Thank you for joining and welcome to today’s discussion!

We will begin shortly.

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Liberia's Experience with Ebola and Lessons Learned for COVID-19

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Agenda

• Introductions
• Welcome & Announcements
• Liberia’s COVID-19 Response
  – Ernest Gonyon, MPH
• Discussion
• Closing
Welcome & Announcements

- Thank you for joining this discussion.
- Use the buttons at the bottom of your screen to interact during this session.
- Please use the **CHAT** function to introduce yourself to other participants and to share your questions or comments during today’s discussion.
Welcome & Announcements

• Today’s discussion is the third in a series:
  – China on April 23
  – South Korea on April 28
  – Liberia today May 13

• We encourage everyone to register on the JLN website for a virtual discussion following these sessions

• The JLN is actively adapting work in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we look forward to sharing more information soon
1. Country profile

2. Impact of EVD outbreak

3. Lessons learned from Ebola

4. Lessons applied to COVID-19 response
1. Country profile

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4. Lessons applied to COVID-19 response
Country profile: overview

- Population 4.8 million
- 15 countries
- 93 Health Districts
- 150 Administrative district
- 16 tribes in different regions
### Country profile: Health status of population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Indicator</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy (men)</td>
<td>61.6 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy (women)</td>
<td>66 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total fertility rate (births per woman)</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)</td>
<td>1,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality rate of children &lt;5 (per 1,000 live births)</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of children &lt;1 year old immunized against measles</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skill birth attendant (per 10,000 )</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to health facility (physical)</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health workers density</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Organization of health services

- **TERTIARY**
  - National Regional hospital
  - Regional Hospitals

- **SECONDARY**
  - County Hospital
  - District Hospital
  - Health centers

- **PRIMARY**
  - PHC level 2
  - Community level services
  - PHC level-1
1. Country profile

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Timeline of Ebola Viral Disease (EVD) outbreak

- **December 2013**: 1st EVD infection reported in Guinea
- **March 2014**: Liberia registered first case of EVD from cross border infection
- **April 2015**: WHO reports 25,515 suspected, probable, and confirmed EVD cases and 10,572 deaths in the region; *9,862 probable/confirmed cases *4,408 deaths in Liberia
- **April 2015**: *372 health workers infected/ *184 fatalities In Liberia
Impact of Ebola Viral Disease (EVD) outbreak

- Closure of health facilities due to fear, distrust and infection of health workers at some facilities
- Decline facility's utilization affecting key health indicators including RMNCAH service
- Disruption in delivery of routine health services
- Break down of national supply chain system
1. Country profile

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## Lessons learned from Ebola

### Direct response to the outbreak

- **Contact tracing**
  - It is critical to identify new infections rapidly

- **Cross border coordination**
  - First EVD case in Liberia was cross-border infection
  - Collaboration with neighbors

- **Stakeholders /Partners coordination is key**
  - Oversight of external partners & resources can be challenging

- **Protect and motivate Health Workers (HWs)**
  - HWs can be a source of infection for community and family members

- **National supply chains**
  - PPE and other essential equipment cannot reach health workers without supply chains

### Health infrastructure

- **Surveillance systems & Laboratory capacity**
  - For timely detection of disease outbreaks, strong surveillance systems and lab capacity is vital
Political leadership and community engagement

- Political leadership
  - Political leadership was central to an effective Ebola response
  - President chaired multispectral EVD response committee

- Decentralization & community engagement
  - Local health structure were empowered to lead response at their levels
  - Local government official and communities leaders including head of religious communities should be empowered to support the response
1. Country profile
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COVID-19 situation in Liberia

Total COVID-19 CASES
211

Active Case
106

Recovered
85

Death
20
Application of EVD lessons to COVID-19 response

Direct response to the outbreak

- **Contact tracing:**
  - ✔ Identify Precautionary Observation Centers (POCs) been paid for by IMS;
  - ✔ Trace, contact, and test: trace contacts, investigate cases, test, isolate, and treat;
  - ✔ Test dead bodies to establish contacts & isolate if the person died of COVID-19;

- **Monitor Ports of Entry (PoE):**
  - ✔ Heighten surveillance at all borders;
  - ✔ Feb. 2020, MOH & NPHIL deployed Port Health Officers to screen all port of entries;

- **Coordinate and deploy additional resources**
  - ✔ Resource mapping and expenditure tracking of COVID-19 resources;
Application of EVD lessons to COVID-19 response...

Health infrastructure

- **National supply chains**
  - ✔ Ensure active supply chain for COVID-19 response;

- **Surveillance systems and laboratory capacity**
  - ✔ Establishment of county surveillance & specimen transportation system;
  - ✔ Upgrade of National Reference Laboratory;

- **Protect and motivate Health Workers (HWs)**
  - ✔ Provide training and ensure PPE to all HWs;
  - ✔ Assign specific hospitals (6) to treat COVID-19 cases;
  - ✔ Restrict HWs for COVID-19 response to POEs, POCs, and treatment centers;
  - ✔ Curb COVID-19 transmission by distancing COVID-19 responders away from their families & loves ones;
  - ✔ Motivate HWs for COVID-19 response by providing incentives and hazard benefits;
Political and community response

- **Political leadership**
  - ✔ Establishment of Special Presidential Advisory Committee on Coronavirus (SPACOC);
  - ✔ President of Liberia chairs SPACO

- **Country approach**
  - ✔ Development of an emergency response plan;
  - ✔ Organization of COVID-19 EOC and Resource Management System;
  - ✔ Establishment of an Incident Management System;
  - ✔ Appoint a National Response Coordinator and National Compliance Manager;

- **Community trust**
  - ✔ Community mobilization, involvement of private sector and NGOs as part of COVID response;
Thank you
Q&A and Discussion
Closing

• Thank you for participating in this discussion
• We will share a recording of this session
• Continue the discussion on the discussion forums on the JLN website
• Visit www.jointlearningnetwork.org/register to create an account
Thank You!

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