

Social sciences intervention during Health Emergency' Response. A focus on COVID-19 Virtual training session 12/05/2020



HAMADOU BOIRO: SOCIO- ANTHROPOLOGIST INEP-GUINEA-BISSAU, WHO CONSULTANT

When EBOLA awakens old tensions: EERA and CBCA

Butembo, North Kivu DRC

Context

- Training of over 600 EERA leaders on EVD in December 2018 in Butembo
- The Patriarch had made a firm commitment to collaborate with the response
- Despite all the efforts, the faithful EERA have accentuated the resistance and reticence against the response
- A brief socio-anthropological study was conducted to understand the underlying reasons for this resistance



RESULTS 1

- EERA founded in 1989 by Monsignor Paluku Kalwaghe. The latter accused the hierarchy of the CBCA of corruption and embezzlement
- My lord Paluku Kalwaghe was excommunicated from the CBCA, arrested and imprisoned in Goma for more than a year.
 - Conflicts between the CBCA and the future EERA that the populations of Katwa first heard gunshots in September 1976.
- EERA faithful do not attend Katwa Hospital which is considered to belong to the CBCA
 - "Before, said an EERA official, when a patient from our church arrived at this hospital, he was given a water-based injection so that he died. The CBCA still has the desire to exterminate us"(interview with EERA manager).

RESULTS 2

- The response is viewed by EERA faithful as collaborating with their enemies to fulfill the CBCA's wish to exterminate them.
 - It is for this reason that the response did not repair their VUKAKA health center when it was destroyed.
- EERA faithful in different areas were instructed to be wary of response agents believed to be collaborators of their enemies.
- EERA faithful from all areas refuse to collaborate with response agents.
 - These faithful are very numerous in the health zone of Katwa which is historically considered as a rebel zone. The instructions are also followed in areas like Kyondo and wherever EERA is located.

CONCLUSIONS

- EVD awakens old community quarrels.
- For a socio-anthropology of resistance in the fight against Ebola, it's important to understand the recent conflicts history of area
- Main recommendation
 - Set up a number of activities with the EERA faithful to restore trust on the one hand and engage their faithful in the fight against EVD on the other. This requires listening sessions with the leaders of this Church.

Resistance of positive people to COVID 19

Canchungo, Cacheu Region, Guinea-Bissau

CONTEXTE

- WHO reports that people tested positive in the city of Canchungo refuse to report their contacts.
- A socio-anthropologist was deployed to try to understand the reasons
- A two-day rapid survey was conducted in the cities of Canchungo and Bissau.
 - A focus group with the members of the EIR
 - Two individual interviews were conducted with the lawyer of the family.
 - An interview with Dr. Salomon of the COESR of Canchungo.
 - We also met Priest Frei Cossa of Canchungo and deputy Alberto Djata who is one of the leader of the Felup community.

RESULTATS1

- EIR members are on edge because of the humiliation, they say, they have suffered from the family who not only refuse to collaborate with response agents but also influence their employees not to give the names of their contacts.
- Evidence one of the officers encountered an employee who tested positive for COVID19 walking the streets of Canchungo at night without a protective mask.
- The asymptomatic people cast doubt on the existence of COVID 19. The proof, certain health workers ask the question of knowing: if really COVID 19 exists and that the contagion is rapid why there have not been many COVID 19 in the city?

RESULTATS2

- Families who tested positive for COVID 19 in the city of Canchungo question the reliability of the test and cry out against someone else's plot.
 - The family has hired a lawyer and no health worker can access the family and the positive employees who need to be followed. Employee contacts are not yet known.
- Mediations by administrative authorities have failed and the administrator wants to use police to force employees to give lists of their contacts.
 - The police are awaiting the governor's orders to arrest the employees and the police have so far received no orders.
- The meaning of asymptomatic is not clear: Even some health workers confuse contacts with asymptomatic COVID19 persons.
- The communication of the results is considered to be at the origin of the radicalization of the family

CONCLUSIONS

- The use of lawyers by families who think they have been harassed and stigmatized opens a new phase in the fight against epidemics. WHO must prepare to start deploying jurists in the same way as other disciplines.
- The resistance of Canchungo's positive cases is rooted in latent conflicts between families.
- In terms of political affiliation, the law firm chosen is, without doubt, not pro-government, hence a certain mistrust with regard to tests and above all that most of them are asymptomatic.
- Some people don't believe in the existence of COVID 19 including some health workers.
- The communication of the results in the form of a press conference must be reviewed to avoid possible slippages that could increase resistance
- Finally, risk communication and community engagement in the fight against COVID19 must be strengthened. In full containment, we observed in the village of Co the Jongagu interrogation ceremony (Ritual of interrogation of the dead to discover the causes of death) in the presence of an innumerable crowd of people.