LI2QS0

**Access to Clean Water and Sanitation in the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) affected countries: Current gaps and future opportunities in the post-2015 development agenda**

Nneka Orji, Federal Ministry of Health, Abuja, Nigeria, nnemorji@yahoo.com

(1) Dr. Nneka Orji, Federal Ministry of Health, nnemorji@yahoo.com

(2) Prof. B.S.C Uzochukwu, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, bscuzochukwu@gmail.com

Introduction

The EVD is not particularly new in Africa but the last outbreak of EVD started in Guinea in December 2013 and the WHO was formally notified of the epidemic by March 2014. This outbreak unarguably recorded the most number of morbidity, mortality and geographic spread within a short time space. Available epidemiologic data indicate that the outbreak stem from the introduction of a single virus into a human being through an unknown reservoir.

Objectives

The objectives of this paper is to: 1) Highlight the trend of spread of the EBV and its relationship to access to clean water and sanitation; 2) outline the importance of water and sanitation in combating infectious diseases especially the Ebola virus disease; 3) examine progress made towards accessing water and sanitation facilities in the countries affected by Ebola; 4) conduct a comparative analysis of access to water and sanitation among the countries affected by EVD using the WATSAN index; 5) examine factors that may have influenced access to water and sanitation among these countries; 6) provide recommendations to improve water and sanitation among these countries in the post-2015 development agenda.

Method

Pubmed, Medline, Google scholar, Science direct, WHO library database with search terms that included but not restricted to access to water and sanitation, rural, urban setting, water policies, health systems, Ebola virus disease, morbidity, mortality, post-2015 agenda. Further publications were identified from references cited in relevant articles and reports. Only papers published in English language were reviewed. No date restrictions were placed on searches.

Findings

This paper highlights the trend in the spread of the last EVD outbreak in affected countries, drivers of the epidemic, trends in access to clean water and sanitation in the past 10 years in focus countries using the WATSAN index. It summarizes the gaps in access to clean water and sanitation in the focus countries, provides insights into opportunities for access to clean water and sanitation in the post 2015 development agenda and beyond.

Conclusion

It suggests future opportunities and strategies that could be valuable in harnessing these opportunities in the post 2015 development agenda in the context of access to clean water and sanitation; and monitoring progress towards the provision of clean water and sanitation in the post 2015 agenda.