**Sudan Virus Disease (SVD): Epidemiology and considerations to scale up testing capacity**

**Dr Otim Patrick Cossy Ramadan** opened the session emphasizing the importance of scaling up laboratory capacity for Sudan virus disease (SVD) and decentralised testing to ensure fast turnaround of test results and ensuing response mechanisms.

**Dr Pierre Formenty** briefly described SVD outbreaks that have occurred since 1976, and discussed burden of disease, mode of transmission, taxonomy, practical considerations for diagnostic testing and ongoing R&D. Dr Formenty described the main differences in clinical presentation between SVD and Ebola virus disease (EVD), and noted the importance of continued research into persistence of Sudan virus. He highlighted that there are no currently available licensed vaccines or therapeutics against Sudan virus.

**Prof Christopher Logue** described the different types of diagnostic tests for SVD and EVD, emphasizing that the type of test used depends on onset of disease/stage at which patient presents themselves or timing of sample taken. Prof. Logue then described the safety requirements for testing for SVD/EVD, leading us through an SVD/EVD laboratory workflow and highlighting the crucial importance of training laboratory staff; and finalised with a brief description of an EVD/SVD diagnostic laboratory training course structure.

**Dr Daniel Mukadi** shared DRC’s experience managing field laboratories during the 2018-2020 Ebola outbreak, noting their crucial role in decentralization of diagnostic testing and consequent reduction in turnover times, as well as providing local empowerment. Dr Mukadi described the set-up, activities and sites of the 13 field laboratories strategically located in key provinces, emphasizing the importance of enabling local staff, through training and competency transfer, towards sustained and successful management of future outbreaks. Challenges included sample shipment, security, logistics and cold chain issues, among others.

**Useful links (click on blue text)**

- Webinar recordings: [**AR** - **EN** - **FR** - **RU** - **PT** - **SP**]
- Presentations: [Dr Pierre Formenty] [Prof Christopher Logue] [Dr Daniel Mukadi]
- Questions answered by the presenters: **EN**

**WHO resources:** [Ebola outbreak 2022 Uganda]

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