

Post-Ebola Resilience project

2015-2017 Sierra Leone and Guinea



Post-Ebola Resilience project

The outbreak of Ebola in West Africa gave a global alarm: viruses are oblivious to national borders; victims can be infected worldwide. The world population was alarmed, “emerging infectious diseases” should be controlled.

The ‘Post-Ebola Resilience project’ aims at improving health and well-being of communities in Sierra Leone and Guinea through resilience and preparedness of Ebola and other emerging infectious diseases that originate at the interface between humans, animals and their various environments.

The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Accra, Ghana funds this project

Aim of project

The Post-Ebola project has three major aims:

1. To enlarge the effectiveness of prevention, preparedness, and resilience to Ebola and other infectious diseases with epidemic potential, through active community engagement and increased communication for cross-border regions in Sierra Leone and Guinea.
2. To strengthen the laboratory services including their quality assurance systems for improved preparedness and resilience of Ebola and other emerging infectious diseases.
3. To develop and pilot an approach for Result Based Financing (RBF), a methodology to create social accountability in financing health systems, contextualised to the health system of Guinea, more specifically to the preparedness of the Guinean health system to outbreaks of epidemics of infectious cause: “The RBF+ model”.



Approach

This project is a unique collaboration between various institutes to work on the One Health Initiative, and South-South Cooperation. One Health recognizes that the health of humans, animals and ecosystems are interconnected. It involves applying a coordinated, collaborative, multidisciplinary and cross-sectorial approach including the communities to address potential or existing risks that originate at the animal-human-ecosystems interface. We bring together the expertise from African organisations to implement “African solutions for Africa” on anthropology, veterinary sciences, laboratory sciences and public health.

Work package 1

Enabling Community Surveillance

Coordinated by: *Wageningen University* (contact

Dr. Ir. Maarten Voors - maarten.voors@wur.nl)

In collaboration with: *Njala University* and *IRAG*

The aim is to develop an innovative system for prevention, preparedness and resilience of Ebola and other emerging infectious diseases. This is being done by:

- Enabling communities to play a central role in detecting and organizing a quick response to emerging outbreaks. We have documented the discussions with community task forces and chiefdom leaders about local responses to Ebola, and how to build on task forces operations.
- Setting up community surveillance systems in close collaboration with NGOs from HealthCo and CSOs that were active during the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone.
- Establishing an Ebola Museum and Archive at Njala University in Sierra Leone. Here relevant information is being shared with the public and organizations working in emerging diseases.
- The team works directly with partners on a ‘One Health’ programme, addressing community engagement and disease surveillance from an integrated animal and human health perspective.



Work package 2

Strengthening Laboratories

Coordinated by: *Noguchi Memorial Institute for*

Medical Research (contact Dr. Kofi Bonney -

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In collaboration with: *Njala University*

The aim is to strengthen laboratory services including quality assurance systems for improved preparedness and resilience of Ebola and other emerging infectious diseases. This is being done by:

- Improving laboratory systems for rapid and safe biological sample handling, testing and management. This includes rapid results communication, capacity development for quick testing possibilities and timely feedback to health facilities and authorities.
- Training Laboratory staff in biosecurity, biosafety, good laboratory practices and detection techniques with molecular (PCR) and serological assays for haemorrhagic fever viruses and other zoonotic emerging infections.
- Completed renovation of the Njala University Veterinary and Public health Laboratory as a functioning BSL 2 laboratory with the capacity to handle level 3 biological agents. This refurbished and equipped laboratory will deliver integrated diagnostic and research services for animal and population health. This way the project contributes to the One Health Initiative.

Work package 3

Financing Health Services

Coordinated by: *KIT Health (Royal Tropical Institute)* (contact Dr. Jurrien Toonen - j.toonen@kit.nl)

In collaboration with: *HDP, Health Focus, Ministry of Health*

The aim is to strengthen the interface between the health services and the community. A promising avenue to improve service delivery is through Result Based Financing (RBF): basic principle is: the money follows the patient. Instead of paying health services for inputs to carry out outputs, they are paid based on results that have been achieved and verified. Hereto, community representatives sign contracts with services on results they expect (e.g. in terms of outbreaks) and hold them to account on results, verifying these, before paying them. This is being done by:

- Developing the RBF model for Guinea. The Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene of Guinea took the lead in developing this model with support of Health Focus (Guinea) and HDP (Rwanda). Organizations such World Bank, European Commission, GIZ and UNICEF also collaborated to the input and development of the model.
- The RBF model includes indicators of activities of the basic service package and, indicators related to prevention of outbreak of emerging diseases (RBF+). This work package is piloting the RBF+ model in Mamou district, Guinea.
- A unique component of the RBF+ model is the inclusion of the community in the accountability component of the model. Training manuals for both health providers, and regulation agents have been developed. The training of providers and verifiers is underway.



Collaborating organizations

Njala University's mission is to provide high quality training and produce graduates with desirable attitudes, skills and knowledge; and stimulate meaningful research and service to humankind.



IRAG (Agricultural Research Institute of Guinea) mission is to contribute to the development of agriculture by undertaking research on: agro-food or agro-industrial processing; preservation and enhancement of natural resources involved in these productions, and assisting in the development of national policy in the areas of rural development.



HDP (Health Development and Performance) is an NGO operating in Rwanda, dedicated to promoting population capacity in administrative and health structures and improving quality performance and service of the administrative and health structures.



Health Focus' (Guinea) mission is to contribute to the improvement of health systems and the health status of the Guinean population. We respond to existing challenges through the provision of advice and tailor-made programmes.



The **Ministry of Health** in Guinea is responsible for the design, development, implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of Government policy in the field of health and sanitation.



Consortium partners

KIT (Royal Tropical Institute) aims to improve health and ensure equitable social-economic development as much as promote intercultural cooperation with our partners worldwide. As we focus on results and empowering people our research, advice, training and education are creative, context specific and evidence-based.

The **Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR)**, set up in 1979 is the leading biomedical research facility in Ghana. The Institute is committed to research on national health priorities and training of biomedical scientists.

Wageningen University is a research institution that focuses on the domain 'healthy food and living conditions'. We do not just develop top-quality expertise; we also help translate our knowledge into practice worldwide. And finally, we also train professionals who, in the near and distant future, will discover breakthroughs in science and technology.





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