

RCCE IN SURVEILLANCE

RCCE CROSSBORDER TRAINING MOMBASSA WORKSHOP – 16 APRIL 2024



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Africa**

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INTRODUCTION



Africa leads global outbreaks with >100 and public health events annually



Inadequate surveillance systems in many African countries due to capacity gaps



Urgent need: build surveillance capacities.



RCCE crucial in public health emergencies surveillance and response.



Invest in Integrated Diseases Surveillance and Response (IDSR) for future readiness through effective RCCE

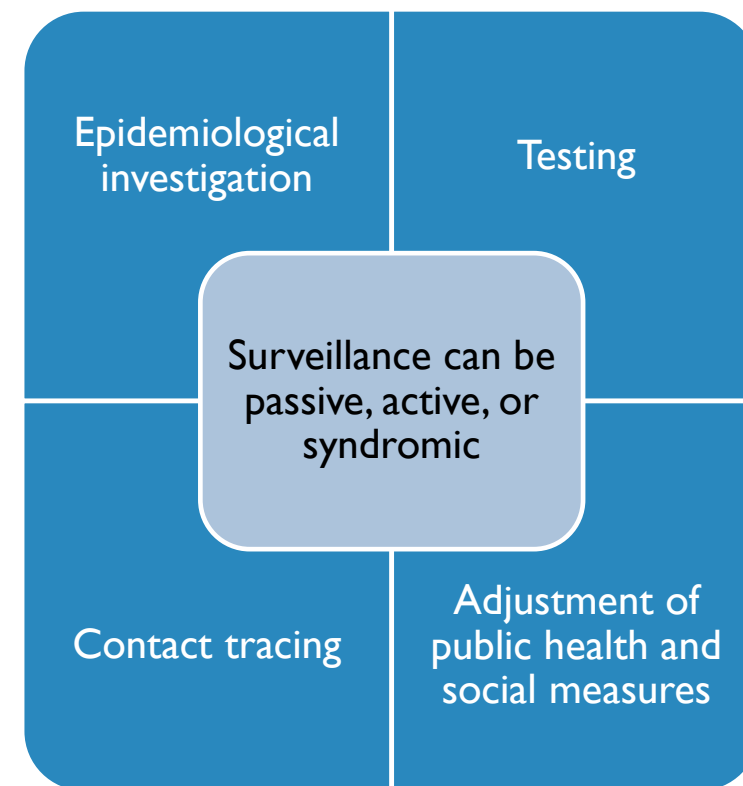
UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

Public health surveillance is the continuous and systematic collection, orderly consolidation and evaluation of pertinent data with prompt dissemination of results to those who need to know, particularly those who are in a position to take action (WHO)

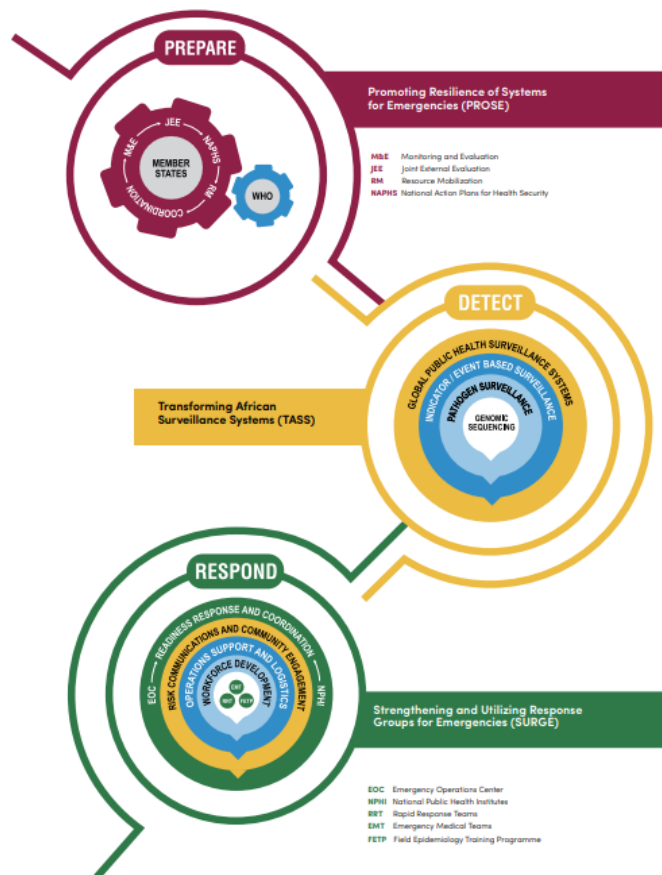
Disease surveillance data:

- serves as an early warning system for impending outbreaks that could become public health emergencies;
- enables monitoring and evaluation of the impact of an intervention, helps track progress towards specified goals; and
- monitors and clarifies the epidemiology of health problems, guiding priority-setting and planning and evaluation public health policy and strategies.

- Surveillance is a key tool to public health decision making in all countries and RCCE is key to effective public health surveillance
- Determine priority groups/ surveillance needs that should be maintained



TRANSFORMING AFRICAN SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS (TASS) FLAGSHIP



- Reimagining IDSR for quicker outbreak detection
- TASS Flagship Project: Strengthening national surveillance
- The project goal: to strengthen epidemic intelligence while focusing on:
 - Indicator-based surveillance
 - Event-based surveillance
 - Community-based surveillance
 - Lab-based surveillance
 - One Health (OH) surveillance

Address
community
protection
through:

- Risk communication, community engagement (RCCE)
- Infodemic management
- Points of entry
- International travel and transport
- Mass gatherings and population movement
- and vaccination

COMMUNITY-BASED SURVEILLANCE (CBS) AND RCCE

Definition of CBS:

- CBS is an active process of community participation in detecting, reporting, responding to and monitoring health events in the community
- In the IDSR, CBS is intended for improving public health surveillance and response by linking communities with their local health facilities

Role of RCCE:

- Ensures communities are engaged, informed, and empowered to participate in CBS activities.

CBS routine function:

- Pre-epidemic period → to provide early warning or alerts
- Period during epidemic → to actively detect and respond to cases and death
- Post-epidemic period → to monitor progress with disease control activities
- CBS should also include a process to report rumours and misinformation of unusual public health events occurring in the community.

CBS and RCCE

- working hand in hand to detect, report, respond to, and monitor health events in communities.
- CBS relies on active involvement of community while RCCE ensures that community engagement and education
- Integration of CBS into routine community health activities,
- RCCE activities include educating communities, addressing rumors and misinformation.

Combining CBS and RCCE,

- Improve outbreak detection
- Enhance response and disease prevention.

Building

Building Trust and Understanding

- Report health concerns and comply with surveillance activities
- Better understand local contexts
- Tailored surveillance strategies

Enhancing

Enhancing Early Detection and Reporting

- communities understand the importance of early detection and reporting of potential health threats
- Allow rapid response

Promoting

Promoting Behavior Change

- Encourage handwashing
- Seeking healthcare when necessary
- Adopting preventive measures

Addressing

Addressing Misinformation and Rumors

- Help counter misinformation by providing accurate and timely information to communities
- Reduce the impact of rumors on surveillance activities.

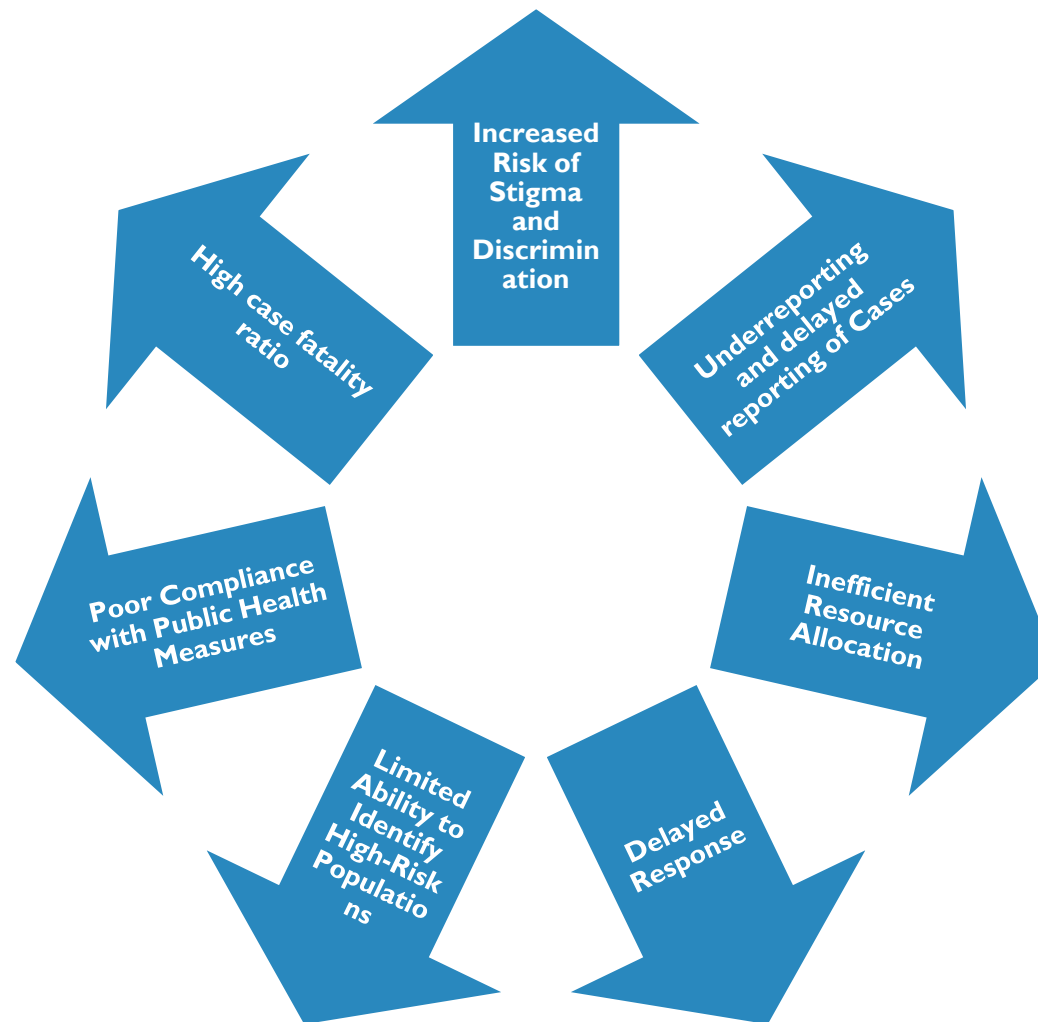
Supporting

Supporting Contact Tracing and Case Investigation

- Gain valuable information

PERSPECTIVES OF RCCE SUPPORT TO SURVEILLANCE

NEGATIVE OUTCOMES ON SURVEILLANCE DUE TO INADEQUACY OR ABSENCE OF RCCE ACTIVITIES



ILLUSTRATED IMPORTANCE OF RCCE AND CBS

Example: Dengue in Indonesia

- Early detection through community-based surveillance
- Online platform to share alerts with health authorities in real-time. 84% of all alerts raised for dengue and other diseases confirmed positive
- Referral to health facilities
- Health promotion and mosquito breeding prevention through clean-up campaigns
- Government of Indonesia has approved a regulation on community-based surveillance in 2022 to scale up local epidemic preparedness in the country.



Example: Anthrax in Kenya

- Health promotion with communities: no consumption and proper disposal of carcasses of animals dead of anthrax.
- Detection of dead animals quickly escalated to animal health authorities for investigation. Referral of people who consumed infected animal products to health facilities.
- Volunteers support community mobilization for livestock vaccination.
- One Health platform working closely together.



Example: Rabies in Guinea

- In Faranah prefecture, Guinea Red Cross works with the One Health platform:
 - 540 volunteers are involved in health promotion and community-based surveillance
 - Since 2022, 79 dog bites were notified to authorities by volunteers. 18 dogs were confirmed sick with rabies. Victims were referred to health facilities, no death reported.
 - Database of 1,347 dogs established.
 - Support to World Rabies Day vaccination campaign.



EXAMPLE COVID-19 SOUTH AFRICA 2020



- Some families did not want Rapid Response Teams (RRTS) from a certain background (ethnic/language) to investigate their cases. There was no RCCE capacity nor appropriate interventions at the beginning of the pandemic.
- Many sick patients, with severe cases, passed on because of stigma and lack of best care
- Increased transmission of COVID-19

EXAMPLE ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY OUTBREAKS IN CHILDREN AND DEATHS DUE TO ADULTERATED MEDICINE IN GAMBIA (2022)



- Challenges:
 - Distrust in government, cultural, social, and religious resistance, and inertia among others.
- Action: Engagement with community leaders (religious)
- Results: Investigation completed: Data collected, analysed, and results shared with MOH

CONCLUSION

Credible, trusted, relevant, timely, accessible and actionable health information is crucial for the acceptance and adoption of life-saving interventions

Improving trust through strategic RCCE, managing the infodemic, and co-developing solutions with communities to meet their needs are critical to ending disease outbreaks in every country

THANK YOU