Programme area 2.1
Progress of work on surveillance of water-related diseases and outbreak management

Lead Parties: Norway and Belarus

Karin Nygård
Norwegian Institute of Public Health

11th meeting of the Working Group
on Water and Health,
Geneva, 3-4 April 2019

Protocol on Water and Health
Main focus for period 2017-2019

Planned activities:

i. Development of **annotated training modules** on water-related disease (WRD) surveillance

ii. Organization of **national capacity-building** activities on WRD surveillance and outbreak management

iii. Review and revision of **technical guidance document** on WRD surveillance, including expert group meetings
Capacity building workshops
Training needs assessment

- Electronic survey for target countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan)
  - Country needs and focus areas
  - Target groups
- Training programme prepared addressing the needs
- Training materials adapted
35 epidemiology and hygiene specialists (Armenian NCDC and its regional branches

**Content:** tailored to the needs identified

* Overview of WRD and outbreak surveillance
* Main approaches to WRD surveillance and practice examples
* Key principles and elements of waterborne outbreak management
  * epidemiological investigation tools and risk communication
* Hands-on group exercise on case study: computer based exercise based on a real outbreak investigation
35 participants (MOH, RHEC and district offices, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, and academia).

**Content:** tailored to the needs identified

- Risk-based surveillance of drinking-water quality
- Overview of WRD in Region and country
- Main approaches to WRD surveillance and examples
- Outbreak management: detection, investigation and control
  - tools for epidemiological investigation
  - risk communication
  - group exercise on case study
Meeting of lead parties of programme area 2.1 (Bonn, 3 November 2017):

* Develop a new practice-oriented technical guidance document WRD surveillance and outbreak management

* Consensus on the Scope: water-related infectious diseases,

* Agreed on content and structure
  * Part 1: Key considerations in improving surveillance systems for WRDs
  * Part 2: Outbreak management: main steps and key issues on WBOs; environmental investigation and risk assessments; risk communication; use of an outbreak scenario as example

* Advised to prepare training modules once the document finalized

* Consultant developed draft

* Core team meeting on WRD surveillance and outbreak management, (Oslo, 11-12 March 2019)

* Detailed technical review, feedback

* Defined steps and timeline for document finalization
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Development of annotated training modules

- Develop annotated training modules on water-related disease (WRD) surveillance based on the guidance document and needs identified at the national workshops

- Postponed to 2020-2022 – to be developed after finalization of the new guidance document
Program period 2020-2022
The thematic area aims to support Parties and other States in implementing article 8 of the Protocol:

(a) Strengthen national and local capacities with regard to improving, maintaining and sustaining vigilant public health surveillance and early warning systems of water-related disease

(b) Enhance preparedness, outbreak responses and investigation capacities
Proposed activities:

i. Disseminate the newly developed *Technical guidance on WRD surveillance and outbreak management*

ii. Update and make available training modules on WRD surveillance and outbreak management with annotated notes for trainers

iii. Organize capacity-building workshops on WRD surveillance and outbreak management

iv. Convene a regional meeting on Legionella and facilitate an exchange of experience and good practices related to prevention, control and surveillance.
i. Disseminate the technical guidance on WRD surveillance and outbreak management

- Disseminate through the Protocol network and meetings
- Web-posting and printing
- Encourage translation into national language and use at capacity building events and in developing national guidelines/tools
ii. Development of web-accessible training modules

* Build on the technical guidance document
* Use experience from workshops
* Update training materials
  * Annotated presentations
  * Waterborne outbreak scenario case study
    * Include section on environmental investigation and risk assessment
  * Material for computer based exercise
* Review and publish online
Lessons from first five workshops:

- Needs assessment survey helped in designing the country specific training programme
- Useful to share country experiences and practical examples
- Countries identified gaps and strengths through the discussions and group exercises
- Stand-alone trainings or integrated with surveillance of drinking-water quality
- Evaluate impacts at national and local levels.

Plan for next years:

- Continue with workshops based on expression of interest
- Needs assessment survey → targeted content
iv. Regional meeting on Legionella

- Technical preparation, scoping and planning
- Get overview of the situation and surveillance capacity in the countries
- Share country experiences and case studies on Legionella control and prevention
- Discuss further actions at the national level and under the Protocol
Thank you!