**United Nations Medical and Health Response Working Group**

***34d meeting, 14 September 2021, 15:00***

***Participants: WHO, UNICEF, RCO, UNDP, UNHCR, IOM, OHCHR, UNFPA***

***Chair: WHO***

**WG meeting follow up action points:**

* **WHO, UNICEF, UNDP** to meet on 21.09 for a discussion of WM budget allocation, for further facilitation of the latter’s meeting with MoH. RCO will set-up the meeting invite.
* **UNICEF** to include into the Health cluster’s tool information on the finalised cold chain equipment distribution plans with the ICRC
* **WHO** to communicate, on 17.09, with the RNBO on the possibility of inclusion of detailed information on medical and educational personnel into their COVID-19 dashboard
* **UN medical WG** to perform on 12.10 a dedicated discussion onstrategic prioritisation proposals in the health sector related to COVID-19 in particular for the new Cooperation Framework, to be sent to the RCO.

***Meeting agenda:***

1. WHO presentation on epi and surge projections
2. RCO presentation on the next steps in terms of UNSDCF and the CCA in the context of COVID-response
3. Procurements update
4. AOB

***Meeting notes:***

**1. WHO**  **presentation on EPI and surge projections**

The proportion of severe cases requiring hospitalization is expected to reach 30% and exhausting the hospitals capacities by 15 November. Oxygen therapy is expected for 70% of the latter. 29% of hospitalized cases will require ICU. Average length of hospital stay for medium and severe cases is expected to be 10 days. Current hospitalization rates among the regions fluctuate between 31% (Donetsk GCA and Chernihiv Oblast) and 44% (Kharkiv and Chernivtsky Oblast); the majority lies withing the range of 35% to 40%. Projections show that effort to reduce hospital admission (from 30% to 15%) and provide alternative services may postpone the exhaustion of hospitals’ maximum capacity from 15 November to 12 December. Reducing the average length of stay from 10 to 5 days may postpone the exhaustion of hospitals’ maximum capacity from 29 November.

*Refer to the presentation attached for more details*

**2. RCO presentation on the next steps in terms of UNSDCF and the CCA in the context of COVID-response**

Economic empowerment of women as a response to COVID in Ukraine, Enabling risk communication community engagement, Strengthening capacities of health sector in Donetsk and Luhansk are in the global catalogue for HQ fundraising, but are not being currently actively pursued.

Instead of a new SERP, COVID-response and activities should be rolled out and integrated into the regular programming of agencies, starting 2022, but 2021 SERP report is still expected and is currently being prepared. COVID-response is not to be a separate pillar in the partnership framework,

*Refer to the presentation attached for more details*

**3. Procurements**

* Ukraine has postponed all COVAX deliveries to the I quarter of 2022, largely due to the vaccine overstock, both actual and projected
* The stocked vaccines will begin expiring in the end of October, and a second major part will expire in the end of November. UNICEF is currently resolving the problem with the national authorities
* COVAX has donated ultra-low temperature freezers that arrived to Ukraine on 14.09 and are going to UkrMedPostach
* 2700 vaccine carriers (acquired through the USAID funding) are expected to arrive soon for all of the vaccination points and mobile teams
* UNICEF is finalising procurement master plan for primary healthcare facilities with the WB and multilateral working group
* Under the Vaccination Programme, WHO is finalising the procurement of buses for vaccination centres, pilot projects being in Poltava and Dnipropetrovks oblasts and later planned to scale-up nationally
* Additional gloves and PPE are expected to arrive soon, under the Vaccination Programme
* Demand announced from hospitals for additional oxygen equipment and automatic patient lifts for critical patients; WHO is currently reviewing the possibility of their satisfaction
* Request for PCR tests for the Delta variant has been received, but the WHO assesses it as a low priority, due to the current abundance
* Mobile lab has been delivered to the NGCA and is already functioning at the half of its capacity; additional test kits needed
* NGCA facilities are currently being assessed for the need of oxygen equipment installation; WHO is already ready to support 3 hospitals
* Bothe NGCA and GCA are experiencing the forthcoming lack of PPE stocks; WHO is expected to discuss this with de factos and authorities
* IOM received a request for hygiene kits for social institutions of GCA, approx. 150 000 USD
* WHO has procured, at the request of the RC, yellow vaccination cards for the UN community in Ukraine; arrival pending
* UNFPA has procured 5000 sanitary kits for female health workers, distribution has already began in Luhansk oblast

**4. AOB**

* The Global Fund has partially approved the COVID-19 response mechanism full funding request, awarding 35 843 480 USD in C19RM Additional Award, as well as the use of 2 402 449 USD remaining from C19RM funding of 2020. PHC received 20 268 986 USD, People in Need – 9 654 406 USD, Alliance for Public Health – 8 322 537 USD