



G5 Tehran Communiqué: Joint Work for Solving Joint Health Problems

6-7 Sep 2022, Tehran- Islamic Republic of Iran

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Representatives of Afghanistan, Iran (I.R.), Iraq, Pakistan and World Health Organization met on 6 and 7 September 2022 G5 High Level Expert Meeting on Health Cooperation in Tehran reinvigorated the group, reviewed the developments in health related issues and explored the possibilities for further expanding cooperation among members to address challenges and meet common interests in the field of health. After opening session that was chaired by H.E. Dr. Eynollahi, Minister of Health & Medical Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the meeting under the theme “Joint Work for Solving Joint Health Problems” continued its work in the format of three thematic sessions:

Thematic session 1: Health System with PHC Approach

In this session participants emphasized on and recognized the importance of exchange of experiences regarding the development of Primary Health Care structure in rural and urban areas and preparing a road map for the development of primary health care structure; cooperation for development of service packages in the primary health care system; cooperation for development of the Electronic Health Records; collaboration to increase PHC resilience in crises and disaster; linking and integration of EOC with communicable disease surveillance and IHR; improvement of emergency response plans; joint training; introducing affordable package of service delivery in public sector; education and national staff capacity building in clinical, diagnostic and management levels; EPR needs training for emergencies to introduce the available system of emergencies in neighboring countries; experience sharing and best practices; health security of G5 countries.

The participants agreed to:

Establish a technical group to identify and finalize key HSS/PHC priorities for G5 to focus on;



- a- Identifying selected areas of health systems (e.g. governance, health workforce development) and of essential public health functions (e.g. surveillance, laboratories, emergency management/EOCs, HIS, etc.);
- b- Developing a network of EOCs among G5 member countries to strengthen emergency management across border and data sharing;
- c- Developing essential services package for population across borders (e.g. immunization, TB screening, etc.);
- d- Building capacity of health professionals, for selected areas where there are major gaps such as RRTs, sub regional EMTs and other specialties as needed;

Thematic session 2: Communicable Diseases

In this session participants emphasized on and recognized the importance of strengthened Integrated Diseases Surveillance System and active sentinel surveillance among G5 countries; refresher training for communicable diseases with focus on Polio as a good model; partnership development, technical and financial support and resource mobilization; integrated vector control surveillance and response initiative by training across borders; improving environmental surveillance system in G5 countries; one-health strategy as a tool to engage inter-sectorial partnership of relevant stakeholders in G5 countries; data sharing through WHO/IHR mechanism; neighboring provinces dialogue; exchange of experts with the aim of joint risk assessment of border provinces; work of outbreak investigation and response teams; vaccination campaigns; WHO support in ensuring availability of short term and long term resources; capacity building of emergency medical teams.

The participants agreed to:

Establish a technical group to identify and finalize key Communicable Diseases (CDs) areas to focus on:

- a) Defining the groups of CDs relevant to G5 member countries cross border collaboration (e.g. VPDs, vector-borne diseases, respiratory diseases, water and food-borne diseases, zoonosis);



- b) Establishing/strengthening integrated surveillance system for early detection and notification encouraging the use of digital tools;
- c) Timely sharing of communicable diseases surveillance data to ensure prevention and agile response to outbreaks/events;
- d) Harmonizing surveillance indicators, data collection measures among G5 member countries;
- e) Developing package of prevention, preparedness and response measures for the above specific groups of diseases;
- f) As per IHR recommendations, vaccination of travelers/pilgrims from polio-endemic countries with one dose of IPV from 4 to 12 months before departure and providing them with a valid certificate of vaccination;

Thematic session 3: Cross-border Collaboration on Mass Gatherings

In this session participants emphasized on and recognized the importance of vaccination campaigns across borders; vector control campaigns; strengthened quarantine/isolation posts, safe food, water and electrolytes for moving pilgrims; foster surveillance procedures and sharing experiences on syndromic surveillance; harmonized risk communications and community engagement campaigns concerning prevention and control measures of communicable diseases; establishing or strengthening health posts in common PoEs to serve affected pilgrims; deployment of mobile clinics/hospitals, equipped/or mobile labs at PoEs/or en-route of moving populations/pilgrims; standard environmental health measures, sprayers, shades, hygienic rest room and environment and transportation.

The participants agreed to:

Establish a technical group to identify and finalize key cross border collaboration areas, including mass gatherings to focus on:

- a- Conducting joint assessment of PoEs and developing joint plans to address the gaps including infrastructure;
- b- Designating jointly ground crossings for capacity building as appropriate and rationalized use of resources;
- c- Developing programmes for building capacity of workforce at PoEs;



- d- Establishing harmonized procedure for surveillance, diagnostic, RCCE, referral system, case management, infection control and vector control
- e- Conducting joint risk assessment for mass gathering events to inform planning and mitigation and response measures including vaccination;

In conclusion all participants:

- a) Strongly expressed their commitments to the objectives and scope of the G5 initiative
- b) Decided to establish technical groups with defined clear ToRs to finalize joint areas for collaborations and to revive the network of Focal Points from administrative and technical departments on specific health priority issues, nominated by the members to G5 Secretariat. The names and addresses of the Focal Points shall be communicated through the Secretariat to all G5 members;
- c) Agreed to enhance multi-sectoral cooperation and microplanning in districts near the borders during mass gatherings;
- d) Decided to convene annual ministerial meetings, either to be hosted by G5 Member States or at the sidelines of WHO/ EMRO ministerial meetings. Further decided to meet at the level of Focal Points and experts, routinely to review the implementation of the provisions of this Communique;
- e) Emphasized the importance of ensuring availability of short and long-term resources to support member countries; and agreed to cooperate jointly to mobilize financial resources; and emphasized the high value and importance of WHO/EMRO support as a member of the G5 especially on technical aspects and resource mobilization;
- f) Requested the Ministry of Health & Medical Education of the I.R. Iran, as the G5 permanent Secretariat, to report on the implementation of this Communique to its next ministerial meeting.