A Role for EpiCore with International NGOs: MSF Spain Experience

Jas Mantero, Epicore Focal Point
on behalf of Ending Pandemics
IMED conference 2018, Vienna
EpiCore: a Verification Platform

- A secure online platform engaging a network of health professionals who provide information supporting VERIFICATION/UPDATE of public health events

- Members respond to requests for information (RFIs) based on informal reports/rumors that are sent by identified organizations
EpiCore **COMPLEMENTING** existing mechanisms of events verification

There are official mechanisms to improve information sharing and promote pro-active verification of events from any source.
MSF Spain (MSF-E)

One of the five MSF operational centers (OC)

Each OC has an own organisation and partners associations

MSF-E working in 30 countries (and ad-hoc intervention)

Started to use EpiCore in 2018
Analysis of MSF Spain experience with EpiCore (as of Jun 2018)

- 7 Requests (RFI) sent out
- 5 RFIs answered (72% reaction rate)
- 4 RFIs answered <24 hrs (average reaction time 5h:30m)
- 3 RFIs with «verification»/update as outcome

1. **RFI Verified (-):** Suspected HF, Uganda
2. **RFI Verified (+):** Suspected Meningitis, South Sudan
3. **RFI Update:** Measles, Multicountry (Latin America)
MSF identifying media report: Suspected HF, Uganda - May 2018

1st reaction (minutes)

1st contribution < 12hrs

F/up < 24 hrs

Based on the clinical presentation, medical history of the case persons, and preliminary laboratory findings, the strange disease in Manafwa District, Uganda is likely to be black water fever (BWF), a severe form of Plasmodium Falciparum malaria in which blood cells are rapidly destroyed, resulting in dark urine. There is no hemorrhagic fever in the district.

Almost all the eleven children who were admitted by the time the National Rapid Response Team reached the district tested positive for malaria by RDT. We have shipped blood and urine samples from all the 11 children and they are undergoing laboratory analysis at the National Reference Laboratory of the Ministry of Health. As of yesterday (29 May 2018), a total of 65 cases have been identified.
Conclusions and next steps

1. EpiCore enabled MSF-E to obtain first hand actionable information early in the events.
2. EpiCore could have an important role in strengthening NGOs epidemic intelligence activities.
3. EpiCore added value for NGOs in terms of timely management of response needs to be further assessed.

EpiCore to further explore the potential role of NGOs in the platform as Requester and as Responders.

MSF-E to better understand how EpiCore can support the definition of standardised epidemic intelligence procedures, and to share the experience with other MSF-OCs.
Thanks

For more information on EpiCore please visit our website: www.epicore.org

or contact us at info@epicore.org