

## ***EVD Training Activity Report***

**Ebola Virus Disease, orientation training of the airport Health authorities and other stakeholder at Benazir Bhutto International airports Islamabad.**

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014

**Venue:** Committee Room, **Benazir Bhutto International airports Islamabad**

**Facilitators:** Dr. Fawad khan – WHO Islamabad

Dr Muhammad Tayyab, WHO Islamabad

Dr Sher Baz Khan, Director Central Health Establishment Ministry of  
NHSR&C Islamabad

Dr Irfan Tahir Airport Health Officer Islamabad

**Total Participants:** 28 officials from the relevant departments at the BB International airport.

### ***Background:***

The Director General WHO on the advice of the Emergency Committee declared Ebola as “Public Health Emergency of International Concern” on 8 August, 2014. As a result of the declaration all the member states advised to be vigilant and take appropriate measures to control the spread of Ebola. No travel and trade restrictions were advised, however the member states encouraged to be vigilant to detect, track and manage suspected patients or close contacts with a confirm case, entering the country. Detection and monitoring of suspected cases or travelers from the Ebola affected countries can easily be done with a good coordination among different departments at the point of entries.

WHO country office Pakistan on 15 October 2015 organized an advocacy meeting involving all the relevant departments, international partners and stakeholders to boost up the national preparedness for Ebola Virus Disease. During the Advocacy meeting at the Ministry of National Health Service Regulation and Coordination, WHO extended its support to the Ministry to conduct Orientation sessions on Ebola for health and the other relevant departments staff at the POE to enhance vigilance and coordination to detect, assess and notify travelers, contacts of Ebola case and suspected cases entering Pakistan from the affected countries. Three airports were identified as apriority to conduct the orientation of the staff of the airport health authority, Civil Avian Authority, Immigration (FIA), Airport Security Force, Airport management and Customs department and airlines.

**Objectives of the orientation training were to:**

- Orientation on Ebola for health staff and the relevant departments at the POE
- Advocacy to enhance vigilance to detect, assess and notify travelers, contacts of Ebola case and suspected cases entering the country from the affected countries.
- Orientation to develop a strong coordination mechanism between relevant departments/ authorities

**Orientation training of the airport Health authorities and the relevant stakeholders staff at Benazir Bhutto International airports Islamabad.**

On 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014 WHO Islamabad office in collaboration with National IHR Focal Point and Directorate Central Health Establishment conduct the orientation trainings on Ebola Virus Disease for personnel from relevant departments at BB International airport Islamabad. The facilitators stressed on the coordination between different departments at the airport on surveillance for detection of suspected cases of EVD or travelers coming from the affected countries, basic screening questions immediate information sharing and taking appropriate measures with creating panics. The participants were given awareness in the following areas:

1. Introduction about Ebola Virus Disease, What it is, how it spreads, prevention, Epidemiology, Management
2. Case definitions (Suspected & Confirmed cases and tracking of suspected cases and travelers )
3. Contact Tracing , Hand washing Practices and use of PPE's
4. Prevention & Control; Field Investigations & measures
5. Travel and Transport Advice related to EVD
6. Monitoring and Care of Contacts, travelers from the affected countries entering the country.
7. Guidelines for Funeral practices and management of biological materials

**For each arriving traveler who has been in Guinea, Liberia, or Sierra Leone:**

1. Travelers will undergo screening measures to include:
  - a. Answer questions to determine any potential risk of exposure to a confirmed or suspected case or dead body in the country of origin
  - b. Have their temperature taken when needed
  - c. Be observed for other symptoms of Ebola
2. For each asymptomatic travelers the Port health official will give health information that includes:

- a. Information about Ebola (what it is and how to protect himself/herself and others)
  - b. Symptoms to look for and what to do if symptoms develop (inform the Ebola focal person immediately, avoid close contact with other family members and friends)
  - c. Provide contact information relevant health official in his/her area (Ebola Focal Person, DHO and doctor of the Isolation ward?)
3. If a traveler has a fever or other symptoms or has been exposed to Ebola, The port health officer will refer the person to the Hospital where isolation ward is established for further evaluation of the traveler and management.

### **Recommendations from the Participants**

At the end of Technical session few Recommendations were given by the House

- 1) SOPs to be developed and shared with each department in light of technical Knowledge.
- 2) There must be some online system for Checking travel History at the airport
- 3) The First point of contact at International arrival is the Medical corner it needs to be strengthen and more operational as working previously.
- 4) Strong coordination among all departments regarding Prevention of EVD
- 5) Airport Management shall arrange tickled down Training and orientation sessions for airport staff as much as possible
- 6) Ensuring participation of all airlines representatives in the next sessions.
- 7) Arrangements for temporary isolation and assessment of any suspected case/traveler.

Total 28 staff from the airport health department, Civil Avian Authority, Immigration department (FIA), Airport Security Force, Customs department and the airport management participated in the orientation session