Meeting report on Integrated Management for Emergency & Essential Surgical Care (IMEESC) towards strengthening Primary Health Care capacities

Bamako, Mali
18-19 November 2008

Background:

Mali has 3 tertiary level hospitals, with approximately 40 Malian surgeons, and 4 physician anesthesiologists for a population of 14 million. Therefore, there is a need for training of health providers working at first referral and community health facilities to manage life and disability saving emergency, surgical and anesthesia interventions, particularly in trauma, pregnancy related complications, congenital anomalies, and acute surgical conditions.

Objectives:

- Meetings with WR/ Mali, focal persons in WHO country office (WCO) and Ministry of Health (MoH) on Integrated Management for Emergency & Essential Surgical Care towards strengthening Primary Health Care capacities
- Visit to health facilities
- Introduce the WHO Emergency & Essential Surgical Care project and share 30 counties experience of the WHO Integrated Management for Emergency & Essential Surgical Care (IMEESC) toolkit for strengthening capacities at primary health care through
- Share the presentation titled on ‘Can we evaluate equitable access to emergency and surgical care’ at the Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health, Bamako, Mali
Meetings with interested parties working towards strengthening health systems through availability of basic emergency, surgical, and anesthesia interventions at primary health care facilities

**Health Facilities Visit:**

- Visits were made to 2 tertiary hospitals and 2 health centres for a situational analysis on EESC. 
- During the visit of the health facilities the WHO Situation analysis tool to assess EESC and WHO IMEESC toolkit were demonstrated to key health providers and directors.
Discussions

- Discussions were held with WR, the key policy makers, health providers, and directors of the health facilities to introduce the IMEESC toolkit towards strengthening health systems through training general doctors and physician assistants in county hospitals and health centers in Mali. Health providers have shown keen interest in data collection on the health facilities.
- Interested parties (NGOs, West Africa College of Surgeons) discussed collaborative activities on EESC project in Mali and other West Africa countries.
- Data gathered through WCO, MoH, and professionals will be used to:
  - enter in the global database to obtain an overview of access to basic life and disability saving emergency, surgical, and anesthesia interventions at secondary and primary health care facilities and analyze the data
  - assist in preparation of a paper for presentation in the upcoming WACS conference in 2009 and publication with WCO-MOH and key health providers
  - provide baseline evidence on gaps at various levels of care (particularly secondary and primary health care facilities)
  - develop plans to address the gaps to access availability of life and disability saving emergency, surgical, and anesthesia procedures and equipment

Recommendations:

- French version of the WHO Situational analysis for EESC tool will be sent to WR Mali and interested key health providers who have requested the tool
- French translated version of the WHO Situation Analysis tool to assess availability of EESC in health facilities of Mali will be used to WCO and data collected will be sent to WHO/HQ for the global data base
- Data to be analysed at WHO and results shared through publication of a paper with WCO-MoH and assistance provided by WHO
- WHO IMEESC toolkit, and information folders to be sent to WR/Mali for dissemination to MoH and the 3 tertiary hospitals
- Facilitators meeting report to be prepared for dissemination
- WHO IMEESC toolkit will be presented at the WACS conference in Guinea in 2009, organization of a plenary sessions to use the WHO situation analysis on EESC tool for data collection for West African countries and a combined paper publication
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