



Africa-CDC IPC Legal framework

Session 5



Learning Objectives

At the end of this session, the participant should be able to:

- Understand the development of the CDC IPC legal framework
- Describe the benefit and challenges of the IPC legal framework
- Understand the considerations for implementing IPC legal framework



Process of CDC IPC Legal framework development

- ❖ The Africa-CDC TWG started elaborating the IPC Legal framework in 2019.
- ❖ Africa CDC set up an IPC expert panel group with IPC experts from African Union Member States and other technical partners to provide guidance to the working group and serve as champions to get country buy-in for the endorsement of the Legal Framework
- ❖ Inputs from Member States, international and regional partners, and subject matter experts in IPC and law were critical to the creation of the draft of the IPC Legal Framework.
- ❖ Regional consultations with IPC experts and legal experts from Member States were held in December 2019 in Abuja, Nigeria, February 2022 in Lusaka, Zambia, and in May 2020 & January 2021, virtually to review and validate the IPC Legal Framework.
- ❖ The legal instrument should include a definition of “health care facilities” that will be required to establish a Facility IPC Programme and meet IPC Standards based on national and local context.



Purpose of the IPC Legal Framework

- A Member State's legal system can support the implementation of the Core Components through the following:
 - Establishing a national programme to coordinate national and facility-based IPC measures
 - Granting authority to set national IPC standards
 - Granting authority to educate and train health care workers in IPC
 - Granting authority to coordinate surveillance of disease threats, including HAIs
 - Granting authority for monitoring of compliance with IPC standards
 - Granting authority to ensure compliance with standards at the national and healthcare facility level
 - Establishing duties to ensure practices align with IPC Standards
 - Establishing accountability mechanisms for those entities carrying out authorities and duties



Benefit of IPC legal framework

- ❖ AU endorsement of the IPC Legal Framework will help foster political commitment among the Member States and support IPC champions
- ❖ It can help to identify areas in which legal instruments can identify authorizing budgets
- ❖ It informs the process of identifying legal instruments that strengthen IPC as well as any conflicts with existing legal systems.
- ❖ It informs the process of identifying legal instruments that monitor, evaluate, and enforce IPC standards



Benefits of an IPC Legal Framework

- Providing authority to coordinate IPC measures at the national and subnational level
- Providing authorities to set enforceable standards at healthcare facilities, providing a system of accountability
- Facilitating continuity of leadership and government support during transitional times
- Providing a strong basis for IPC funding



ORGANIZATION OF THE IPC LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- The IPC Legal Framework is organized into six groups called “domains”.
 - Domains summarize the topics from the eight WHO Core Components that might be addressed in the laws, decrees, or regulations which influence infection prevention and control activities.
1. Establishment of a national IPC programme
 2. Development and adoption of evidence-based guidelines
 3. Creation of education and training at the national level and facility level
 4. Incorporation of HAIs into surveillance at the national level and facility level
 5. Establishment of a programme to monitor, audit, and receive feedback of compliance at the national and facility level
 6. Requirements for establishing IPC programmes at the healthcare facility level



Challenges to implementing the IPC legal framework

- **Political Commitment:** For the IPC legal framework to be implemented governments have to show commitment
- **Financial Resources:** AU member states might face resource restraints
- **Conflict of Law:** AU member states might face challenges to harmonize existing IPC policies and the IPC legal framework
- **Enforcement Mechanisms:** Member States may face the challenge of identifying context-specific and effective enforcement mechanisms that do not cause additional financial strain on healthcare systems.



Steps to consider for the implementation of IPC Legal Framework

- Assess the current legal capacity to support IPC using environmental scans of legal instruments and assessing stakeholder engagement and commitment;
- Identify the policies that can be strengthened through legal instruments;
- Determine which type of legal instrument would work best in the Member State's context;
- Tailor the legal instruments using a phased-in strategy; and
- Evaluate and revise the chosen legal instrument at each step to ensure adoption is feasible at all levels of government – both national and sub-national.



Summary

- The ACDC IPC Legal Framework is designed to guide Member States in the review and strengthening of laws and policies that support IPC.
- Legal instruments do not exist in a vacuum.
- Infection prevention and control must work coherently within existing programmes and laws, including where there are licensing requirements for healthcare facilities and workers, laws establishing requirements, public health surveillance, infectious disease reporting emergency response laws, laws regarding liability for harm, patient rights laws, and privacy laws



Thank You
Questions ?



Fostering Regional Cooperation for Better Health



Reference

- policy brief for the legal framework on infection prevention and control, African cdc(<https://africacdc.org/download/policy-brief-for-the-legal-framework-on-infection-prevention-and-control/>)