

Preparedness for the Health Sector Emergencies in Zimbabwe

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Introduction

- Zimbabwe has a well developed health infrastructure providing for both clinical and public health services from national down to sub-district level.
- This was a deliberate policy adopted at independence in 1980 to focus on the improvement of the health of the nation through provision of infrastructure and staff training.

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- At the present moment there are over 1500 health facilities including Rural Health Centres, city and private clinics,
- 66 district hospitals,
- 66 mission hospitals,
- 8 provincial hospitals,
- 6 central/referral hospitals and
- 3 infectious diseases hospitals.
- The infectious disease hospitals are located in the large cities.
- There is a provision for the management of infectious conditions at district, provincial and central hospitals

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- The public health system is charged with surveillance, improved disease investigations, and disease control systems that have been implemented in the country.
- During viral hemorrhagic fever outbreaks in surrounding countries, Zimbabwe designated hospitals for the management of such conditions in the various provinces.

Ownership

- Government
- Mission (Churches)
- Rural District Councils,
- Private

Planning for Emergencies in Hospitals

Planning for emergencies must be put in place in advance and a system must be put in place to ensure :

- Safety of workers
- Safety of patients
- Safety of visitors/ customers
- Protection of property and environment

Structural and non structural measures for Safer Hospitals in Zimbabwe

The operation of hospitals in Zimbabwe both private and public is governed by the provisions of laws and regulations with structural and non-structural elements to ensure that;

- Hospitals are structurally sound such that they do not collapse and kill patients, staff members and visitors
 - Building codes are abide by.
 - Well surveyed physical location,
 - Design specifications, and resilience of the materials used,
- Hospitals continue to be functional and provide efficient services to communities during and after disasters.
- All hospitals have contingency plans
- Training in emergency response is regularly conducted through simulations and drills

Functionality

- The Government ensures referral hospitals are provided with
 - power supply,
 - water,
 - medicines,
 - equipment
 - Accessibility

Responsible institutions

- The Government of Zimbabwe established the Ministry of Public works whose mandate is to supervise the construction and maintenance of hospitals and other Government institutions,
- The Local Authorities also supervise the construction of such utilities,
- National Social Security Authority (NSSA) conduct inspections and safety health training,

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- The Department of Civil Protection provides training for the production of institutional emergency preparedness plans and conduct mock drills / simulations,
- Ministry of Health (Environmental Health Department) conduct inspections of all hospitals,
- Local Authorities ensure accessibility by road,
- Air Force of Zimbabwe provide casvac, in emergencies

Emergency preparedness and response needs assessments for hospitals (Case Study)

- **Overall Aim**

- To develop model hospital plans for emergency preparedness and response

- **Objectives**

- To carry out baseline survey on hospital contingency plans and hospital emergency management for Mpilo Central, Lupane Provincial and Binga District Hospital,
- To develop a plan of action to meet the identified EPR needs of the hospitals,
- To develop model emergency preparedness and response plans for hospital,
- To identify the most prepared hospitals,
- To make relevant recommendations.

THANK YOU