



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development - EuropeAid

Human Development and Migration
Education, Health, Research, Culture

Brussels, 1st April 2015

GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY FORUM

16th April 2015 15:30 - 18:00

PROGRAMME

"THE EBOLA OUTBREAK – WHAT LESSONS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH?"

- Chairs: - Veronique Lorenzo EC DG DEVCO
- Frazer Goodwin, Save the Children EU Office
- 15:30 – 15:50 Introductory remarks – Chairs and from the floor
- 15:50 – 17:00 **Presentations: "*The Ebola outbreak – What lessons for global health?*"**
- Matthias Borchert, Senior Lecturer in Epidemiology and International Health, Institute of Tropical Medicine and International Health, Charité, Berlin
 - Gisela Schneider, Director German Institute for Medical Mission, Tübingen
 - Ilona Kickbusch, Director Global Health Programme, The Graduate Institute, Geneva
 - Gorik Ooms, Department of Public Health, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp
 - Sarah Hawkes, Institute for Global Health, University of London
- 17:05 – 17:50 Exchange and debate
- 17:50 – 18:00 Chairs: concluding remarks
- 18:00 – 19:30 Reception offered by the Commission

2015 European Year for Development



<https://europa.eu/eyd2015/en>

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PROGRAMME CONTEXT

"THE EBOLA OUTBREAK – WHAT LESSONS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH?"

The unprecedented Ebola outbreak in West Africa and the massive deployment of the EU and international emergency aid, has spurred a substantive amount of reflection on health aid to developing countries, and on the global health architecture.

It is almost five years since the adoption of **the Council Conclusions on the 2010 Commission Communication on the EU Role in Global Health**. The **Global Health Policy Forum** played an important role in the development of the 2010 Communication by bringing together stakeholders, in particular Brussels-based Civil Society Organisations. 2012 saw the adoption of the new overall development policy document **Agenda for Change** that provided guidance for the planning and implementation of the development assistance component of all EU instruments and cooperation strategies with third countries. EU aid and cooperation is now targeted at fewer countries, those that are low income, fragile, less resilient countries, and with support for fewer focal sectors – per country.

As **2015 is the European Year of Development** and April is the themed month for Health, the intention is to have an exchange and debate in the GHPF meeting of 16th April to generate new thinking and debate within the EU context on the underlying factors contributing to the outbreak. What should and could be done better in terms of health aid, global health governance, R&D, etc. to avoid/mitigate future outbreaks or at least be better equipped to address them.

Certain underlying causes are known (e.g. weak and under-funded health systems, demography, mobility, specific customs), but there are still many unknowns that require more investigation and deeper analysis. What are the implications for a future EU role in global health?

In order to stimulate an exchange and debate the presenters have been asked to bear in mind the following questions:

- Where have these countries been with respect to the key building blocks of Health Systems Strengthening (HSS)? How has the limited public health expenditure impacted on the capacity of outbreak control?
- Possible important drivers of the outbreak were lack of outbreak control capacity at peripheral levels, a motivation crisis of health staff and a breakdown of interaction and trust between the health services and the population – any other important drivers? What is it we do not yet know or fully understand, and that would require further research?
- Last autumn many were expecting the outbreak to go into over a million cases and spread massively to neighbouring countries. Fortunately this has not happened. Can we consider this as a success of international aid?
- Which other countries are at risk of Ebola or other communicable diseases outbreaks with epidemic potential?
- What could the global community and countries learn from this outbreak?
- How should the lessons learnt from this outbreak be considered in future EU global health policy and the management of EU aid?

DEVCO GLOBAL HEALTH TEAM