

Ebola and the BWC

Findings from Initial Interview

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Objectives

- Project background
- About the project
 - Methodology
 - Scenario
 - Interview Questions
- Preliminary findings
- Prepare for breakout sessions



Background

BWC States Parties recommendations to assess Ebola response for lessons relevant to Article VII of the Convention.



Ebola Response & the BWC

- Response to Ebola in West Africa has fundamentally challenged preconceptions about international assistance following a public health emergency, straining global public health emergency response and necessitating sustained contributions from:
 - National Governments
 - Intergovernmental Organizations
 - International Organizations: and
 - Charitable Organizations, Foundations, and Individual Donors.





“Why ... was the battle against Ebola left for month after crucial month to a ragged army of volunteers and near volunteers...?”

- Time Magazine, December 2014

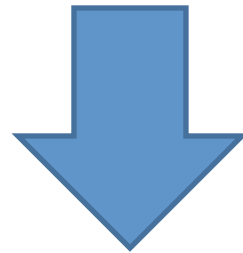
About Our Project



Intent: to learn from NGOs, IOS and bilateral donors how response to Ebola outbreak might have been different if there had been a deliberate component.

Methodology

- Reviewed existing policies, relevant literature, and lessons learned documents from Ebola response
- Developed scenario for deliberate component to Ebola outbreak
- Identified and interviewed key stakeholders from relevant response organizations on a not-for-attribution basis.
- Identified series of questions/issues from initial interviews



- Interviews and consultations with affected states and bilateral donors
- Intent to put together final report for MSP 2015

Scenario

During the outbreak, a non-state actor claims responsibility for new cases of the disease in an adjacent geographical area with a previously unexposed population.

- New cases cannot be epidemiologically linked to other cases in the ongoing outbreak*
- Location of some of new cases in region of a country not controlled by national government raising security concerns*



Sample Interview Questions

1. Did your organization respond to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa?
2. Was this response normal for your organization , or was it unusual? If so, how/ why?
3. If yes, what was the nature of the response? Did you organization have personnel deployed to West Africa?
4. Would your organization respond to the (fictional) outbreak? If so, how? If not, why not?
5. Would the threat of an intentional event change your organizational response?
6. If so, what would be your organization's primary concern?
7. What organization would you expect to take the lead in the response to a potentially intentional event?
8. Are there appropriate guidance available for what happens if the event is intentional?
9. How would an intentional event change how you perceive your organization's mandate and legal authorities?
10. Would deliberate use impact your willingness to share countermeasures and resources?
11. Are there any other challenges that you experienced in the humanitarian disaster response that might impact an intentional response or investigation?

Preliminary Findings

- Scenario plausible
- Core mandate of NGOs and IOs would not change in scenario, but major challenges to response
 - Not all NGOs could respond
 - Medical personnel volunteers and safety
 - Questions of command and control
 - Confusion over role of militaries/peacekeepers

Preliminary Findings: Major Categories

- The role of military resources
- Command and control
- Interactions with NGOs and international organizations
- Safety and security of medical personnel
- Interaction between humanitarian response efforts and attribution assessments

Follow UP

- For copies of slides or more information, please contact:
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