

3. Federation future AWD and Cholera overview

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The analysis of Cholera outbreaks trends has shown that there is not a clear pattern, but over the last years, West Africa shows considerable increase. Apart from climate change, other factors like urbanisation, population movement contribute towards possible further spread of the disease. Nonetheless, other factors such as the decision making process and the Cholera declaration are critical in effective Cholera interventions. The overall knowledge on how to prevent, prepare and deal with AWD/Cholera outbreaks has slackened and improvement is much required and to form a common front in the management is crucial for saving lives through better definition of effective actions.

During his presentation, Hakan Sandbladh from IFRC, showed the importance of the points above, highlighting the following factors:

- ***Factors concerning Cholera intervention:***
 - Inversion: where and what are the main questions which should be answered, before the confirmation and what actions to be taken.
 - Cholera confirmation is not needed for action against AWD outbreak.
 - Short period of time: cholera incubation is fast (in hours)
 - Climate change: factor which has raised the risk of the disease – relation with water, sanitation and hygiene.

 - ***Presented Future Strategy:***
 - Not to only focus on the outbreak area in, but also in the surrounding areas and other vulnerable areas.
 - Not only diarrhoeal diseases should be analyzed, other diseases should be studied and considered.
 - Prevention and preparedness must be focused on community interventions, supported by authorities at all levels (regional – national)

 - ***Planned actions:***
 - Crucial to use a full action cycle approach (ie Prevention – Preparedness - Response and follow up)
 - Monitoring is needed.
 - The activities – actions should be simple – where outbreaks are common, community can prevent and act.
 - Standard actions – tools and strategies should be uniform, complementary and coordinated between community, authorities and external organisations.
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- ***Improvement needed:***
 - Containment during the dispersion phase: To apply the action cycle (Prevention – preparedness – response – monitoring – lessons learnt analysis)
 - To develop new tools for capacity building strategies, fast action kits.

