

OVERVIEW

Background

The “Asia Pacific Meeting on Health Emergencies and Human Resource Development” in October 2006 identified the different training needs of health and health related professionals to strengthen the capacities of Member States to effectively and efficiently respond to emergencies and disasters. Several training courses were developed and implemented in collaboration with regional academic and training institutions. One of these regional courses is the “Regional Emergency Response Operation Training” first developed and offered by Hanoi School of Public Health, one of the leading academic institutions for Public Health in Vietnam.

The course was offered February 2009 with the participation of key health staff from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Peoples Republic of China and Vietnam. The course was designed as a Training of Trainers with the aim that the course will be rolled out to the countries in the region.

An evaluation of the course was done by the organizers, facilitators and resource persons together with the participants of the course. After the evaluation of the pilot offering in Vietnam, a decision was arrived at to develop modules and packaged the entire course similar to what has been done with other regional courses on health emergencies and disasters in the region. Thus, a consultative meeting organized by SEAMEO TROP MED Network and WPRO with regional experts on emergencies and disasters and curriculum development was organized October 2009 in Ho Chi Minh City. The consultative meeting reviewed, revised and packaged the regional training course on Health Emergency Response Operations.

Rationale

The HRD Meeting in October of 2006 underscored the need for a training program on health emergency response operations. Related to this, several activities were undertaken including packaging a revised training course for the Member States in the region. The number of emergencies and disasters occurring in the region reinforced the need for an effective and efficient health emergency response operations. This training course will help address this need in the countries.

Educational Goal

The course hopes to develop managers, leaders and other health professionals who will have a deeper understanding of the concepts, principles and processes of health emergency response operations and the technical competencies needed to contribute to the enhancement of the capacities in health emergency response operations at the country and community levels. Graduates should be advocates for the establishment and strengthening of emergency operations center:

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, participants shall be able to:

1. Discuss the concepts, principles, and processes related to health emergency response operation
2. Setup an Emergency Operation Center
3. Utilize the concepts, principles, and processes in implementing the following:
 - ◆ Health rapid assessment;
 - ◆ Health Information management;
 - ◆ Logistics management
 - ◆ Risk communication
 - ◆ Public health services
4. Appreciate the importance of interoperability of the different systems; and
5. Maximize the coordination function to ensure effectiveness and efficiency of the emergency response operation

Educational Philosophy and Teaching Learning Strategy

The design of this training package is premised on adult learning philosophy and principles. The teaching learning strategies are selected based on opportunity to engage participants in the learning process and in utilizing prior knowledge and actual experiences in the field of emergency response operations. Interactive lectures and exercises will be the major strategy for delivering and ensuring understanding and appreciation of content while small group discussion using tabletop cases and/or field visit will be the main strategy/ies for learning and practicing ERO competencies.

Course Description

The course will have six (6) regular modules and one optional module. Module 1 (Foundations of HERO) will provide a review of the emergency management framework, deemed important in the appreciation of health emergency response operation's functions and processes. Module 2 will focus on Rapid Health Assessment while Module 3 will tackle information management system for ERO. Modules 4 – 6 will cover functional and operational issues like logistic management, public health, and risk communication. An optional module (Field trip) is included which countries may adapt based on available opportunities and resources.

Module 1: Foundations of HERO

This module will cover concepts and principles of health emergency response operations. After participants are introduced to the elements and process of EOC they will apply it to a tabletop situation simulating a possible emergency.

Module 2: Rapid Health Assessment

The first part of the module will focus on RHA concepts, processes and tools. The importance

of RHA in preparing appropriate response plan will be highlighted. The second part will focus on learning how to use RHA data in making emergency response decisions.

Module 3: Information Management System

The focus of this module is providing participants with the necessary inputs needed to prioritize information needs and in deciding what information tools to utilize. This module will include workshop on deciding on what information tools will be most appropriate given identified information needs and capacities.

Module 4: Logistics Management

The first part of this module will cover purpose, system, principles, processes, components, and tools of logistics management. For the second part, participants will utilize all knowledge acquired in making decisions on logistics needs of a simulated emergency or disaster context.

Module 5: Public Health

In this module, participants will review the role of public health programs during the response phase of disaster. While the different public health programs will be presented and discussed, the focus will be on selecting specific PH programs and mode of delivery based on available health assessment reports.

Module 6: Risk Communication

This module will highlight the importance of risk communication in emergency response operations. This module will focus on helping HERO people identify appropriate messages, strategies for monitoring and evaluating risk communication, and deal with media during the emergency response phase. Developing and packaging actual risk communication messages will not be addressed.

Module 7: Field Visit (optional)

This module is optional and recommended only in training contexts where emergency operation centers (local or national level) are available and a visit is practical given available time. The visit is supposed to provide participants opportunity to see how ERO principles and processes are applied in an existing operation center.

Schedule

Module	Days
Module 1: Foundation	1.5 days
Module 2: RHA	.5 days
Module 3: IMS	.5 day
Module 4: Logistics	.5 day
Module 5: Public Health	.5 day
Module 6: Risk Communication	.5 day
Module 7: Field Trip (Optional) / Synthesizing Session	.5 day
Evaluation/Closing Session	.5 day

Suggested Participants:

This course is designed for focal persons/coordinators/leaders of health emergencies/disasters and other health professionals involved in emergency response operations.

Evaluation

Evaluation has two main objectives: a) assessment of training outcome and b) evaluation of the actual conduct of training.

Assessment Learning Outcome

Self-Assessment

Participants will accomplish pre and post training self-assessment questionnaires. The questionnaires will document participants' own assessment of level of knowledge and application of ERO skills prior to and after training.

Product based assessment

Understanding of concepts and application of skills of ERO will be monitored through the quality of outputs of workshops and exercises. This is also a good opportunity to provide immediate feedback to participants.

Assessment of the Training Process

Assessment will be at the end of each module. The following areas will be assessed:

- Content/coverage
- Teaching learning strategies
- Participation
- Materials /Resource
- Time Allotment