

LOCATION: Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh-WHO Office

DATE: 12 December 2018

CHAIR: Logistics Sector, UNFPA, WHO

PARTICIPANTS: HOPE, IFRC Hospital, IOM, IRC, Malaysian Field Hospital, MedAir, PUI, Save the Children, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO.

- ACTION POINTS**
- Logistics Sector to follow up with other Sectors regarding waste management and disposal practices.
 - WHO/UNFPA to share free-to-request procedures
 - Partners to share their six-month consumption forecast

- AGENDA**
1. WHO Presentation
 2. Medical Waste Management
 3. Government Rules and Regulations
 4. Medical Stock Visibility
 5. Q&A medical disposal guidance
 6. AOB

1. WHO Presentation

- WHO presented the points from a Medical Logistics workshop held in July 2018 that discussed general challenges and practices being faced by medical organisations in the Rohingya Response in Cox's Bazar.

2. Medical Waste Management

- Organisations advised that they use IFRC's incinerator to dispose of medical waste due to not having individual incinerators.
- Medicines cannot be buried within Cox's Bazar District due to the high water table level. There are companies available to collect the waste and move it to Chittagong, however organisations that have used these services in the past indicated that they had not had positive experiences.
- Organisations suggested that the Health and WASH sectors jointly discuss the issue of medical waste disposal.
- The Logistics Sector will follow up with other sectors regarding the status of their discussions on waste management.

3. Government Rules and Regulations

- It is reported that all the pharmaceuticals with an equivalent being produced locally in Bangladesh have importation restrictions for foreign goods.
- Six companies, which have received quality certification from the Government of Bangladesh, are authorised to produce pharmaceuticals in-country.
- Organisations in attendance mentioned challenges regarding a quality gap between the standards presented in the certification (and sampling) and the actual batch of pharmaceuticals received.
- Partners indicated challenges in collecting certificate of origins from suppliers when trying to import medical supplies that affect their ability to verify the origin and quality of goods.

- WHO will discuss internally the best approach to harmonise quality verification and testing with the Bangladesh Ministry of Health (MoH).

4. Medical Stock Visibility

- WHO and UNFPA presented their medical pipelines. It was advised that partners are able to access supplies in this pipeline for free and are strongly encouraged to do so.
- Organisations agreed to develop better medical stock visibility in order to better forecast medical needs.
- WHO/UNFPA will share their free-to-use request procedures, and organisations will revert with their consumption forecast for the next six months.

AOB

- Meeting participants agreed to hold a Medical Logistics Coordination meeting every month. The monthly meeting will be co-chaired by the Logistics Sector, WHO and UNFPA.
- Meeting participants suggested discussing temperature-controlled storage in the next meeting.

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