CoVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), South Sudan

Partners orientation

Date-
Objectives:

At the end of orientation participants,

• have increased awareness about COVID-19 disease, its epidemiology and signs, symptoms and prevention methods.

• have improved knowledge on Risk Communication and National COVID-19 RCSMCE Strategy and how to support national risk communication programming

• better understand the population who are at higher risk, and how to support people living with disabilities

• are able to conduct Covid-19 Risk communication and community engagement activities while promoting behaviour change in terms of physical distancing measures

• understand the coordination mechanism led by Risk Communication, Social mobilization and Community engagement working group and contribute to COVID-19 awareness raising
What is COVID-19

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The COVID-19 virus spreads mainly from person – to – person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes

These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
How does Corona virus Spread:

COVID-19 spreads through:

- Droplets (coughing and sneezing)
- Close personal unprotected contact with an infected person (touching, handshaking).

However, there is still a lot that is unknown about the corona virus and currently there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19. However, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments.
Who are at higher risk from COVID-19?

- Elderly
- People of all ages with other underlying medical conditions like diabetes, heart diseases, hypertension
- People with low immunity, such as people living with HIV/AIDS
Sign and Symptoms:

- Fever
- Dry Cough
- Difficulty in breathing
- Tiredness
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- Fever
- Dry cough
- Difficulty in breathing
- Tiredness

For more information: Call Ministry of Health, South Sudan
TOLL FREE NUMBER 6666

PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY FROM CORONAVIRUS

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water
- Don’t shake hands
- Avoid close contact with anyone
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue or cough and sneeze into your flexed elbow
- Stay home and avoid travel when you have flu like symptoms

For more information: Call Ministry of Health, South Sudan
TOLL FREE NUMBER 6666
Challenges in containing CoVID-19 in South Sudan:

The Disease:
- New virus and evolving
- Less is known about it
- The knowledge is limited on disease transmission

Poor Health Systems:
- Facilities are not fully equipped in IPC to manage COVID-19
- IDPs, Refugees, returnees and mobile populations are vulnerable to various disease outbreaks and are at risk population for CoVID-19

Geographic diversity and harmful social-cultural practices:
- Low threat perceptions related to flu
- Poor health seeking behaviors
- High prevalence of rumors and fake news

Stigma can affect patient and community safety and security

Risk of rumors is higher

COVID-19 is more than a public health intervention having social, political, economical implications

Travelers and travel contacts are driving the virus
What is Risk Communication:

Real time exchange of information, advice and opinions between experts, community leaders or officials and people who face a threat to their survival, health, or economic or social well-being.
Why do we do Risk Communication

- Listening & responding to concerns
- Sharing information quickly in ways people trust
- Building trust & understanding
- Engaging everyone in fighting disease
- Stable economies & communities

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), South Sudan
Means of Communication

- Radio
- SMS/Caller tune
- Megaphone/PSA
- Household mobilization
- Leaders
- Religious Institution
- Market
- Healthcare workers
- IEC materials
**Communication Activities:**

- Radio Messaging: participate in radio talk shows
- Sensitization of Community Leaders/stakeholders (with physical distancing)
- Dissemination of IEC materials
- Training of community mobilizers and volunteers to conduct:
  - House to House or area to area mobilization
  - Megaphones Announcements
  - Rumour tracking, community feedbacks
  - Church and Mosque Announcements /Use of IEC materials
- Setup and support of Hand Washing Facilities
- IEC materials display in strategic locations
Risk Communication Challenges for COVID-19

- Lack of mass media and electronic communication
- Lack of communication infrastructure
- Lack of community trust in social services
- Community Engagement
- Partners coordination
- Timely Information
- Low level of literacy
- Limited reach of mass media/radio stations
- Diverse languages
- Standardized messaging across all stakeholders
- Lack of printing and other infrastructure
- Logistics and Supply

In South Sudan, interpersonal communication and community dialogues are core channels of communication, however human to human interaction creates risk of COVID outbreaks and hence discouraged.
Promoting Behaviour Change of Physical Distancing

- Physical distancing can **stop the spread** of COVID-19
- All humanitarian partners must be exemplary and adhere to **physical distancing**
- Maintain 1 meter distance even at work place, use of cloth masks and regularly washing hand with soap and water.
- **Observe** Physical distancing measures during training, orientation, house to house mobilization, megaphone announcements, meetings, community engagement sessions,
- **STOP communal eating practices for now**
- **Avoid** all forms of gathering as far as possible
- Increase mobilization efforts through Mass media and electronic media

**Emphatically promote Physical Distancing measure in communities**
National Response Plan for COVID-19

National Task Force lead by Incident Manager

Country level coordination MoH/WHO

- IPC WASH (MOH & UNICEF)
- Risk Communication, Social Mobilization & Community Engagement (MOH/UNICEF)
- Surveillance rapid response & case management (MOH/WHO)
- Operational support & logistics (MOH/WHO/WFP)
- Point of entry (MOH/IOM)
- Refugees camp (MOH/UNHCR)

Risk communication Operations Centre

Humanitarian clusters

unicef for every child
Stay at home if you have flu-like symptoms

For any additional detailed information, please contact:

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