TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE STRATEGY.

Introduction/background

The incidence of emergencies and disasters caused by natural and human made has significantly increased country wide in the recent years. These have led to loss of lives, property and environmental destruction, resulting into crisis and retardation of all aspects of social and economic activities in the affected areas. The current outbreak of Influenza H1N1 2009 in the country, the bomb blasts at Mbagala Military depot, Volcanic eruptions on Mount Oldonyo Lengai in Ngorongoro, Arusha region, the floods at Merereni in Simanjiro District, Manyara region, land slide at Same and the recent floods at Kilosa and Mwanza are just few examples to cite. In all these disaster situations, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare had to respond by deploying resources including humans, materials, financial and medical supplies necessary for containment of the respective disaster in order to minimize sufferings and safeguard the lives of the affected community.

This clearly shows that emergency/disaster events are life threatening; hence, necessitate interventions from the health sector for appropriate health safety measures and treatment of the victims. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, through Health Sector Strategic Plan III, established an Emergency Preparedness and Response Strategy that will function under its Technical Working group. The main responsibility is technical guidance and developing strategies for emergency and disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response. The Technical Working Group will also be responsible for coordinating emergency and disaster preparedness and response operations at various levels of the health care providing facilities across the country.

MISSION

Strengthen and coordinate emergency health services to prevent, mitigate and prepare for and respond to emergencies in order to minimize disabilities and loss of lives.

VISION

Have the capacity to manage health aspects of emergencies and disasters in effective, efficient and equitable manner in the country.
Objective

The main objective of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Technical Working Group is to develop a health emergency preparedness and response plan and ensure capacity building of health facilities at all levels.

Name of the group

The group will be called ‘Emergency Preparedness and Response Technical Working Group’

Mandate/scope

I. The mandate of the Technical working group is to ensure the establishment of systems at all levels for preparedness and immediate emergency response to health disasters.

Composition of Emergency Preparedness and Response Technical Working Group

i) MOHSW
   1.1 EPRU-(2)
      1.1.1 DPS- Epidemiology Section – (1)
      Environmental Sanitation Section-(1)
      Health Promotion Section-(1)
   1.2 CNO office-(1)
   1.3 DCS –Diagnostic Section –(1)
      -Hospital Services Section – (1)
      -Pharmaceutical Services Unit - (1)

ii) MNH
    a. Emergency Medicine Department-(1)

iii) MUHAS
    a. School of Public Health –(1)
    b. Department of Microbiology and Virology –(1)

iv) NIMRI – (1)
v) MOI -Emergency and Trauma Department-(1)
vi) RMO- City Council (1)
vii) TRCS- Disaster Management Department –(1)
viii) CDC – (1)
ix) WHO- Disease Control- (1)
x) UNICEF- Emergency preparedness- (1)
xii) PMO- Disaster Management Department (1)
xiii) MSF- (1)
xiii) MSD –(1)
xiv) **GCLA – Chemical Emergency Section**

**Institutional framework/collaborators** - as per above composition.

**Tasks/activities:**

i) **Tasks Before an Event**

- Ensure that National EPR plan is developed and subsequent EPR plans are prepared at different levels.
- To ensure capacity building is conducted at different levels.
- Developing and disseminating training manuals, guidelines and protocols for different levels.
- Effective surveillance, risk assessment through early warning systems (national and international) and appropriate dissemination of relevant information.
- Develop effective communication strategies to communities on the impending disasters.
- Ensure effective networking for monitoring of potential threats and identifying opportunities to collaborate with stakeholders including Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries and other sectors that can possibly have a direct or indirect connection to disaster risk reduction and preparedness of the response plan.
- Advocate for sufficient allocation of resources for emergency preparedness and response within all various levels of the Government.

**Financial resources**

- Dedicated funds for disaster and emergency response which will bypass the financial bureaucratic procedures.
- To develop a mechanism for self soliciting of funds for emergency preparedness and response activities.

**Human resource**

- Ensure that committees and emergency response teams are established or re activated at all levels.
- Ensure that training on EPR is conducted at all levels.

**Materials and supplies**

- Provision and allocation of all necessary materials and equipments and ensure that they are made available at the right time, and positioned at strategic areas.
• Ensure transportation and communication for emergency response is available timely and promptly.

ii) Tasks during the disaster/event
   1. Mobilization and provision of essential resources
   2. Ensure that response plan is implemented accordingly
   3. Ensure timely and promptly availability of all necessary resources.

iii) Tasks after the event
   1. Carry out analysis of the response and share the experience and lessons to be learned for another occurrence.
   2. To ensure and provide mechanisms for post event psychosocial needs including counseling and mental rehabilitation.

Expected outcome
   1. Rapid response teams in place in health facilities, districts, and regions for preparing emergency response and overseeing implementation of activities.
   2. Surveillance systems functional international exchange of information
   3. Inter-sectoral collaboration for surveillance and response to emergencies in place.
   4. Necessary resources (human, financial, materials) available for immediate response to (threatening) emergences.

Work plan

The work plan will include activities, time frame and the responsible person/authority