



World Health
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11 May 2009

Health Personnel Trained in Pandemic Preparedness and Response

World Health Organization
ETHIOPIA



©M.Sissay/WHO: Trainees and trainers pose for group picture

Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Institute (EHNRI) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) conducted a training of trainers, on 09 May 2009 here in Addis Ababa, in a bid to orient Regional Health Bureau Focal Points, academia, private health institutions as well as Hospital Medical Directors in emergency preparedness and response to Pandemic Influenza in light of the new Influenza A (H1N1).

It is to be recalled that Influenza A H1N1 (referred to as “swine flu” earlier on) is a new influenza virus causing illness in people. This new virus was first detected in April 2009 in the United States of America (USA). As of 10 May 2009, 29 countries have officially reported 4379 cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection. So far 49 people are reported to have died from Influenza A H1N1 illness. Mexico reported 1626 laboratory confirmed human cases of infection, including 45 deaths. The United States has reported 2254 laboratory confirmed human cases, including two deaths. Canada has reported 280 laboratory confirmed human cases, including one death. Costa Rica has reported eight laboratory confirmed human cases, including one death.

Dr. Luis Sambo, WHO Regional Director for Africa, during his recent address to the African Union

member states Health Ministers meeting said that so far no cases have been reported in Africa. However, given the poor health infrastructure the threat the disease poses is very serious should the flu outbreak occur in the continent. Thus such training is believed to be one of the mile stones in preparedness to this emergency.

Dr. Tsehaynesh Demissie, EHNRI Director General, while opening the training of trainers, reaffirmed this situation saying that the world has now become one village that the prevalence of Influenza A (H1N1) affects all of us at all corner of the world. “It is found imperative to enlighten the health personnel on what the disease is all about and provide guidance on how to handle it.” She further thanked all partners, WHO in particular, for making the training possible in a short notice.

The training brought together 51 health personnel from regions working in the field. At the end of the training expected output are: Surveillance (Epidemiological and Laboratory) for early detection of influenza like illness will be enhanced at all levels; Regions will get adequate knowledge to cascade the training to Woreda health office and health institutions.; and preparedness and Health promotion activities will be initiated.



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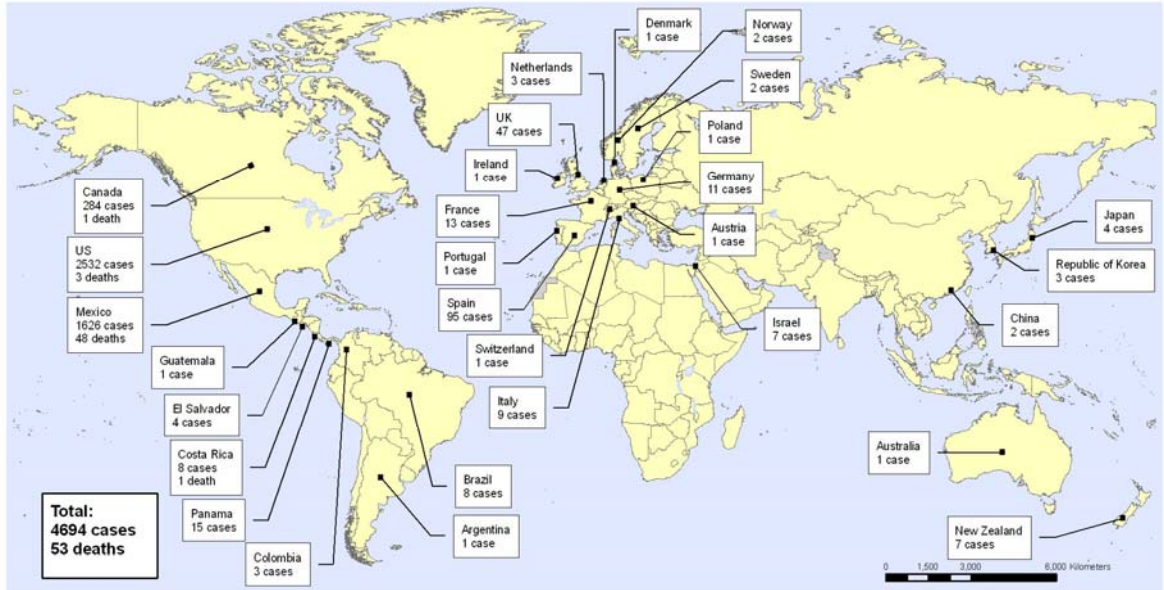
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WHO Assists Ethiopian Government in Emergency Preparedness to the New Influenza

New Influenza A (H1N1),
Number of laboratory confirmed cases and deaths as reported to WHO

Status as of 11 May 2009
06:00 GMT



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Data Source: World Health Organization
Map Production: Public Health Information and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
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As part of emergency preparedness to the new **Influenza A H1N1** virus the World Health Organization (WHO) is once again working hand in hand with the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health (MoH). So far it has received 100, 820 adult doses of tamiflu and some supplies. But much more need to be done in order to fully finance its preparedness and response plan.

WHO is not only engaged in donation, but also providing technical support to FMOH Accordingly, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health, standard procedures for probable outbreak and responses are designed with possible updates on a daily basis. Interim Standard Case Definition (SCD) prepared and communicated to all Regional health Bureaus with a two pager alert. The SCD and the ALERT are to be further disseminated to all health institutions. Furthermore, WHO is widely engaged in supporting the FMOH in its endeavour to raise fund for the emergency, Training of Trainers (ToT) to cascade the training at local level, strengthening the national

reference laboratory, strengthening diseases surveillance and early warning, capacity building for Rapid Response Team (RRT) among others.

It is to be recalled that the WHO Director General has raised the level of influenza pandemic alert from phase 4 to phase 5 based on available epidemiological information. As of 12 May 2009, 30 countries have officially reported 5251 cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection. Among the countries hit by the latest development, Mexico reported 2059 laboratory confirmed human cases of the diseases, including 56 deaths, the United States reported 2600 laboratory confirmed human cases, including 3 deaths, Canada reported 330 laboratory confirmed human cases, including 1 death, and Costa Rica reported 8 laboratory confirmed human cases, including 1 death. Twenty six countries have reported laboratory confirmed human cases with no deaths.