“Securing the present, protecting the future”

Understanding the risk

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Geneva 4th December 2018
Background

• Kenya shares borders with some unstable member states
• Terror groups have tried to access bio agents
• Established a National Biological Weapons and Toxins Committee (NBWTC) in 2008 housed at National Council for Science & Technology
• NBWTC is tasked with Drafting Biosecurity Policy and Biosecurity bill
• Danish centre for Biosecurity and Bio preparedness works closely with Kenyan stakeholders
• Capacity building at Universities to enhance biosecurity ongoing
Background

• Kenya is a signatory of the WHO's International Health Regulations (IHR)
• Have been implementing the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response [IDSR] strategy since 1998
Handling Bioterrorism incidents in Kenya

• The response can be categorized as follows:
  • Heath response – Mitigate and control effects of the attack
  • Response institutions:
    • Implements Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) strategy with Priority Diseases
    • Strong Disease surveillance division with EOC
    • National Disaster Operations Centre
    • National Public Health laboratories
    • National Biosafety Authority
    • CBRN CoE National Team
    • Kenya Medical Research Institute
    • Biosafety/Biosecurity Ministry of Health
    • Ministry of Agriculture
Security response

• Investigate the origin of the attack and identify those responsible

• Main institutions:-
  • National Police services
  • Directorate of Criminal Investigations
  • Anti Terrorist Police Unit
  • National Intelligence Services
  • National Disaster Operation Centre, National Disaster Management Unit
  • Government Chemist
  • National Counter Terrorism Center
Bioterrorism case studies (1)

• Two point source cholera outbreaks in Nairobi County, both in unexpected setting
  • 146 participants affected during a conference in a high end Nairobi hotel on 22 June 2017
    • Some had classical symptoms of cholera but samples did not test positive for cholera in the laboratory
  • second outbreak occurred at the China Trade Fair held at the KICC Tsavo Ball between 10 and 12 July 2017
    • A total of 136 cases were reported and one death.
    • Some cases tested positive for cholera and some did not
    • The dead person exhibited signs and symptoms that were not classical for cholera
Bioterrorism case studies (2)

• Anthrax scare
  • Police revealed a biological threat using anthrax in 2016 at Wote hospital
  • A medical intern at a Kenyan hospital suspected to have planned
  • Arrests were made but no conclusive report released
  • All the same the incident brought worrying trends in bio security and should not be dismissed
  • Scanty information was provided on the capacity, specialized knowledge of those arrested to grow the bacteria
Challenges

- Inadequate BSL 3 Labs
- Enhanced security at our dual use bio research institutions, laboratories and hospitals
- Quarantine facilities at identified hospitals and border points
- Capacity building for health workers both in the public and private hospitals and security forces
- Inadequate first response and early detection equipment
- Mapping of the different biological isolates to enhance control and management
THANK YOU