

**International Conference on Ebola Recovery**  
**Thematic Discussions**  
**Third thematic session: Basic Services**

**Date:** 09 July 2015

**Time:** 15:20-16:40

**Location:** Conference Room 3UN Headquarters, New York

**Introduction**

The thematic sessions on 9 July are designed to give the opportunity for Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to present their respective Ebola recovery plans in depth, including costs and implementation strategies. The day begins with a complete overview of the plans and then move into four thematic sessions around: 1) health, nutrition and WASH; 2) governance, peacebuilding and social cohesion; 3) Basic Services: education, social and child protection services; and 4) socio-economic revitalization.

**Objective**

Highlight how the priorities of the three countries will be implemented with the support of the international community, to restoring and strengthen services such as education, child protection and social protection in the recovery phase. Water and sanitation and wider health issues will be addressed earlier in the day on 9th July with their own dedicated session, facilitated by WHO.

**Outcome**

The session should result in a better understanding of the broad priorities for social services and the integration of community engagement across sectors. The session will elaborate on how the different sectors will contribute to building back social services that are resilient, equitable, inclusive and transparent.

**Topics to be covered**

- **Prior to the Ebola crisis** all three of the heavily Ebola affected countries were working towards rebuilding weak systems and strengthening confidence in social and political systems after a recent history of challenges. Human development indices were beginning to improve, and while the Ebola crisis has eroded that progress –opportunities also emerge.
- Building back strong basic systems and services that are **resilient, equitable and inclusive, and transparent** in the recovery phase presents a huge opportunity to achieve a wide, positive impact across society, promoting community participation and joint accountability, while incorporating existing resources and expanding efforts based on the best possible evidence and expertise. As such, these systems and services go well beyond Ebola – and should be better prepared and able to withstand a range of future shocks, reduce vulnerabilities and protect vulnerable people such as women, children and young people, as part of strengthening the resilience of communities.

- **Basic services are the backbone of healthy, productive societies.** Together with a well-managed, transparent, formal economy, basic services that are focused on increasing access for all and reducing inequity provide the foundation for individuals and communities to prosper. Protection and support for children and families, towards national social protection and child protection systems, quality health and education systems, reduced discrimination and greater equity for women and other vulnerable groups – are all objectives of the Ministries and partners; however without communities themselves, any effort will be limited in the results that can be achieved.
- **Invest in the education system as a key entry point for overall recovery** – Schools have the potential to address a wide range of the challenges of the recovery phase. Literacy, numeracy, critical thinking and the preparation for decent work are central. A broad vision of education can also include strengthening social protection, safety, hygiene education and school sanitation as well as psycho-social support. Quality education systems also have the potential to reduce social distance and increase cohesion, trust and participation of communities.
- **Build strong community systems linked to national systems for equitable distribution of resources.** Retaining and strengthening local resources and mechanisms for social mobilization, community engagement and ownership during the recovery phase and beyond. Local networks have been significantly strengthened during the Ebola crisis, providing a nascent infrastructure for further development of community capacity and transparency in resource utilization. Their delivery capacities and equitable allocation of public resources across communities require national and regional capacities that pull strings together. Statistical and supervisory mapping mechanisms are common across national plans
- **Invest in sustainable capacity of national systems of social protection, child protection and social services** - Taking stock of existing capacities at national and sub-national levels, identifying and addressing bottlenecks is required, with a view to undertaking reforms. Improving delivery capacities includes improving conditions for workers as well as strengthening preparation and ongoing support for workers – including through national training and education institutions - whether they are teachers, social workers, psycho-social counsellors or in the health sector. The building up of national and training and education institutions have been raised as direly needed to bring the sufficient and quality manpower capable of delivering on plans.
- **Explore sustainable innovation and technology** to increase efficiencies and overcome challenges. An opportunity exists to ‘leapfrog’ technologies in the recovery phase. Building new approaches, expanding existing approaches and transitioning the physical and intellectual resources that were invested in a range of innovations and technologies during the Ebola crisis are all possible now.

#### **Format**

The session will be a dynamic, TV talk show/Lounge interview style facilitated by the journalist of BBC Hassan Arouni. The facilitator will also open the floor for Q&A.

Duration: 80min

- Introduction of panelists and presentation of the topic by facilitator:
- Interview with the panelists
- Q&A from the floor
- Wrap up

**Panel**Facilitator:

Mr. Hassan Arouni, BBC

Panel Members: (Not in order of intervention)

1. Mme. Sanata Kaba, Minister of Social Action, Women and Children Promotion, Guinea
2. Mr. George Werner, Minister of Education, Liberia
3. Dr Minkailu BAH, Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Sierra Leone
4. Mr. Emmanuel Abdulai, Society for Democratic Initiatives, Sierra Leone.
5. Dr. Jasper Goss. PSI representative. Representative of Social Workers
6. Special Envoy on Ebola, H.E. Ambassador Hans Docter, Government of Netherlands

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