Infection Prevention and Control and Outbreak Response: Integrating reactive and proactive approaches

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• What is the most effective approach?

• Collaboration and coordination

• Early standardization

• Moving beyond a vertical disease based approach

• How can we adjust our approach in the emergency to promote sustainability?
What is needed to capitalize on IPC gains made during outbreaks?

• Evolution

• Government leadership and ownership

• Donor support and investment
What happens if we stop IPC support when outbreaks finish?

Health facility total IPC Scores (%) Nov 20 and March 21 DRC

- CH La Merveille: 95% (Nov-20), 52% (Mar-21)
- CS Munzambaye: 89% (Nov-20), 43% (Mar-21)
- CH MAKASI: 95% (Nov-20), 53% (Mar-21)
- CUG: 95% (Nov-20), 71% (Mar-21)
- HGR KITATUMBA: 98% (Nov-20), 68% (Mar-21)
- CS Maman Musayi: 84% (Nov-20), 60% (Mar-21)
When we do transition IPC support after outbreaks, how long are these gains sustained?

Graph 1

Proportion of facilities (n=120) that meet, partially meet, and do not meet IPC targets across 4 districts in Sierra Leone: **August 2016**

Graph 2

Proportion of facilities (n=112) that meet, partially meet, and do not meet IPC targets across 4 districts in Sierra Leone: **October 2020**
Proactive IPC

• Supporting health systems to respond to emergencies and deliver safe routine healthcare

• Protecting health workers and patients is central to building a resilient health system
Proportion of facilities that meet, partially meet, and do not meet IPC targets (n=1106)

IPC Score

- 70% Not compliant
- 17% Partially compliant
- 13% Compliant

Overall IPC Assessment Results, by Region (n=1106)

- Asia (n=184): 135 Does Not Meet Target, 22 Meets Target
- East Africa (n=298): 191 Does Not Meet Target, 53 Meets Target
- Great Lakes (n=89): 51 Does Not Meet Target, 17 Meets Target
- MENA (n=87): 44 Does Not Meet Target, 19 Meets Target
- West Africa (n=448): 348 Does Not Meet Target, 41 Meets Target
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**IPC Prioritization Framework—Guideline**

**IPC in Health Facilities Special Project**

In light of COVID-19 pandemic alongside reports of wide scale noncompliance of minimum WASH IPC standards in health facilities the IRC prioritized a special project to ensure IPC improvements are rigorously assessed, gaps clearly identified, improvements made as well as monitored in all countries where IRC health programming occurs.

Results of the IRC Initial IPC baseline survey conducted in 1,356 health facilities from 28th August to 17th December 2020 has revealed that the majority of the HF’s require a substantial amount of inputs and activities to bring them up to minimum standard expected by the IRC. The number of standards not met in these health facilities may be overwhelming leaving many of the health programs unable to know where they should start with improvement activities.

Therefore the main purpose of this IPC Prioritization Framework is to provide Health Technical Advisors, Country Health Coordinator and Managers who participated in the IPC in Health Facilities project with guidance on where IPC standards must be prioritized and dealt with as a matter of urgency in order to improve overall IPC standards within health facilities.

In addition, the IPC Prioritization Framework will provide guidance on where and how Environmental Health (EH) Technical Advisors, Country EH Coordinators and Managers can support Health Programs in realizing the critical IPC standards as well as where additional in-country EH IPC staff are required.

Although the main purpose of the framework is to guide countries that
• IPC cannot be something we only do during outbreaks
• Proactive approaches to IPC, critical piece for quality
• When disaster strikes, we need to get the reactive approaches right
• Incorporate sustainability from outset, and ensure commitment and resources to transition support

• Need for operational research
  • *Which IPC elements are considered foundational and need to be achieved before others? Which approaches have catalytic results? How do barriers change if reactive versus proactive IPC? What are the key factors that result in sustained impacts?*