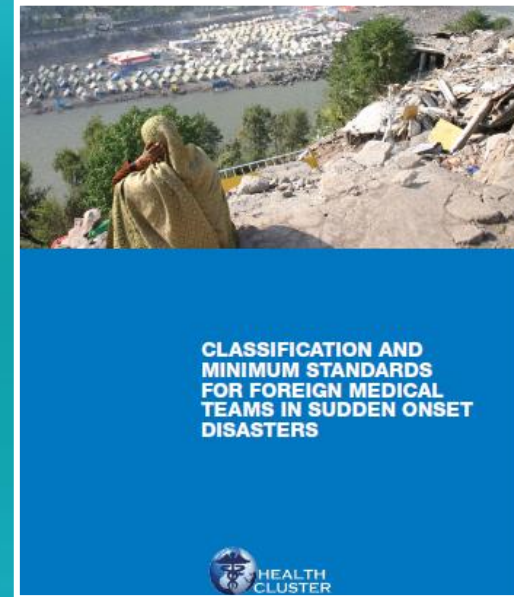


Overview of the Implementation of the EMT Initiative in the WHO African region



Dr Thierno BALDE

Team Lead/Operational partnerships

WHE/EMO

Launched in December 2017

11 countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda

Partners: Save the Children, IFRC, Islamic Development Bank, Médecins d'Afrique and IOM

And the Regional organizations – WAHO from ECOWAS

In 2018

- 5 national EMT awareness workshops :
Senegal (April 2018), South Africa (June 2018), Nigeria (October 2018), Guinea (November 2018) and Ghana (November 2018)
- 2 workshops NGOs: ALIMA and *Médecins d'Afrique*
- 3 teams registered to the international EMT classification:
Senegal, South Africa and ALIMA
- 2nd regional workshop with 13 ECOWAS countries

In 2018

Recruitment of 1 full time staff in charge of the rolling out of the initiative in the region

2 deployments with newly identified EMTs in the African Region:

In May 2018 and in August 2018, ALIMA, IMC, IRC for Ebola outbreaks in partnership with WHO and other partners

In October 2018, the Senegal EMT of the ministry of Army for a major road collision in DRC in partnership with WHO

In 2019

One national EMT conducted in Kenya – last week

Recruitment of 1 consultant with the focus on EMT outbreak for National teams in Africa

Next activities -

- 8 other national EMT awareness workshops: Benin (Feb 2019), Burkina Faso (Feb 2019), DRC, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Togo, Uganda, Zambia
- One EMT-CC training in the WHO African region
- One regional meeting with the SADC countries

In 2019 – Development of Regional EMT Concept note

Goal - to enhance preparedness and promote the rapid deployment and efficient coordination of EMTs adhering to minimum standards to reduce morbidity, mortality and disability associated with outbreaks and other health emergencies

Main priorities: development of national EMTs; Integration of outbreak management capacities; Logistics capacities

Concept Note Implementing the Emergency Medical Team (EMT) Initiative in the African Region January 2019

Background

Purpose of the concept note

Member States face increasing numbers of emergencies with health consequences, including infectious disease outbreaks, conflicts, natural disasters, chemical-nuclear spills and food contamination. These health emergencies result in unacceptable level of morbidity, mortality, disability and socioeconomic disruptions. They threaten national, regional and global health security.

In the WHO African Region, Member States report annually over 100 health emergencies. Infectious diseases account for 80%, disasters for 18%, chemical poisoning and acute starvation account for 2%. Among the infectious diseases, cholera, measles, and meningitis are the most recurring (WHO, 2016). Emerging and re-emerging pathogens are also a concern. Ebola and Marburg which were previously known to be rare, have caused outbreaks in recent years.

