

Response to HIV and emerging infectious diseases: Experiences in Viet Nam

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Dr. Kato has worked with WHO Viet Nam Country Office since 2006, working on prevention and control on infectious diseases. Control of infectious diseases requires effective prevention, early detection and rapid high impact interventions. In the session, he aims to share his field experiences in Viet Nam, focusing on HIV response and preparedness planning for emerging infectious diseases (EID), and will hold discussion with the participants.

Topic 1: HIV

In Viet Nam, estimated 260,000 people live with HIV, and according to Global Burden of Disease study in 2010, HIV poses the largest disease burden among all infectious diseases in Viet Nam. Effective control of HIV infection requires careful analysis of how and where HIV is being transmitted, and apply high impact intervention according to the transmission mode. What is harm reduction interventions, and how does it work? In recent years, strong evidence has been established suggesting HIV treatment is powerful prevention of HIV transmission. How shall we apply such powerful evidence into Viet Nam's response. Viet Nam had relied on external funds for its national HIV response; however the external funds are rapidly declining. We need to further focus on cost-effective interventions. HIV team in WHO Viet Nam has supported mathematical modelling and field operational studies to inform the policy decisions.

Topic 2: Emerging infectious diseases (EID)

EID, such as Ebola, MERS, and avian influenza continues to pose threat on public health security in Viet Nam, and many other countries. With rapid increase in global movement of the people, EID spreads easily across the borders. How Viet Nam – Government and Ministry of Health – can prepare for and respond to possible introduction of the EID? What roles WHO can play in the field, and what can we support? We will probably discuss over the recent MERS outbreak in Republic of Korea.

Panel discussion: Working with WHO

Interactive panel discussion will be held, based on the panellists' experiences working with WHO. We welcome active participation by the participants.