



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Community Involvement in Preparedness Planning and Response



Sub Regional Meeting on Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response

Caribbean Experience and Lessons Learned

Barbados 9-11 September 2009



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Community Involvement in Preparedness Planning and Response

Including communities in the planning and response to Pandemic Influenza ensures:

- Ownership of the community in their own risk reduction
- Partnership in community based surveillance
- Empowered community leaders
- Use of community resources



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Community Involvement in Preparedness Planning and Response

Including communities in the planning and response to Pandemic Influenza ensures:

- Trust in risk communication
- Opportunities to train are successful
- Behavioural change
- Integration of the community into the national response system
- Increased family and community resilience



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Community Involvement in Preparedness Planning and Response

Working with Communities requires planning, commitment and resources

Red Cross does this by:

- Engaging, training, mobilizing and supporting volunteers – Volunteer Management
- Developing training tools with communities that put them at the centre of the process
- Engaging the community through a “learning by doing approach”
- Partnering the community in assessing their own vulnerabilities and capacities - VCA
- Helping the community turn the VCA into community action



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Volunteers manned the hotlines and emergency call centres for ambulances

2 million pamphlets and 200 thousand posters were distributed by over 12,000 **Mexican RC** volunteers





Community Involvement in Preparedness Planning and Response

Caribbean Red Cross National Societies response to date has been:

- Engage with the Ministries of Health and National Disaster Offices
- Alert RC Branches and Volunteers & provide information
- Disseminate information
- Activate RC Disaster Management Committees
- Keep the Federation informed and post to DMIS
- Establish guidelines for the safety of staff & volunteers



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Belize RC launched a DREF request (unfortunately uncovered) to prepare volunteers on the border towns of Mexico and Guatemala

Grenada RC volunteers are providing surveillance support

T&T RC ambulance and staff ready to provide support to the surveillance teams at Piarco Airport



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Community Involvement in Preparedness Planning and Response

Federation Global Agenda

Our goals

Goal 1: Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.

Goal 2: Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and **public health emergencies**

Goal 3: Increase **local community, civil society** and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Goal 4: Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.



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The International Federation is supporting increased efforts through its Zone and National Societies by:

1. Strengthening the capacities of Zones



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AMERICAS ZONE

Americas Zone Office
Panama

Central America Office
Panama

PADRU

Caribbean Office – Trinidad

South America Office - Lima

Providing support to 35 Red Cross National Societies

16 in the Caribbean



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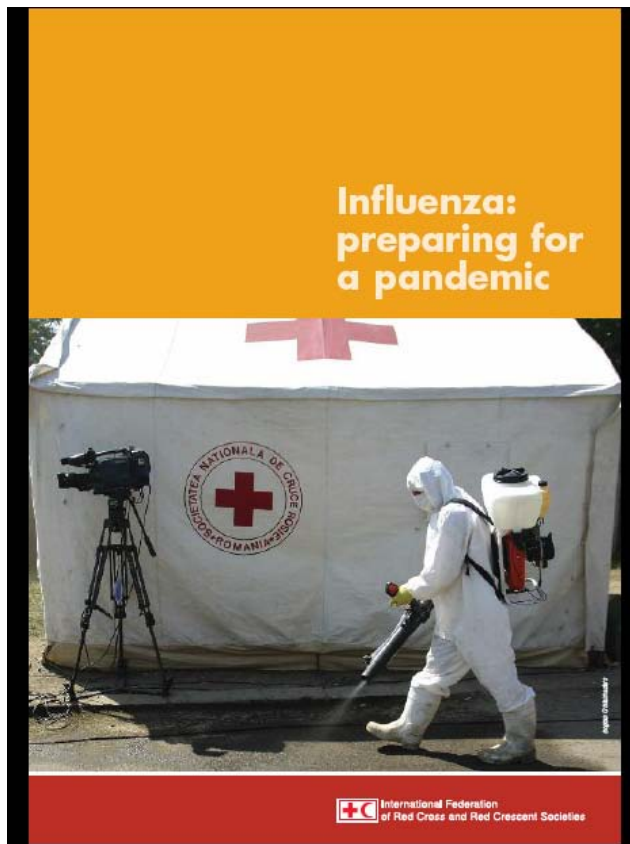
The International Federation is supporting increased efforts through its Zone and National Societies by:

2. Developing guidance and technical support guidelines and materials

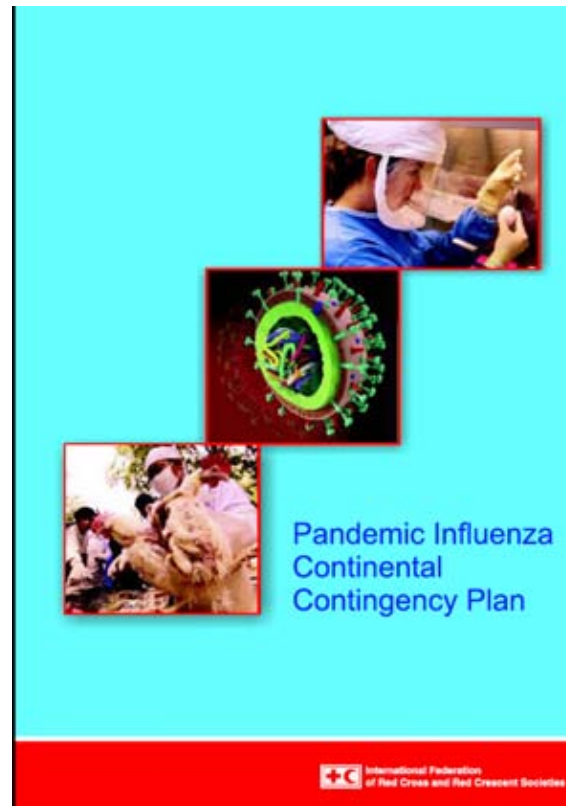


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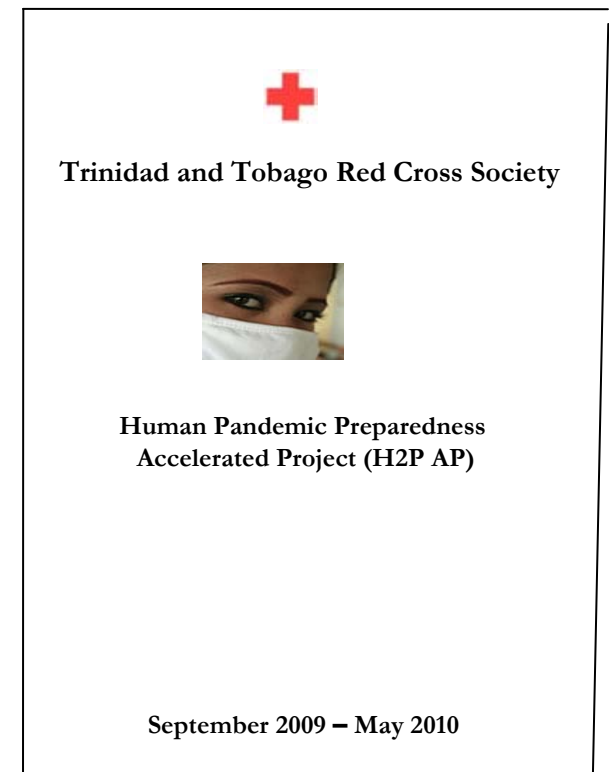
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Global



Regional



National



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Community Involvement in Preparedness Planning and Response

The International Federation is supporting increased efforts through its Zone and National Societies by:

3. Defining roles and responsibilities and identifying human and financial needs
4. Business Continuity Plan (BCP)



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Specific Objectives:

Support NS in their **auxiliary status** to government and within national plans, civil society components that address community needs..

Mobilize communities reaching out to the most vulnerable people through its volunteer network building on existing community-based programmes.



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Specific Objectives:

Support NS to develop **pandemic preparedness and response plans** that detail specific actions to ensure community resilience in areas of health, food and livelihoods

Scale-up National Society involvement in public health activities. Increased participation in putting together a communication strategy to develop and **disseminate informational material**



Community Involvement in Preparedness Planning and Response

National Societies have identified the following specific areas for preparedness/ activities:

1. **Protect** staff and volunteers
2. **Train and support** staff and volunteers preparedness activities
3. Support **public awareness** and education in disease prevention
4. Increase **community-based activities** with a focus on how to contain and manage pandemic influenza infections
5. Contribute to **community-based surveillance**.



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4. Increase community-based activities with a focus on how to contain and manage pandemic influenza infections

- ☐ Disaster Management - Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA)
- ☐ Traditional First Aid Programme
- ☐ HIV and AIDS Programme
- ☐ Psychosocial Support “helping to heal”
- ☐ Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA)



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Guiding Principles of CBHFA

- ✓ **Community-based volunteers**
- ✓ **Community participation**
- ✓ **Links with health facilities**
- ✓ **Positioned to respond to emergencies & epidemic outbreaks**
- ✓ **Partnerships**





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CBHFA:

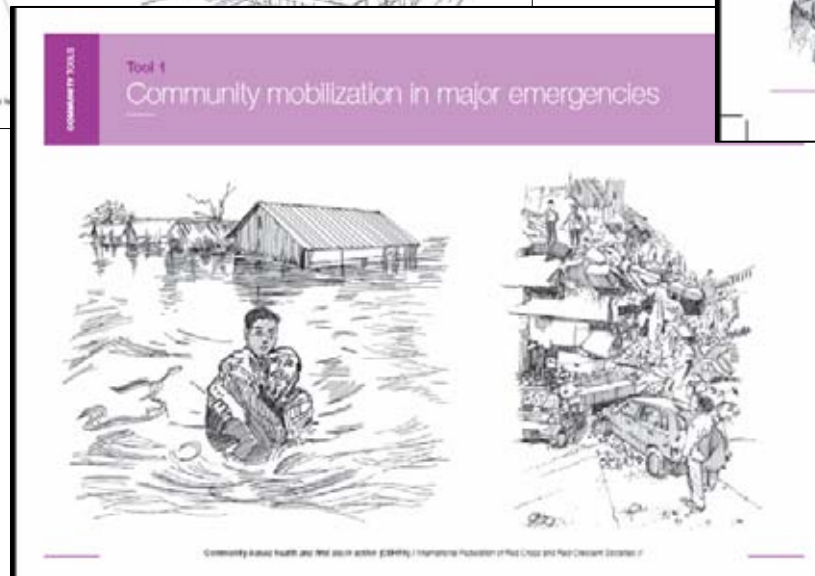
Learning by doing





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**Community tools that can be
adapted to the community
needs**



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Who is CBHFA training for?

- **Red Cross Staff and Volunteers**
- **Community Volunteers**
- **Partner Organization staff and volunteers**
- **Health personnel working with communities**
- **DM personnel working with communities**



What is now underway.....

PAHO supported project: Institutional Awareness

- Belize, Guyana and Jamaica
- 12 months
- 3 or more institutions per country – prisons, orphanages, homes for elderly, etc.
- awareness raising and education workshops/actions
- facilitate access to basic supplies for hygiene and cleaning
- personal protection equipment for staff/volunteers and hosted people
- coordination with health authorities and institutions to properly identify, refer
and ensure proper surveillance



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What is now underway.....

<http://pandemicpreparedness.org>

USAID-funded project:

- Focus on human influenza pandemic
- Many actors - UN agencies, Public Health Schools, Defense Departments, Government Agencies, RCRC Movement
- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the overall coordinating agency

Will be supporting 16 Caribbean Red Cross National Societies for the accelerated programme of 6 months



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What is now underway.....

H2P
HUMANITARIAN PANDEMIC
PREPAREDNESS

FAQ: Pandemic Influenza Resource Index Partners Contact Portal

(0) Items in Download Cart

**Pandemic Preparedness
at the community level**

H2P Overview ➔

image of crowded streets

Resources

- ➔ Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions for use During a Human Influenza Pandemic (CDC and USAID)
- ➔ Pandemic influenza prevention and mitigation in low resource communities (WHO)
- ➔ Reducing excess mortality from common illnesses during an influenza pandemic (WHO)

H2P Training Materials for Health, Food Security and Livelihoods ➔



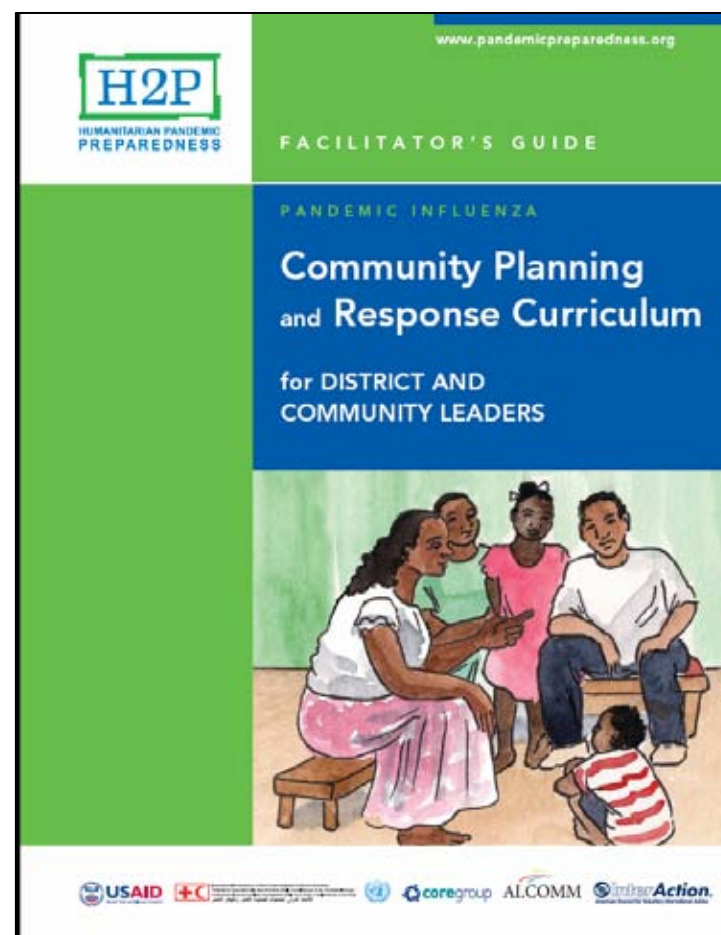
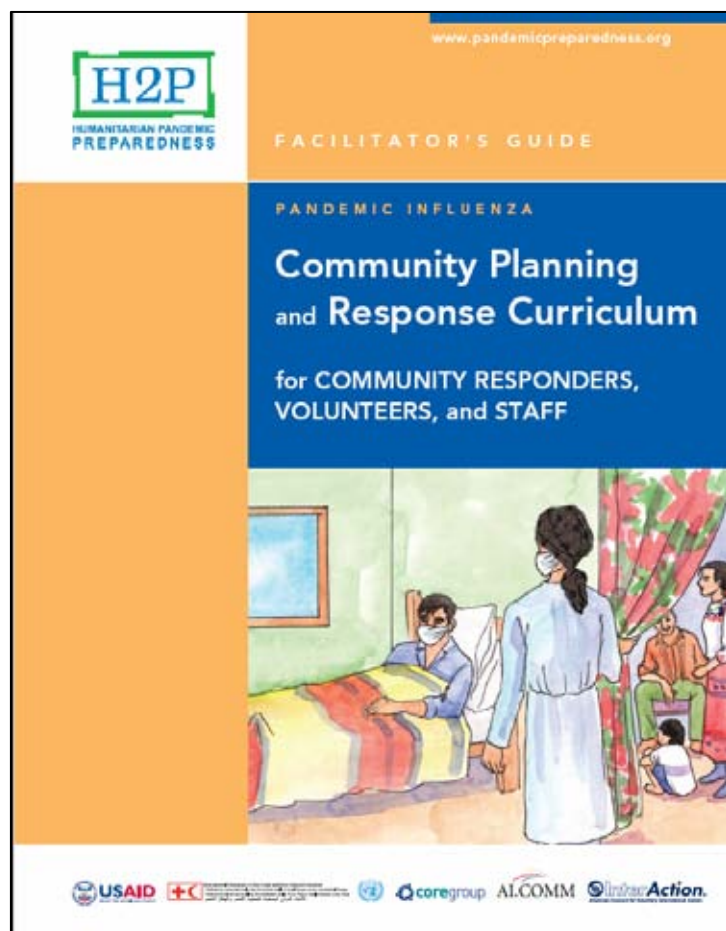
NS PLANS OF ACTION: **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

Objectives	Expected Results
1. Effective Country Planning	Preparedness and response plans are coordinated with partners, known to key stakeholders, revised as necessary
2. Advocacy and communication	Material and messages are adapted and disseminated.
3. Business Continuity Plan	A plan identifying crisis management protocol, essential staff, functions and projects and how they would continue.
4. Training	Training of trainers for all RC branches or districts. Training volunteers as necessary and possible.
5. Reduce Transmission	Adapt life-saving messages and train (see above).
6. Food Security and Livelihood	Identify strategies and activities, provide guidance, protect and provide food as necessary and feasible.
7. Care for the ill	Determine role of volunteer and health facility, plan for PPE, provide guidance on contingency care, provide training, referrals and PPEs as necessary and feasible.



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Best Defence

<http://www.bestdefence.org>

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Health and community care

YOUR BEST DEFENCE IS YOU



We face a global influenza pandemic, but each individual has the ability to protect his or herself and family.

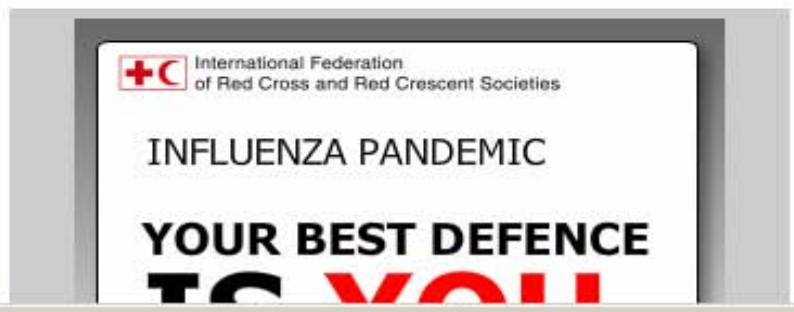
 SHARE   

Five simple steps are recommended, no matter where one lives, works or plays in the world.

1. Wash your hands ▶
2. Cover your mouth ▶
3. Keep your distance ▶
4. Separate your sick ▶
5. Dispose of your waste ▶

To spread the message of the importance of

WIDGET



- Health home
- Public health emergencies
- Pandemic Preparedness
- Influenza A (H1N1)
- Your best defence is you
- Avian influenza



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Widget





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Video





E-badges

Copy and paste the code below to add an e-badge to your site



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<a  
href="http://www.bestdef
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<a  
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E-learning

This **30-minute course** is intended to help Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers prepare for an influenza pandemic. Is it now open to the general public.

The course discusses:

1. What is an influenza pandemic
2. What are recommended prevention procedures
3. Home-based care recommendations
4. Infection control behaviours

You will be prompted to **register for this course**.





Challenges

- Commencing action
- Coordination with the Lead Authority
- Cross sector work
- Understanding the capacity and mandates of partners
- Service “as usual” while also scaling up
- Having plans and protocols in place
- Guidelines for volunteers
- Standard messages for communities
- Information management
- Adaptability to rapidly changing situation
- Resources to effectively partner
- Engaging youth volunteers in school based activities



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Thank you



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