

Day 1: Improving National Biosafety Capacity in Low- to Middle-Income Countries

Questions to be answered by breakout groups A-D

Group A: Developing National Biosafety Policies for Low- to Middle-Income Countries

Facilitator: John Ridderhof

Recorder: Heather Alexander

- If national biosafety policies exist, what are the most common gaps and challenges? What policy recommendations can effectively address these gaps and challenges?
- What are the current policies for chemical and bio-waste management (at the national and site-level) in low- to middle income countries (LMIC)? Do they sufficiently address the collection and disposal of potentially contaminated liquid and solid waste from all levels of laboratories and point-of-care (POC) sites?
- What are the key Ebola “lessons learned” regarding sample transport from Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) to National Reference Laboratories (NRL)--either in country or out of country-- that can inform national biosafety policy and national biosafety scale-up strategies?
- What should be a country’s policy towards stress testing its national outbreak response capacity to ensure readiness to future outbreak?
- What are suggested strategies for ensuring policy compliance when relevant environmental laws may be lacking and/or unenforced?

Group B: Planning National Biosafety Scale-Up

Facilitator: Tom Rush

Recorder: Dennis Ellenberger

- In a fiscally challenged setting, what priorities should be considered when scaling up biosafety programming?
- Should a national biosafety scale-up focus initially on one laboratory tier level (refer to Maputo document), or should the national scale-up occur across all laboratory tiers?
- What existing local solutions can be adapted to address local biosafety challenges? For example, can we incorporate existing African resources to address African challenges—which might be more effective in sustaining biosafety standards?
- Are there specific and proven strategies from other programs that could be incorporated into national planning?

Group C: Implementing a Facility-Based Biosafety Program -

Facilitator: David McAlister

Recorder: Thomas Stevens

- What are the top 3-5 challenges for site-level implementation of a biosafety program (e.g., supply/availability of appropriate PPE, management support, facility infrastructure, budgetary issues, or personnel knowledge/attitude/practice)? What are your recommendations for sustainable and practical solutions to these challenges?
- How can laboratory biosafety efforts be used to complement and encourage general facility safety and infection control to promote a facility-wide culture of safety and sustainability?
- Is there a basic level of biosafety readiness that all facilities offering testing should be required to attain?
- What strategies work within fiscally-challenged environments for developing and maintaining a culture of safety at the facility level?
- What are some strategies to encourage a culture of safety which encourages the reporting of actual and potential situations/incidents that might place staff members and others at risk and openly assesses those risks (a no-blame environment)
- Are there “lessons learned” from other programs that could be adapted to a biosafety program implementation at the facility level?
- What are effective ways for evaluating and maintaining biosafety preparedness within health care facilities?

Group D: Assessing Biosafety Training Needs in Low- to Middle Income Countries –

Facilitator: Mary Lancaster

Transcriber: Andrea Kim

- What are the minimum/appropriate biosafety training requirements (in terms of content and duration) for each health care cadre (including laboratorians and auxiliary cadres, such as, cleaners, drivers, morticians) given the challenges with varied literary levels, training time, internet access, etc.)?
- What existing biosafety trainings have been developed that are specific for to low- to middle income countries? Is there evidence of their success with regard to: local acceptance, practicality, and effectiveness? What lessons learned can we capture from existing training tools that have demonstrated impact?
- What existing training tools can be readily adapted to low- to middle income settings?
- Given the number, geographic spread, and diversity of roles of people needing biosafety training, how do we reach them in a way that is practical, feasible, affordable and timely? What are the barriers to effective delivery of suitable training?
- What biosafety *pre-service** curricula for laboratorians has been developed, implemented, and evaluated for low- to middle income countries? This training addresses long-term training needs

*i.e., training prior to professional practice