Whole Of Society Approach To Preparedness

Dr Chadia Wannous
UN System Influenza Coordination
Geneva

International Civil Aviation Organization
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UN System Influenza Coordination
UNSIC

- The position of Senior UN System Coordinator for Avian and Pandemic Influenza (UNSIC) was created by the United Nations’ Secretary-General in 2005 to ensure an effective system-wide response to all challenges posed by avian influenza and human pandemic influenza – with a particular focus on influenza pandemic preparedness and response.
- UNSIC is pioneered an innovative, light approach to coordination through a small, catalytic, cost-effective taskforce which built links with an informal network.
UNSIC Objectives

- (a) maximizing cooperation and coordination within the UN system at country and regional level,
- (b) advocating for cost-effective preparedness and response strategies, mobilization of adequate resources, effective partnerships and tracking of results at global level, and
- (c) contributing to the health and safety of UN staff in the event of a pandemic threat.
The UN Central Fund for Influenza Action (CFIA)

• As of December 2011 the CFIA received a total of US$44.2 million in donor deposits from UK, Norway, Spain and USAID for whole-of-society pandemic preparedness work across the UN System.
• 41 projects as of end 2011, by 13 agencies in 30 countries.
• Contributed to the achievement of the UN Consolidated action plan on Avian and Human Influenza (UNCAPAH) and encouraged effective inter-agency coordination.
UN Consolidated Action Plan for Avian and Human Influenza (UNCAPAHI)

OBJECTIVE 1: Animal Health and Biosecurity
- Implementing agencies: FAO, OIE, UNHCR

OBJECTIVE 2: Sustaining Livelihoods
- Implementing agencies: FAO, ILO, UNWTO, IOM, WFP, UNDP, UNHCR

OBJECTIVE 3: Human Health
- Implementing agencies: WHO, ILO, UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR

OBJECTIVE 4: Coordination of National, Regional and International Stakeholders
- Implementing agencies: UNDP, UNSIC, OCHA, WFP

OBJECTIVE 5: Communication: Public Information and Supporting Behavior Change
- Implementing agencies: WHO, UNICEF, FAO, OIE, WFP, ILO, IOM, UNHCR, UNWTO

OBJECTIVE 6: Continuity under Pandemic Conditions
- Implementing agencies: OCHA, FAO, UNICEF, IOM, ICAO, UNDP, UNWTO, ILO, UNFPA, UNHCR, WFP, WHO

OBJECTIVE 7: Humanitarian Common Services Support
- Implementing agencies: WFP
Is pandemic influenza spread by birds?
Why do we still care?

Pandemic Threats—Current situation

- Poultry outbreaks worldwide
- Sporadic human cases. There is no improvement in the average detection time for reported human cases and average fatality rate.
- If HPAI H5N1 viruses gain the ability for efficient and sustained transmission among humans, an influenza pandemic could result, with potentially high rates of illness and death worldwide. Therefore, the HPAI H5N1 epizootic continues to pose an important public health threat.
Why do we still care?

- Other microbes of animal origin with pandemic potential continue to spill over into human populations.
- New or previously unidentified viruses continue to appear in countries throughout the world and cause a wide case fatality range (30% to 90%). Ebola, Marburg, Lasa, Coronavirus
- It is not currently possible to predict if and when any of these microbes will cause a pandemic. Therefore, we should always be ready and prepared to respond.
Economic costs

Economic Impact of Selected Infectious Disease Outbreaks

- **SARS**
  - China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Canada
  - $30-50bn

- **H1N1s**
  - Worldwide
  - $45-55bn

- **H5N1s Avian Flu**
  - Worldwide
  - $3bn

- **Foot & Mouth**
  - Taiwan, $5-8bn

- **BSE**
  - UK, $5bn

- **Nipah**
  - SE Asia
  - $550-650m

- **Lyme Disease**
  - US, $200m

- **BSE**
  - US, $3.5bn

- **BSE**
  - Canada
  - $3bn

- **E. Coli**
  - US, $1.8bn

- **MRSA**
  - US, $5-10bn

Figures are estimates and are presented as relative size.
What is TASW?

• UNSIC initiated **Towards a Safer World in 2010**—an exercise to document and learn lessons from pandemic preparedness efforts of the past five years.

• Using 11 parameters for analysis, the consolidated report presented key achievements and successes, lessons learned and recommendations for how to take the work forward.

• These are Bio-security and animal health; civil-military coordination; communications; community level preparedness; health; humanitarian assistance; logistics; multi-sector preparedness in Asia; private sector preparedness; travel and tourism; and whole of government planning.

• The series of lessons were collated in ‘Beyond Pandemics: A Whole of Society approach to Disaster Preparedness’

• Rome Conference-September 2011. 170 participants from Governments, UN agencies, technical and specialized agencies, NGOs, the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement and private companies to discuss a continuation of this whole-of-society approach to pandemic preparedness.
It was evident that a body of practitioners from a variety of sectors, organisations and countries indicated their commitment to maintaining and refining the best practices they have developed.

They agreed to work as a Network committed to maintaining and refining the body of practice, communicating it widely, mainstreaming it within institutions that otherwise would fail to sustain it, reaching out and engaging others who might benefit from it, and continuing to learn from each other.
**TASW Goal**

- Contributes to increased societal resilience (including continuity of governance, economic systems, critical services and resilient livelihoods) in the face of disease pandemics and other comparable threats to health.
- Improve capabilities of network of multi-sector multi-regional champions of whole-of-society preparedness and their institutions through sharing and applying best practice, capacity-building events, workshops, training and research.
What does the TASW Network promote?

Key good practices emphasized by the TASW Network include:

• Coordination of multi-actor networks, including professionals from business, Government and civil society,
• Planning for the maintenance of critical services,
• Implementation of communication strategies,
• Simulations to test and validate contingency plans,
• Mobilization of funds for preparedness and
• Development of tools for measuring preparedness.
Developing robust plans is essential to ensure continuity of operations during a pandemic. It requires a concerted effort that brings together the experience and resources of different Government Ministries, businesses, civil society, media and the military to sustain essential infrastructure and mitigate impacts on the economy.
Identify Critical Services

- Health
- Defense
- Law & Order
- Finance
- Transport
- Telecom
- Energy
- Food
- Water
All organisations should plan for the disruption a pandemic will cause, particularly the impact of staff absenteeism. The travel and tourism sectors would be especially vulnerable. Many people perceive that pandemic influenza is spread by birds, but the reason CAPSCA has brought us here today is that it is more likely to be spread by planes. CAPSCA, under the leadership of ICAO, is another shining example of a non-health sector picking up the pandemic preparedness baton and taking it forward.
Business continuity planning is key

Crisis Planning Lifecycle

- Screen and select issues
  - Determine scope and structure of planning effort
- Alignment & Commitment
  - Create management and organizational alignment
  - Define objectives and commit resources
- Conception
  - Consider issue context (scenario elements)
  - Generate scenarios and planning cases
- Development
  - Codify plan materials to support outreach and communications
- Pre-event Actions
  - Develop signposts, triggers, and planned actions for various cases
- Evaluation
  - Assess the events and performance of planned actions
  - Revise and update plans
- Execution
  - Communicate scenarios and plans within organization and to other stakeholders
  - Implement immediate action tasks
  - Generalize strategic responses across various issues
  - Periodically refresh plans
- Pre-event Actions
  - Track events using scenarios framework
  - Implement planned responses according to predetermined triggers
  - Feed back information through pre-planned channels
Systems for measuring readiness
The value of simulations

- Table top and simulation exercises and drills are the best way to test, identify gaps and weaknesses and improve pandemic preparedness plans.
- These are important to improve communications, identify impacts on critical services, clarify roles and responsibilities and raise awareness.
- They are only useful if we are committed to learning from and acting on them.
- As part of the preparatory efforts of UN WTO and its Member States, a number of international simulation exercises were conducted, aimed at a wide private and public sector participation.
Innovative ways of coordination

• Pandemic stimulated advances in coordination practice.
• The UK Government: coordination mechanisms strengthened for pandemic helped them to deploy an effective multi-sector whole-of-government approach when the Icelandic ash cloud crisis disrupted international air travel.
• The UN World Tourism Organisation set up the Travel Emergency Response Network (TERN) which helped to ensure a coherent, collaborative and coordinated response amongst key travel sector stakeholders.
• UNSIC started as an Avian and Human Influenza and pandemic preparedness actor, and has subsequently been asked to also assist with coordination related to food security and nutrition.
Relationships building

• We have learnt that relationships formed through collaborative planning make response more efficient as connections have already been established. If inter-agency relationships are good, the results of responses are better.
• Inter-agency relations work better when they have been developed in advance of a disaster.
• At the TASW conference, the New Zealand health service gave a compelling presentation about how the multi-sector relationships built under pandemic preparedness in Canterbury helped to improve the response to the Christchurch earthquake one year ago.
Communication

- Timely sharing of effective public messaging is essential to sustain public confidence and reduce the risk of disorder.
- Increases compliance with biosecurity measures at farms and backyards
- It needs to be accompanied by social mobilization, dialogue with communities and behaviour change in:
  - Self-healthy behaviours,
  - Caring for sick relatives and
  - Resumption of income-generating activities.
- It needs to take account of different perceptions of risk and of cultural barriers to behaviour change.
- New social media tools have proved increasingly important
Empowering communities

• We need to prioritise empowering communities and to include them in planning for preparedness and response.

• A proportion of available resources should be focused on building the capacity of sub-national stakeholders.

• The Red Cross-led Humanitarian Pandemic Preparedness initiative brought a lot of experience in this area
Private sector

- Private sector invested around $10 billion in pandemic preparedness.
- This was stimulated by scientific advocacy around the risk coupled with careful economic analysis of the likely costs.
- We should use this knowledge to stimulate private sector resources for other threats.
- A number of lessons about funding emerged from our pandemic experience beyond the private sector.
Next steps for TASW

The strategic design for the network was undertaken in late 2011 through a series of consultations with key partners and an advisory group is formed.

- Focus on priority regions and countries
- Collaborate with key partners, groups and platforms (USAID, ASEAN, ISDR, IASC, WB, WHO and ICAO)
- Reach out and advocacy efforts
  - Expand membership
  - Identify and disseminate good practices though website, newsletter and key events
  - Organize global and regional events
Join us

www.towardsasaferworld.org

chadia.wannous@undp.org