



Supporting Multi-Channel Service Delivery for Vulnerable Groups

Relief International's Experience in Bangladesh

M. Nazrul Islam
Bangladesh Country Director
Relief International
nazrul@ri.org
www.ri.org

Incheon, South Korea
6 December 2017

What is Zoonoses and Why is One Health (Multi Channel) needed

Zoonoses – Diseases that can be transmitted from animal to humans
Wildlife to domesticated animals to human (e.g. rabies, Ebola).

BIG Impact - More than three quarters of new, emerging, or re-emerging human diseases at the beginning of the 21st century have been caused by pathogens originating from animals or animal products.

Important to vulnerable people: Zoonoses is serious in the developing world, where people often cohabit with their domesticated animals and do not have access to information or resources for combating environmental/human/animal health concerns.

Needs Multi-channel coordination: Impacts animal health (MOA), human health (MOH), and households that depend on their animals for food security and livelihoods.

Partnership Context for Example 1

- Grassroots level local authorities lack technical capacity and financial resources to address zoonotic disease
- No effective collaboration between human health and animal health actors which increases the threat of zoonotic
- Little Awareness of Zoonotic diseases at community level and how they are transmitted

The Project

- 3 rural districts with large animal farming communities during 2014-2016
- Develop prevention and response capacity of communities, government departments and academia
- Integrate Zoonosis Surveillance within Existing Government Regulations and institutions
- Behaviour Change.

Multi-Channel participation

- Livestock Office (Divisional, District and sub district level)
- Department of Health
- Government run hospitals
- Union Council
- Government run radio station
- Secondary schools
- Public Agriculture universities

Key areas of partnership

- Establishment of District level Zoonotic Control Associations
- Capacity building of livestock department/officials
- Training for Community Health Workers
- School Health Club
- Research (through establishment of research center and scholarship)
- Joint mass vaccination for animals
- Mass awareness

Impact

- Community acceptance and awareness of risk factors increased
- Significant behavioral change (hygienic practice adopted by households, farming communities, butchers)
- Collaboration between human and animal health increased
- Pool of human resources trained in prevention of zoonotic diseases
- Response and diseases reporting capacity increased

Lesson Learned from Example One

- Lack of institutionalization and multi-channel approach is a key impediment in preventing zoonotic in rural Bangladesh
- Bangladesh Government needs to continue work to institutionalize
- Strong policy is not enough but consistent and strategic engagement with grassroots local authorities and at risk communities are important to prevent and control zoonotic diseases

Example – Two



Life Saving Health Services for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh



The Context

- Since 25 August this year more than 626,000 Rohingya refugees have streamed into Cox's Bazar district in Bangladesh
- They occupy settlements in makeshift camps with little or no water , sanitation, health, protection services;
- Most vulnerable – Stateless – No Access to citizen services except basic humanitarian services provided by UN/NGOs/INGOs, host communities, and government agencies

Relief International Response

- 14 mobile medical teams
- 3 mobile healthcare clinics, each supporting 10,000 people
- Doctors, nurse, midwives, protection specialists, Community Health Workers
- Child and Women Friendly Space
- Protection services for women and children at risk of human trafficking

Multichannel actors

- UN Agencies (UNHCR, UNICEF etc)
- Local NGOs
- Local host communities
- Local authorities (Health Dept etc)
- Refugee communities

The Way Forward

- NGO project are often stand alone and under strict government scrutiny
- Create a culture of trust and collaboration , not competition
- Operationalisations of Govt- NGO partnership
- Information sharing
- Not easy to work with central government for public health project
- Support for Rohingya refugee – need to go through strict govt approvals in Bangladesh