

Ebola: Governance Response and Public Health Emergency in Developing Countries

*Dharma NAND BHATTA

Dept. of Public Health, Pokhara University, Nobel College, Nepal, Faculty of Medicine, Epidemiology Unit, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand

*Correspondence: Email: dnbhatta@yahoo.com

(Received 15 Nov 2014; accepted 10 Dec 2014)

Dear Editor-in-Chief

After abandoned from other than the few African countries, the Ebola outbreak is shifted to pandemic and has been impact on global economy (1). Global efforts have been jointly urged to combat with this emergency crisis, but most of the developing countries are far behind the capacity to battle the outbreak with their weak health systems. Unfortunately, governances are still not grave for this horrific crisis and no effective network has been established. If we really wish for effective action to combat this crisis, all the governments and development partners should develop strategies to respond it's monetary and supply assurances. In addition, upgraded physical facilities, skilled health manpower, effectively established emergency response network and sufficient resources are the crucial constraints for developing countries.

In response to combat this outbreak, sufficient and effective measures must be followed. First, need to train health care professional in terms of preventive and curative aspects (2). We urge governments to create effective network with professionals working in health care systems to control the outbreak. In Nepal, based on the fact that the health budget has been decreased over the past few years and huge sanitation problems need to

emphasize public health efforts to combat the outbreak (3). Second, most of the developing countries have sparse facilities for isolation of infected persons, infrastructures, there is enormous requirement for physical facilities, laboratory and diagnostic facilities, surveillance resources, and transportation facilities for infected persons (2). Third, with regards to personal protective equipments (PPEs), treatment facilities, medical supplies and materials are needed in sufficient manner along with proper supply for sterilization to control infection (2). Despite of infection, control guidelines of clean clear is safer care developed by WHO (4), infection control strategies are very poor in most of the health care facilities in developing countries.

Finally, all the governments should develop the protocols for combating the public health emergency in collaboration with UN agency, particularly WHO, which could cover all the curative, preventive and humanitarian aspects. Strong strategies need to be developed for control intervention (5). A vigorous system need to be established that enhance and strengthen the public health capacities.

Competing Interest

Author declares no competing interests.

References

- "World Bank Group. 2014. The Economic Impact of the 2014 Ebola Epidemic: Short- and Medium-Term Estimates for West Africa. Washington, DC: World Bank. © World Bank. https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/20592 License: CC BY 3.0 IGO."
- 2. Martin-Moreno JM, Ricciardi W, Bjegovic-Mikanovic V, Maguire P, McKee M (2014). Ebola:

- an open letter to European governments. *The Lancet*, 384:1259.
- CBS (2011). National Population and Housing Census. Central Bureau of Statistics, Government of Nepal. http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010_phc/Nepal/Nepal-Census-2011-Vol1.pdf (accessed November 29, 2014).
- 4. World Health Organization. Clean care is safer care. http://www.who.int/gpsc/en/ (accessed November 25, 2014).
- 5. Pandey A, Atkins KÉ, Medlock J, Wenzel N, Townsend JP, Childs JE, Nyenswah TG, Nde-ffo-Mbah ML, Galvani AP (2014). Strategies for containing Ebola in West Africa. *Science*, 1260612.

Available at: http://ijph.tums.ac.ir
286