

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHO IPC RING APPROACH DURING THE 2022 UGANDA SUDAN EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE RESPONSE AT THE EPICENTRE



ABSTRACT

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Introduction:

At the onset of an outbreak, immediate infection, prevention and control (IPC) measures and strategies are critically important in stopping the transmission. As part of the response, the IPC technical working group (TWG) adopted the World Health Organisation (WHO) ring approach to identify areas of predetermined risk whenever a case was identified to provide intensive and targeted IPC support.

Objectives:

a) Leverage surveillance and epidemiological activities to guide response efforts and implement targeted IPC interventions. b) To rapidly interrupt EVD transmission at the source through multiple IPC interventions.

Methods:

The IPC TWG identified places where a confirmed case sought treatment or stayed within a minimum perimeter of 500 meters in urban areas and up to 1 km in rural areas. Supplies, decontamination teams, IEC materials and district IPC mentors were rapidly mobilised and deployed in less than 24 hours. Within 48 hours, the IPC WASH team provided an IPC WASH/hygiene kit to mapped sites and follow-up was scheduled after 72 hours. Village Task Forces were engaged to raise awareness and demystify existing misinformation. In HCFs health education was provided by trained mentors who also ensured immediate setup up screening points, holding units and notification channels.

Results:

56 sites including HCFs (38) and community sites (18) were identified and comprehensively supported with the ring package. 2 cleaning and disinfection teams were trained and stationed in each of the 5 sub counties. 270 IPC kits were distributed to all sites in the rings. 25 IPC mentors were deployed to strengthen IPC capacity in all HCFs while 350 village teams traversed communities providing health education. There was marked reduction in the number of confirmed cases in the epicentre within the first 32 days.

Conclusion:

The IPC ring approach is an instrumental strategy health ministries can adopt to rapidly provide targeted comprehensive support at the source to interrupt transmission. A collaborative effort across pillars and partners in the implementation of the ring approach is key through concerted efforts and information sharing.confirmed cases in the epicentre within the first 32 days.

Disclosure of Interest:

None Declared