strengthen national and local capacities with regard to improving, maintaining and sustaining vigilant public health surveillance and early warning systems of water-related disease
- (b) Enhance preparedness, outbreak responses and investigation capacities

Main focus program period 2020-2022

Proposed activities:

- i. Disseminate the newly developed *Technical guidance on WRD surveillance and outbreak management*
- ii. Update and make available training modules on WRD surveillance and outbreak management with annotated notes for trainers
- iii. Organize capacity-building workshops on WRD surveillance and outbreak management
- iv. Convene a regional meeting on Legionella and facilitate an exchange of experience and good practices related to prevention, control and surveillance.

i. Disseminate the technical guidance on WRD surveillance and outbreak management

- * Disseminate through the Protocol network and meetings
- * Web-posting and printing
- * Encourage translation into national language and use at capacity building events and in developing national guidelines/tools

ii. Development of web-accessible training modules

- * Build on the technical guidance document
- * Use experience from workshops
- * Update training materials
 - * Annotated presentations
 - * Waterborne outbreak scenario case study
 - * Include section on environmental investigation and risk assessment
 - * Material for computer based exercise
- * Review and publish online



iii. Organization of national capacity-building activities

- * Lessons from first five workshops:
 - * Needs assessment survey helped in designing **the country specific training programme**
 - * Useful to share country experiences and practical examples
 - * Countries **identified gaps and strengths** through the discussions and group exercises
 - * Stand-alone trainings or integrated with surveillance of drinking-water quality
 - * Evaluate impacts at national and local levels.
- * Plan for next years:
 - * Continue with workshops based on expression of interest
 - * Needs assessment survey → targeted content

iv. Regional meeting on Legionella

- * Technical preparation, scoping and planning
- * Get overview of the situation and surveillance capacity in the countries
- * Share country experiences and case studies on Legionella control and prevention
- * Discuss further actions at the national level and under the Protocol



Thank you!