

The work of WHO on Emergencies in the African Region



2010 Annual Report



**World Health
Organization**

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Information concerning this publication can be obtained from:

- 1 - Dr. Angela Benson: Programme Manager (PM), Emergency and Humanitarian Action.
Bensona@afro.who.int
- 2 - Dr. Kalambay Kalula: Emergency Capacity Building (ECB). Kalambayk@afro.who.int
- 2 - Dr. Usman Abdulmumini: Emergency Responses and Operations (ERO).
Abdulmuminiu@afro.who.int

World Health Organisation - Regional Office for Africa
Cit'eduDjou'e, P.O. Box 06
Brazzaville, Republic of Congo
Telephone: + (47 241) 39100/ + (242) 770 02 02
Fax: + (47 241) 39503

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“In accordance with WHO’s mandate, vision and core functions, I have pledged to continue to focus on WHO’s leadership role in the provision of normative and policy guidance; strengthening of partnerships and harmonization of support to countries; supporting health systems strengthening based on the primary health care approach.....and accelerating response to the determinants of health”.

Dr. Luis G. Sambo

Regional Director

WHO Regional Office for Africa

Excerpted from “Achieving Sustainable Health Development in the African Region Strategic Directions for WHO 2010 - 2015”.

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Acknowledgments

The Emergency and Humanitarian Action Programme of the WHO African Region acknowledges the support from its donors and partners as well as from staff in the different offices supporting its activities.

This Publication was compiled from reports written by EHA focal points at country, inter-country, regional and headquarter office levels.

Special thanks to Ms. Pauline Loyce Ajello for the editorial work, design and layout.

List of Abbreviations

AFRO	African Regional Office
ADB	African Development Bank
APDA	Afar Pastoralist Development Association
AU	African Union
AWD	Acute Watery Diarrhoea
C4	Cholera Command and Control
CA	Central Africa
CAR	Central African Republic
CAP	Consolidated Appeal Process
CDC	Centre for Disease Control
CDS	Communicable Disease Surveillance
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CFR	Case Fatality Rate
CHAP	Common Humanitarian Action Plan
CHDC	Community Health Development Committees
CMO	Chief Medical Officer
CRRTs	Country Rapid Response Teams
CVC	Core Voluntary Contribution
DHOs	District Health Officers
DHS	Demographic and Household Survey
DoH	Department of Health
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Aid
EHA	Emergency and Humanitarian Action
EHK	Emergency Health Kits
EHOs	Environmental Health Officers
EmONC	Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care
EP	Emergency Preparedness
EPR	Emergency Preparedness and Response
ESA	Eastern and Southern Africa
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GoU	Government of Uganda
HCCs	Health Cluster Coordinators
HELP	Health Emergency in Large Population
HERU	Health Emergency Response Unit
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
HQ	WHO Headquarter
HMIS	Health Management Information System
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IDSR	Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent

abbreviations

List of Abbreviations

IRC	International Rescue Committee
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction
ISTs	Inter Country Support Team
HCC	Health Cluster Coordinators
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoHCW	Ministry of Health and Child Welfare
MSF	Medicin Sans Fronteirs
ULO	Unliquidated Obligations
NDPMP	National Disaster Preparedness and Management Policy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIDs	National Immunization Days
NMRL	National Microbiology Reference Laboratory
OCR	Outbreak and Crisis Response
PHE	Protection of the Humanitarian Environment
PHCE	Public Health in Complex Emergency
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PRDP	Peace, Recovery and Development Plan
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RDTs	Regional Directors Teams
RRT	Rapid Response Teams
RIACSO	Regional Inter Agency Coordination Support Office
RHPT	Regional Humanitarian Partnership Team
SA	Southern Africa
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SEA	Southern and Eastern Africa
SHOC	Strategic Health Operations Centre
SIA	Supplementary Immunization Activities
SNNP	Southern Nations, Nationalities and People
TFU	Therapeutic Feeding Units
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNICEF	United Nations International Children and Education Fund
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
VC	Voluntary Contributions
VHTs	Village Health Teams
VHWs	Village Health Workers
VRAM	Vulnerability and Risk Analysis and Mapping
WFP	World Food Programme
WHA	World Health Assembly
WHO	World Health Organisation
WMC	WHO Mediterranean Centre

abbreviations

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Executive Summary

Natural disasters and social unrests continue to cause displacements in many countries of the WHO African Region. In 2009 alone, over 6.9 million people were displaced among which were 4.9 million internally displaced persons and about 2 million refugees. Impact of climate change is leading to increasing droughts with its attendant food crises and malnutrition. Similarly, thousands of people are affected by floods and cyclones annually causing deaths and destruction of farmlands as well as housing and social infrastructure including health facilities. All these have direct and indirect impact on disease burden and health care delivery, thus negatively affecting the attainment of MDGs.

In support of the Member States, Guidelines for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness have been drafted through global and regional consultations with partners. Hazards maps for all the countries in the region have been developed with the technical assistance of WHO Mediterranean Center on DRR. A task force has been commissioned to produce curricula and training modules for emergency preparedness and response in the Africa region.

Regional surge capacity is operational with a roster of trained emergency experts and rapid supply of logistics from sub-regional hubs. Almost all countries in the Region responded to emergencies in 2010 including floods, mud slides, food crisis, conflicts and disease outbreaks. The time used to deliver emergency health kits to countries affected by emergencies has greatly reduced from several months to just about one week showing overall increased efficiency in emergency operations. Coordinated technical support was provided to achieve communicable disease control including early warning and surveillance in 100% of conflicts and natural disasters.

summary

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