



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Collaboration capacity of organizations that participated in the response to the 2017 HPAI outbreak in Uganda:

Improving coordination of response to disease outbreaks in resource limited settings

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Introduction

Implementing a well coordinated response to disease outbreaks requires good collaboration among the different organizations responding to the outbreak. For good collaboration, each of the collaborating organizations should have sufficient collaboration capacity. Collaboration capacity is the ability of an organization to enter into, improve and sustain linkages with other organizations in pursuit of collective outcomes. Currently, there is no agreed framework for measuring collaborative capacity of organizations when responding to disease outbreaks. This prevents the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of interventions aimed at improving the ability of organizations to collaborate with each other when responding to disease outbreaks in resource limited settings like Uganda.

Objectives

The objective is to improve the capacity of organizations to collaborate with each other while responding to disease outbreaks in resource limited settings. Specifically, an agreed upon framework for measuring outbreak response collaboration capacity will be developed and used to measure individual organization collaboration capacity. Gaps and opportunities for improving collaboration will be identified and communicated.

Methods

A case study of the response to the 2017 HPAI outbreak in Uganda was used. Data was collected through literature review (to adapt Hosevar et al, 2006 model for measuring collaborative capacity), a Delphi survey on purposively selected subject matter experts (to refine Hosevar et al, 2006 model) and a cross-sectional survey using the refined tool on a random sample of individuals from all organizations that participated in the 2017 HPAI response (to assess how the different factors contributed to the capacity of organizations to collaborate with each other). Ethical approval was sought from MaKSPH IRB and UNCST.

Findings*

An adapted framework for measuring collaboration capacity during outbreak responses will be developed. Collaboration capacity of organizations that participated in the response to the 2017 HPAI outbreak in Uganda will be measured. Results will be presented statistically and diagrammatically. Findings will be shared with MoH and its partners in outbreak management and to the international community through workshops and manuscripts in peer reviewed journals.

Recommendations/Discussion

Policy and practice recommendations to improve collaboration during multi-organizational responses to disease outbreaks will be made and communicated to MoH and other stakeholders. Several engagement platforms within the Ministry of Health and its implementing partners will be used to facilitate implementation of the study recommendations.

*The study findings are being analyzed

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