

Module: Public Health Disaster Planning for Districts

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Resource Title: Session 1.2b: Introduction to Epi-zoonotic Diseases

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Introduction: There are some diseases that have the potential to be transmitted from animals to human beings and vice-versa. These are called zoonotic diseases. Some of these diseases are epidemic prone and can cause devastating epidemics in animals and humans – these diseases are often referred to as ‘epi-zoonotics’. Human epidemics of epi-zoonotics are often preceded by epidemics in animals. Animal epidemics often result into serious economic losses, while human epidemics may be highly infectious and deadly.

Most new infectious diseases in humans originate from animals. Over the last three decades, there have been at least 20 new infectious disease and the majority are zoonoses. Most of these diseases originate from the interaction of human beings with domestic and wild animals. The human-animal interface is the most likely source of emerging diseases.

In this session, we shall be introduced to the concept of epi-zoonotic emergencies, and the importance of epi-zoonotics preparedness planning.

General Objective

The main objective of this session is to equip district teams with the knowledge and skills to be able to respond promptly to outbreaks of epi-zoonotic diseases in animals and humans, so as to prevent spread of infection and reduce deaths.

Specific objectives

At the end of this unit the participant should be able to:

1. Define key terms related to epi-zoonotic diseases
2. Explain the public health importance and consequences of epi-zoonotic diseases
3. Discuss the factors associated with the emergence of epi-zoonotic diseases

4. Outline the key considerations in response to epi-zoonotic diseases

Teaching and learning strategies

Case Studies, brainstorming, drawing on participants' experiences