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**Strengthening Capacity for Tanzania National One Health Early Detection of and Response to Infectious Disease[[1]](#footnote-1) Epidemics (OneHealthDetect-TZ)**

Introduction

This proposal seeks to build on initiatives of Tanzania government towards strengthening its capacity for the national health security agenda, national action plans for health security and for One Health coordination to enable SACIDS (through its Member Institutions) to collaborate with the relevant Tanzania government structures in developing the Digital Platform for the National One Health multi-sectoral collaboration for epidemiological intelligence to facilitate official early detection and response to infectious disease outbreaks.

Goal

The goal is to enhance multi-sectoral collaboration for early disease outbreak detection and response in humans and animals[[2]](#footnote-2) in Tanzania.

Objective

To set up a digital One Health platform for strengthening the National One Health Coordination Desk together with the sector ministries in their ability to detect disease events, signals or related information at source geographically or zoologically, and process that data promptly to be shared so as to lead to early warning and triggering of early coordinated response before outbreaks explode into public and/or animal health disaster/emergency.

Methodology

Our method is summarized by the conceptual framework (**Figure below)**. Develop a One Health digital platform with goal of strengthening PMO One health Desk capacity to receive, analyze, interpret and visualize EBS data from multiple sources across multiple sectors related to public and/or animal health. Collected data/information will assist decision making by informing public and animal health response teams on what, where, when, and how to focus response efforts.

**Diagram

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The platform will be designed such that stakeholders’ health Information Technology (IT) systems are inter-operable; making the right data available to the right people (authorized) at the right time across stakeholders in a way that can be relied upon and meaningfully used by recipients. This dashboard will enable the PMO, PORALG and Sectorial Ministries to regularly (up-to daily) review situations and decide actions for detection, verification, risk assessment, risk communication, early warning and response.

Key Activities and Expected outputs

1. **Stakeholders’ engagement**: This activity seeks to ensure project buy-in from all key stakeholders and development of guidelines and/or SOP that will guide the operationalization of tools developed. An inception workshop for identified stakeholders will be held to introduce the project and identify roles and responsibilities of implementing partners. This should result in:
   1. An inception workshop report
   2. At least 25 officials from the sector ministries trained
   3. Establishment of a team that will oversee implementation project execution
   4. Liaising with ministerial teams on identifying current gaps in implementing EBS and document findings in a gaps analysis report.
   5. Development of a framework/mechanism for managing signals
   6. Development of guidelines and SOPs for operationalization of the platform during and beyond project life cycle
2. **Setting up EBS Digital Infrastructure:** ICT experts from SUA/SACIDS together with IT experts from PMO will jointly work on the development of the platform. This will involve the set up all hardware and software infrastructure and making them operational. This will include developing/installing appropriate software to manage EBS workflows and linking with existing health information systems of sector ministries, based on established mechanisms within government. For sector ministries (e.g., Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries) where such systems are not available, an open-source tool may be customized, or custom tool built to fill the gaps. Expected output of this activity will include
   1. Inclusion of timeliness milestones and metrics in the dashboard and other relevant platforms
   2. A shared Digital Platform coordinated by PMO to support National One Health Epidemiological Coordination developed and operational
   3. Hotline (Voice, SMS and social media) established and functioning
   4. Local media scanning system developed
   5. AfyaWatch, a crowd verification assistance system deployed
   6. An event management system primarily used by PMO OHD, MoLF and MNRT developed and deployed
3. **Operationalizing EBS:** This activity will target ensuring EBS workflows and tools developed are implemented as conceived as per the conceptual framework (Figure 1) developed jointly with the PMO, PORALG and sector ministries. This will involve establishing and/or strengthening existing workflows, developing and/or strengthening frameworks, guidelines and training materials for EBS, and facilitate its implementation. In addition, this activity will oversee the development of human infrastructure in operationalizing EBS. Outputs from this will include:
   1. Inclusion of timeliness milestones and metrics in the dashboard and other relevant platforms
   2. A list of events and/or signals to be monitored through the shared platform
   3. PMO, MoLF, PoRALG, MNRT having a functioning digital EBS management system (i.e., software etc.)
   4. Signals and/or events that should be monitored/searched, inclusive of thresholds of alert levels identified and incorporated into the EBS Standard Operating Procedures for rotation of FELTP/ISAVET students in managing EBS tools developed
4. **Monitoring and Evaluation** by an Outcome Mapping approach, which will be overseen by PMO OHD and undertaken jointly by SUA and MUHAS. Key outputs for this will include:
   1. Inclusion of timeliness milestones and metrics in the dashboard and other relevant platforms
   2. Development of M&E tool for all aspects of the project
   3. Project reports
5. **Public Engagement** A two-pronged approach will be adopted, which, on the one hand, will involve interaction with senior government officials in the ministries, and on the other hand, working with the Communication Units of implementing partners in stakeholder engagement processes and developing communication packages (i.e. information, communication and education (IEC) and promotional material) that inform policy and the public on the value of disease prevention, early detection starting from community level and early response to epidemics and embodied in the objectives of this platform. Key outputs will include:
   1. Partner developed stakeholder engagement processes
   2. Adoption of identified communication channels/ engagement strategies that audiences use to seek health information for enhancing public knowledge, awareness
   3. Developed communication packages, that include information, education and communication (IEC), knowledge products and promotional materials
6. **A Technical National Advisory Committee** will be formed to provide technical guidance for achieving the project goal. This committee will be co-chaired by the Chief Medical Officer, the Chief Veterinary Officer/Director of Veterinary Services and the Director of Health Services in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government.

OneHealthDetect-Tz-Workplan

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| **Input** | **Activity** | **Q1** | **Q2** | **Q3** | **Q4** | **Q5** | **Q6** |
| Policy and Public Engagement | Inception workshop |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Establish technical team to oversee implementation of project |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Develop guidelines and SOPs for operationalization of the platform during and beyond project life cycle |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Support partners to develop strategic engagement processes, adopt identified communication channels/ engagement strategies, and develop IEC, knowledge products and promotional material to enhance public knowledge, awareness and performance |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sectoral ministry engagement/meetings |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stakeholder and sectoral ministry engagement/meetings result in a “gaps analysis” report. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| EBS Tools Development | Establishing Hotline |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Establishing Media Scanning |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Developing shared dashboard |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Developing event management system |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Platform deployment and Management |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Development of monitoring and evaluation tool |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| EBS Operationalization | Identifying, characterizing and prioritization of signals[[3]](#footnote-3) (Develop Signal definition list) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Development of framework/mechanism for managing signals |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Developing SOPs for rotation of FELTP/ISAVET students in managing EBS tools |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Develop & validation of self-learning online training modules |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Training of operators on using EBS tools |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Engagement of crowd verifiers at different levels (AfyaWatch) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Periodic (every other month physical, weekly virtual) task force meeting on ongoing one health disease threats/signals |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Q: Quarter, each comprised of three month**

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *Signals refers to patterns of disease or other information considered by the Early Warning and Response system as representing potential acute risk to public and/or animal health.* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)