

Background

Outbreaks of cholera and anthrax occur in the Monduli region, and of course the current Ebola epidemic in the neighboring country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has so far (as of 6.12.18) killed 268 people, is a topic in Tanzania. Nationwide, all regions are required by the government to train their health workers specifically on Ebola.



The District Emergence Preparedness team engaged in educational work in the area affected by anthrax.



The young Maasai men must be persuaded not to prepare the anthrax-killed animal for a meal

With limited budgets the District Medical Office, DMO is grateful for Tandia's commitment. One year ago, when anthrax broke out in the region, fast and unbureaucratic help came from Tandia in Germany. Large organizations are more cumbersome and even emergency relief usually takes weeks to finally arrive.

Basic health services are at the forefront of an epidemic. Here patients first seek help and medical treatment. However, many primary health care centers are unprepared for epidemics, both, in terms of staff qualification and equipment. By training 200 health workers, we will make a significant contribution to strengthening the facilities in Monduli district, thereby making a significant contribution to the rapid response and control of outbreaks of disease in this region.

Course of the workshop

For the second time, we have successfully carried out training on contagious disease and infection prevention control (IPC) together with the DMO in Monduli. 50 employees from basic health facilities and the district hospital were trained on "Epidemic Outbreak Control" for two days. The first training on the same topic took place for 25 health professionals in March 2017.

The facilitator team was represented by medical doctors Nkika and Kahamba, and health officer Jubilate Temu from DMO. From Tandia, Regina and medical doctor Marie Meißner have contributed their expertise in IPC and infectious diseases as trainers.

After an introduction on the first day by Dr. Nkika the participants completed a pre-test to assess their knowledge about infection prevention control and hygiene. The short test was then repeated at the end of the training to reflect the learning success. The two mornings of the training were dedicated to theory. Regina shared her experiences from the devastating Ebola epidemic in 2015 in West Africa and Nkika on the recent outbreaks of cholera and anthrax in the local area. The national

guidelines on epidemic preparedness and outbreak control were as much a part of the study as the medical and epidemiological background on infectious diseases. The 'ONE Health Approach' was explained.

After the lunch break, the contents were processed and practiced in small groups. Of course, the proper hand hygiene was an indispensable part, as well as the standards when putting on and taking off protective clothing and the preparation of chlorine solutions as an effective disinfectant, which reliably kills Ebola viruses if used correctly. There were guided group discussions on triage procedures and waste management.

Both sides, the participants and the coaching team, were enthusiastic about the training. After an average of only 57% in the pre-test, the post-test score was 81%. At the end of the training, the three best and the two most improved participants were honored.

Another 150 health workers will receive Epidemic Outbreak Control Training in 2019. All courses, as well as distribution of protective clothing for 30 facilities is financed by clinic partnerships of the Else-Kröner-Fresenius-Foundation. Tandia with support from DMO had successfully applied for funding through this program in early 2018.



Dr Nkika opens the training.



Proper hand hygiene was practiced in four groups.



Jubilate was not only responsible for communicating her own topics....



... but translated, if necessary, for Regina and Marie into Kiswaheli.



The removal of potentially contaminated protective clothing (especially in Ebola) must be carried out according to strict rules so that the health worker in no case comes into contact with infectious material.



Make sure the face mask is in place before putting on the goggles.



Groupfoto



Awarding the, best and most improved 'participants