

ISPH Bergen, Priorities 2022

Priorities in and for emergencies

Priority setting under the COVID-19 pandemic: Experiences, research findings and normative discussions

Title

Piloting government tools for community epidemiological surveillance on Covid19 at IDPs sites in two provinces of Mozambique

Introduction:

The project was carried out with the support of UNFPA in collaboration with the Mozambican Ministry of Health. Doctors with Africa CUAMM was selected for implementation due to its strong experience in community-based health programs.

Methods

In two provinces of Mozambique, Doctors with Africa CUAMM worked at six different IDPs sites (located due to environmental catastrophe in Sofala, victims of conflict with Non State Armed Groups in Cabo Delgado) with government tools and implemented with house-to-house screening by trained community health workers.

Results

Activists reached a total of 93,503 people throughout the project, 53,559 (29,016 females and 24,543 males) in Sofala province and 39,944 (21,183 females and 18,761 males) in Cabo Delgado province. The modal age group was 5-14 years. In total the females represented 53.7% of the population.

A total of 12,680 (13.6%) people had at least one symptom attributable to the COVID-19 infection, with 2,374 (4.4%) and 10,306 (25.8%) people in the Sofala and Cabo Delgado areas, respectively. Data shows a higher prevalence of COVID-19 symptoms in Cabo Delgado with the highest peaks observed between March and April 2021 and between August and September 2021 in Chuire district. The prevalence of COVID-19 symptoms in Sofala remained relatively low for the entire period. The most frequently observed symptoms were cough and fever, both present in 11% of the people accessed the service.

Discussion

Establishing appropriate and functional mechanisms of epidemiological vigilance among IDP and refugee communities is a priority for any context due to the potential serious repercussions on already weakened and suffering communities and on fragile health systems.

Edoardo Occa

Head of Community Health Programs

Doctors with Africa CUAMM INGO, Mozambique

PhD Candidate, Cultural and Social Anthropology

University of Milano Bicocca Milan, Italy

UNICEF External Consultant

e.occa@cuamm.org / e.occa@campus.unimib.it