

Agenda 13.4: Cholera prevention and control



Statement by India

Thank You Chair,

Despite substantial global advancement in living standards especially in terms of access to safe water and sanitation, Cholera still continues to be an important public health problem globally. The presence of this disease in context of existing complex emergencies makes the task more daunting.

Although the cases and deaths due to Cholera are declining, but early detection of and rapid response to cholera remain critical to contain outbreaks and reduce suffering especially in the most vulnerable sections of society, particularly in under 5 children.

Being an Internationally notifiable disease under the International Health Regulations, 2005, India under its Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme combined the syndromic approach to detect the cases earlier, while backing this system with a laboratory network that can provide the accurate diagnosis for timely public health interventions.

Chair,

As per WHO's Global Task Force for Cholera Control guidelines, future roadmap for India includes community-based cholera serosurveys, mapping of vulnerable areas and also evaluation of the acceptability, effectiveness and impact of the programmatic introduction of Oral Cholera Vaccine.

The strategy not only for India, but for all of developing world rests on five pillars (i) strengthening of the existing surveillance system, (ii) continued mapping of vulnerable population groups and geographical locations, (iii) use of well planned cholera vaccination strategy, (iv) investment in improvement of safe water and sanitation and (v) behavior change communication.

Chair,

Although we must acknowledge that gaps remain at all levels for preparedness and response against Cholera, India feels that the collective sense of responsibility of both government and non-government sector, health and non-health sectors and a community based approach holds the key to a Cholera free world.

Thank you !