

CLIMADE AFRICA WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES – WEEK 18

Host: Centre for Epidemic Response and Innovation (CERI)

Date: July 11, 2023

Time: 12:00 – 13:00 p.m. (SAST)

Facilitators: Dr Houriiyah Tegally and Dr Monika Moir

Attendance/ No. of Participants: 56

Start time: 12:02p.m. (SAST)

Purpose of the meeting

Continued discussion on Dengue risk areas and enhancing surveillance data systems for climate-sensitive diseases in Africa – with focus on data sources.

Agenda Items

1. Welcome
2. Presentation and discussion led by Dr Houriiyah Tegally, Yajna Ramphal and Dr Monika Moir
3. Questions and Discussion

Discussion points and questions

- Dr Houriiyah Tegally, Yajna Ramphal and Dr Monika Moir led and continued the discussion on Dengue risk areas and enhancing surveillance data systems for climate-sensitive diseases in Africa. The presentation highlighted:
 - Recap and feedback on model from CLIMADE-Africa Group
 - Points of entry in to countries.
 - Outbreak in Mauritius with a detected introduction from Madagascar through air travel.
 - Action points to implement after feedback from week 17 discussions.
 - Background and implementation of the WHO-AFRO reports and surveillance
 - WHO-AFRO list of priority diseases
 - Summary of report case and epidemiological data for arboviruses in Africa.
 - Feedback and discussion on the WHO-AFRO data and reporting.

- South Africa:
 - Not an accurate count and reporting of West Nile Virus in South Africa.
 - Likely as it is not a priority disease.
 - animal cases are not reported to WHO.
 - regular cases of WNV in Mpumalanga Province, Western Cape, and Gauteng.
 - There is no request for reporting arboviruses and lack of routine diagnostics.
 - request to sync cases and reporting.
 - Case reports are sent to the Global WHO offices.

- Senegal:
 - There is a lack of strict guidelines and regulations around surveillance systems and reporting.
 - Many cases in southern and western regions of country.
 - Dengue cases and outbreaks are a priority.
 - Ministry of Health is responsible for reporting of cases and outbreaks.
 - The last dengue outbreak was in 2019, with sporadic cases in 2020-2021.
 - There is regular and weekly reporting to the Ministry of Defense/Health that then reports to WHO.
 - Testing and reporting centered around national reference centers.

- Niger:
 - Dengue is endemic in Niger and most West African countries.
 - No official outbreak of DENV.
 - Dengue is often misdiagnosed as Malaria.
 - DENV imported from Cuba and the Dominican Republic.
 - request for arbovirus differential rapid diagnostic kits/tests.

- Mozambique:
 - Outbreak of DENV in 2014.
 - including CHIKV outbreaks in southern, central, and northern regions.
 - Cases from sentinel sites.
 - Gaps in case data and diagnostics due to the lack of reagents (not doing PCR diagnostics).
 - DENV is circulating in Mozambique.

- There are some imported DENV cases.
- The country would benefit from sequencing stored DENV samples.
- No large DENV outbreaks likely a result of Dengue being endemic to the country, continuous cryptic circulation and likely imported from other African countries.

- Nigeria:
 - No Dengue cases from Nigeria within the WHO reports.
 - There is no routine surveillance of arboviruses.
 - Active circulation and cases within the country.
 - The research laboratory does not report the cases to the Ministry of Health (remains at research level).
 - Dengue cases in Abuja.
 - Request for diagnostic kits.

- Côte d'Ivoire:
 - West African countries seem to be facing similar problems in that outbreaks are occurring but there is limited capacity for testing.
 - Large Dengue outbreak occurred two years ago but problematic reporting systems.
 - Broken chain of communication in reporting to WHO.

- Tanzania:
 - There is an increase in cases of Malaria/febrile illnesses.
 - National epidemic task force that is responsible for reporting cases.
 - Lack of good resources and facilities for surveillance systems.
 - Cryptic cases and outbreaks related to environmental suitability.
 - Robust surveillance systems but lack of national level reporting.

- Kenya:
 - Focusing on Rift Valley Fever (RVF)
 - The WHO reported cases are aligned with outbreaks in Kenya.
 - Ministry of Livestock and Ministry of Health have sentinel surveillance sites to monitor human and livestock cases
 - Reporting and diagnosing systems work well

- Mostly outbreak information will be present in the WHO-AFRO reports.
- It is important to identify gaps in data sources.
- Request for centralizing case and epidemiological data.

Adjournment and Closing points.

1. Dr Houriiyah Tegally adjourned the meeting at 13:06 p.m. (SAST).

Next Meeting

Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 12:00 – 13:00 p.m. (SAST)

Submitted by: Yajna Ramphal

Approved By: Monika Moir