

Uganda Ministry of Health

Experience with GHSA Self and External Assessments

Melissa Dahlke

Technical Adviser, MOH Public Health Emergency Operations Centre

11 August 2015

BWC Meeting of Experts – GHSA Side Event



GHSA – Uganda Timeline

- Pilot Project – March to September 2013
- Uganda delegation visit to US CDC – June 2013
- Chatham House Meeting – October 2013, DGHS
- GHSA Launch – February 2014, DGHS, PHEOC Manager
- GHSA Summit Next Steps meeting – September 2014 – DGHS, PM
- International GHSA Assessment – February 2015

Self-Assessment Strategies

- The PHEOC led the planning and implementation of GHSA pilot self- and external assessment
- Introduce GHSA concept and priorities to other sectors who were not yet familiar with the action packages
- Foster intra-governmental collaboration to strengthen existing linkages and build new ones
- Potential to help indicate progress towards IHR 2005 compliance

Self-Assessment Process

- Distributed assessment tool to heads of programs and key informants in MOH, other ministries, institutions and agencies
- Meeting of technical experts held to introduce and review the assessment tool, January 26, 2015
- The PHEOC Team compiled initial responses, followed up to obtain additional information and support documentation
- Multi-sectoral Steering Group convened to obtain consensus on the assessment responses, February 6, 2015
- Approved self-assessment report submitted, February 9, 2015

GHSA Assessment Contributors

- Ministry of Health
- Central Public Health Laboratory
- Uganda Virus Research Institute
- National TB Reference Laboratory
- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal, Industries and Fisheries
- National Animal Disease Diagnostics and Epidemiology Center
- Ministry of Energy
- Uganda Wildlife authority (UWA)
- Makerere University School of Public Health
- Office of the Prime Minister
- Uganda People's Defense Force
- Uganda National Expanded Program Immunization
- Mulago National Referral Hospital
- Uganda National Council of Science and Technology
- African Field Epidemiology Network
- US Centers for Disease Control
- World Health Organization
- and others

External Assessment

- Kampala, Uganda; February 16-20, 2015
- Visiting delegation assessment team: Finland, Kenya, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, USA, and observer OIE Belgium
- Objectives:
 - Assess the application of the GHSA Assessment Tool (version December 8, 2014)
 - Assess baseline performance of the GoU on 11 Action Packages based on self-assessment
 - UG request: provide recommendations to improve performance in GHSA priority areas
 - Visits to laboratories, PHEOC, Health Clinics

External Assessment

- Key informants were interviewed and presented information to the assessment team for each action package
- Scores were reviewed, compared and adjusted
- Provided feedback on the tool itself and clarified interpretation of language on the assessment tool
- Executive briefing to MOH on findings and recommendations
- Final report from external assessment team completed - March 16

Uganda GHSA External Assessment Results

Action Package	Action Package Component	No Capacity	Limited Capacity	Developed Capacity	Demonstrated Capability	Sustainable Capability
		0	1	2	3	4
Prevent 1: Antimicrobial Resistance	Surveillance Plan Implementation					
	Laboratory testing					
Prevent 2: Zoonotic Disease	Surveillance systems in place for priority zoonotic diseases/pathogens					
	Veterinarians					
Prevent 3: Biosafety and Biosecurity	Whole-of-government biosafety and biosecurity system is in place					
	Biosafety and biosecurity training and practices					
Prevent 4: Immunization	Vaccine coverage (measles)					
	National vaccine access					
Detect 1: National Laboratory System	Laboratory testing capacity for 10 core tests for detection of 10 priority diseases					
	Specimen referral and transport					
	Effective modern point of care and laboratory based diagnostics					
Detect 2/3: Real Time Surveillance	Syndromic surveillance systems					
	Inter-operable, interconnected, electronic real-time reporting system					
Detect 4: Reporting	System for efficient reporting to WHO, FAO and OIE					
	Reporting network and protocols in country					
Detect 5: Workforce Development	Trained field epidemiologists – Human					
	Field Epidemiology Training Program or other applied epidemiology training program in place					
	Workforce strategy					
Respond 1: Emergency Operations Centers	Status of EOC (space)					
	Status of EOC (staff)					
	Emergency Operations Program					
Respond 2: Linking Public Health and Law Enforcement	Public Health and Law Enforcement are linked during a suspect or confirmed biological event					
Respond 3: Medical Countermeasures and Personnel Deployment	System is in place for sending and receiving medical countermeasures during a public health emergency					
	System is in place for sending and receiving health personnel during a public health emergency					

Assessment Results

Strengths

- Action Package 4: Immunization
- Action Package 5: National Laboratory Systems
- Action Package 6: Real-time Surveillance
- Action Package 7: Reporting
- Action Package 8: Workforce Development

Areas for Improvement

- Action Package 1: Antimicrobial Resistance
- Action Package 2: Zoonotic Diseases
- Action Package 3: Biosecurity and Biosafety
- Action Package 9: Emergency Operations Center
- Action Package 10: Linking Public Health and Law Enforcement
- Action Package 11: Medical Countermeasures and Personnel Deployment

Assessment Tool

- Provided feedback on the tool itself, how the tool and its indicators were useful or could be improved
- Enabled country stakeholders to understand expected outcomes and focus of the GHSA action packages
- Generated discussion among ministries and agencies about the concepts – what they are and relevance to the Ugandan context
- Helped identify gaps (intra-governmental MOUs, legislation, need for consolidation, coordination and documentation)
- Highlighted Uganda's strengths to continue making progress in key areas

GHSA Next Steps

- MOH has formed a steering group chaired by the DGHS with membership across sectors
- Gaps identified during assessment were reviewed at stakeholders meeting (25 June 2015) and included in GHSA Roadmap
- Convened meeting of implementing partners to map scope of current activities and identify gaps
- Bilateral support from US to improve Ugandan health security. Funding for GHSA approved for Uganda – July 2015 – Tier 1 GHSA country
- Exploring development of partnerships with others stakeholders
- Meeting with MOH to formalize the work plan and implement activities

Acknowledgements

- **DGHS, Ministry of Health Uganda**
- **GHSA External Assessment Team**
- **GHSA Steering Group**
- **Dr. Issa Makumbi, PHEOC Manager**
- **PHEOC Team**
 - **Dr. Issa Makumbi**
 - **Simon Kyazze**
 - **Sam Kasozi**
 - **Milton Wetaka**
 - **Dativa Alidekki**
 - **Dr. Robert Downing**
- **GHSA Assessment Contributors**
- **Cooperative Biological Engagement Program**
- **US Agency for International Development**
- **US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**