Leveraging 7-1-7 in After-Action Reviews

Overview

Use this guide to incorporate the 7-1-7 target for timely detection, notification and early response of disease outbreaks into an After Action Review (AAR). Incorporating 7-1-7 findings can allow critical bottlenecks, enablers and corrective actions from the early phase of the outbreak to be prioritized for discussion in plenary and integration into follow-up planning.

The methodology outlined here can be easily adapted into the standard WHO AAR format. Countries implementing 7-1-7 may use their existing documentation to feed into the AAR process, while countries without this documentation may use the provided template to prepare for the AAR.

Objectives

1. Introduce stakeholders to the 7-1-7 target and enable support for its use in the AAR.
2. Document 7-1-7 timeliness metrics, bottlenecks, enablers and corrective actions.
3. Reference 7-1-7 documentation to inform key steps outlined in WHO guidance.

Instructions

Before the After Action Review

1. Introduce stakeholders to the 7-1-7 target and enable support

Provide a high-level introduction to the 7-1-7 target and the proposed AAR methodology. It is important to enable understanding and support from participants, high-level leadership and relevant partners such as WHO to leverage 7-1-7 for learning and improvement in the AAR.

2. Document 7-1-7 data

Complete the event review template to compile 7-1-7 timeliness metrics, bottlenecks, enablers and actions. This template will be presented in plenary and distributed to stakeholders as a reference document during the AAR. Countries using the 7-1-7 target may reference existing documentation to complete these slides, including the 7-1-7 Assessment Tool if it was used during data collection. Countries without existing documentation may source data from epidemiological records, reports and other communication.

During and after the AAR

3. Present 7-1-7 findings and reference them during discussions

Include an agenda item for a 7-1-7 introduction early in the AAR to present the high-level introduction and event review templates above. Note that assessing early action through 7-1-7 helps complement, not replace, a comprehensive review of the response, including later phases.

Participants should be provided a copy of relevant documentation, such as the the completed event review template, to serve as a reference document. Facilitators must encourage participants to use the data in key steps outlined in WHO AAR guidance (see below).

Step		7-1-7 data referenced	AAR output
1	What was in place before the response?	Bottlenecks, enablers	Inventory of capacities
2	What happened during the response?	Timeliness metrics and narratives	Event timeline
3	What went well? What went less well? Why?	Bottlenecks, enablers	Challenges, best practices
4	What can we do to improve for next time?	Immediate and longer-term actions	Corrective actions
5	The way forward	Various	Reporting, follow-up advocacy and planning

After the AAR, leverage 7-1-7 findings to easily communicate performance, bottlenecks and enablers, and improvement measures to support advocacy and national planning, e.g., National Action Plans for Health Security (NAPHS).