



Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

*High Level meeting*

# Global Health Security Agenda

**Practice to be ready**



The Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA), launched in February 2014, is a growing partnership of over 50 nations, international organizations and non-governmental stakeholders. Its main goal is to help countries build their capacity to contribute towards a world safe from infectious disease threats and to elevate global health security as a national and global priority. GHSA pursues a multilateral and multi-sectoral approach to strengthen both the global capacity and nations' own capacity to prevent, detect and respond to human and animal infectious disease threats whether naturally occurring, accidental or intentional. It serves as an 'accelerator' to support countries, WHO and other organizations with the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR).

To accelerate progress, eleven lines of effort or "Action Packages" were developed to facilitate regional and global collaboration toward specific five-year GHSA objectives and targets. In addition, a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) tool was developed together with WHO to assess preparedness and response capacities in countries.

The GHSA was set up as a time-limited initiative and we have reached the half-way point. Some Action Packages have shown considerable progress, but in other areas progress is stagnating. In order to meet the overall goals of GHSA by the end of 2018, we need to discuss how we can accelerate progress, and critically review what the current hurdles are.

One of the most important issues is that global health security, and (thus) the implementation of the IHR, is still often seen as a responsibility of the Ministries of Health only. It is still not considered to be a multi-sectoral problem that needs an all-inclusive approach and contributions from other disciplines. The One Health approach promoted in the field of antimicrobial resistance and zoonotic diseases is a good example of how different sectors can and should collaborate.

#### **This year's meeting in Rotterdam aims to:**

1. Create a 'sense of urgency' for all parties involved in the GHSA, in particular the Steering Committee and Action Packages, to step up efforts to work on our goals and identify actions for the near future;
2. Discuss outstanding issues and provide inspiration and tools to increase collaboration and synergy with partners in the non-health sector and non-governmental organizations (including the private sector);
3. Start thinking about the post GHSA-period: how can we build on progress to date and institutionalize the GHSA best practices in the future, by embedding activities in WHO and other UN organizations but also by bringing in new partners.

"Looking forward" also means that we should build capacity within our own organizations. That is why we encourage all delegations to bring a young talented professional, to join the Next Generation programme.

## **Day 1 - Where do we stand today - where should we go to tomorrow?**

### **NGO sessions 09:00 - 10:30**

During this hour and a half block, NGOs will have the opportunity to present their role in responding to countries' needs and preparing for health emergencies.

#### **Expected outcome**

Participants will appreciate the potential role of NGOs, not only during actual crises but in particular in capacity strengthening and community engagement. Participants will become better informed on how to engage with NGOs in their day-to-day work.

#### **Practical approach**

We will invite a few NGOs to present their activities in the field, focusing on different means of collaboration with different partners, including the community. Other NGOs will be asked to reflect on the presentations with examples of their own. NGOs are offered rooms and audiovisual support and sessions will be included in the programme.

### **Next Generation meeting 11:00 - 13:00**

The NextGen participants will be offered a separate introduction programme to prepare them for participating in the plenary, but also to strengthen the Next Generation Network for the coming years.

#### **Expected outcome**

NextGen participants will have the opportunity to learn more about global health security, different levels of preparedness, and critical steps in policy development and implementation. After the meeting NextGen participants will be better prepared to engage in policy debates and raise critical questions. The NextGen group will be expanded with new participants from different regions, and will be strengthened to function as a network over the coming years. Furthermore, Ministers and high level officials will learn more about the perspective of young professionals on GHSA-issues.

### **Practical approach**

It is proposed to simulate the interactive session that will take place with the High Level delegates on Thursday, during this Next Generation meeting. Based on the discussions, participants will work out questions which NextGen representatives can raise during the actual discussion on Thursday. Participants will be coached by experienced young policy experts, and Dutch Youth representatives to the UN.

### **Action Package meetings 11:00 - 13:00**

#### **Expected outcome**

Offer the opportunity for all Action Packages to meet, discuss progress and identify next steps to accelerate activities. Action Packages should actively engage in a discussion on how other partners can become more involved. All participants to the meeting will learn more about concrete activities and expected results from their Action Packages and how they can contribute to meeting these results. The Steering Committee will be enabled to guide Action Packages and ensure progress.

#### **Practical approach**

We will not only provide rooms but also offer the possibility to support the meetings in an interactive fashion. Moreover, we will ask all Action Packages (in advance) to use the time in Rotterdam to prepare for a concise presentation to the Steering Committee and other participants by:

1. Preparing a poster on which the following questions are being addressed:
  - a. We are proud of ...
  - b. We would like to make more progress in ...
  - c. We will take to following steps (including timelines)...
  - d. We will set next steps in engaging (better) with (other Action Packages/stakeholders)...
2. Prepare a booth for the Market Square on Thursday in which they 'promote' activities so that other partners can link up or exchange experiences. Action Packages are encouraged to invite relevant NGOs and private sector representatives to join their booth.

After an informal lunch we will continue with the formal opening of the conference.

### **Official welcome 14:00 - 16:30**

#### **Expected outcome**

The opening session will focus on the fact that the GSHA process is now at a halfway point: whatever plans were made, it is time to accelerate, and define concrete steps to accomplish goals. Progress to date will be summarized, challenges highlighted and next steps will be proposed. Several high level speakers will be asked to reflect on the progress, emphasizing the importance of an inclusive process, where all stakeholders may have a role to play. The aim is to inspire participants to engage in a lively debate on success factors and pitfalls in preparedness and response.

#### **Practical approach**

The official opening will be performed by the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, to show the commitment of the Dutch government to global health and security. His speech will be followed by a presentation based on the practical case of Liberia, where a broad range of stakeholders were involved in the post-Ebola recovery of the health system. Emergency preparedness and response was a topic of high-level debate at the WHO for two years. With the appointment of a new Executive Director of the Health Emergencies Programme and the establishment of clearer lines of command, the emergency reform at WHO is clearly in progress. The WHO will be invited to present the state of affairs and explain how collaboration with other stakeholders can further strengthen the WHO's roles and responsibilities. This session will also be about inspiration and broadening scopes, for instance by listening to a talk about global health from a security perspective.

When the plenary session is adjourned, the Steering Committee will meet and discuss progress at high level. The Steering Committee meeting will be open for participation of 1 or 2 representatives from member countries.

#### **Dinner**

Dinner will take place on the Steamship Rotterdam. The SS Rotterdam came into service of the Holland-America Line in 1959. She is the largest passenger liner ever built in the Netherlands and is listed among the most successful liners that ever sailed the seas. The ship has largely maintained her original character and remains in good condition. The new owners gave her a profound refurbishment so she can be in service as a static liner for many years to come.

## Day 2 - Getting ahead of the curve / new resolutions

The second day will be dedicated to high level discussions with Heads of Delegation. The first block will focus on collaboration with the non-health sector, the second block on collaboration with other (non-governmental) stakeholders. We will finalize the day with a discussion on how we can build on the progress so far, and how we can sustain activities: how can we link up activities with ongoing processes and activities at UN, country and local level?

### **Block 1: Interactive session on multi-sectoral collaboration 09:00 - 12:00**

#### **Expected outcome**

Heads of Delegation and other participants become better informed on options to engage with partners from the non-health sector, such as defense, agriculture, justice, environment, etc., to be better prepared for different types of outbreaks. Heads of Delegation will be challenged to identify hurdles and opportunities for progress in their own (national) situation, and will be better equipped to address these issues in the near future. Moreover, Action Package-leaders and participating countries will be better equipped to increase ambitions within their defined package. The Steering Group will be inspired to set targets towards broader government engagement in the GHSA.

#### **Practical approach**

We selected four different issues (or 'elephants in the room'), that will be:

- a. introduced by means of a short film about a fictive outbreak.
- b. reflected upon by countries that have had relevant experiences.

A moderated discussion will follow with the Heads of Delegation, based on short interventions by Ministers and questions prepared by the Action Packages and/or the participants of the NextGen-programme. Other participants in the audience can also easily pose questions and participate through an electronic system. Heads of Delegation are discouraged to intervene with long statements or speeches.

The following 'issues' are proposed for discussion:

1. IHR as a communication tool: to report or not to report?
2. Detection and risk assessment: a One Health approach?
3. Upscaling of (acute) care: what options do you have?
4. Biosecurity: are we prepared for misuse?

### **Lunch session - Market square 12:00 - 14:00**

#### **Expected outcome**

All participants will be encouraged to update themselves on activities that Action Packages have started. Partners that are not yet actively involved in Action Packages, will be enabled to make an informed decision on joining. Existing Action Packages will be inspired to broaden their partner bases.

#### **Practical approach**

All Action Packages will be given a booth in the Main Hall of the conference center and will receive support from the conference bureau to build up an attractive stand. Action Packages are encouraged to include NGOs or private partners in their stand. Participants will be encouraged to visit all stands during a walking lunch, in order to promote interaction. Other options to increase interaction ('elevator pitches' by private sector or NGOs) are considered.

### **Block 2: Panel debate on JEEs, its follow up and the role of non-governmental partners, including the private sector 14:00 - 15:30**

The Joint External Evaluations, that are supported by the GHSA, are not an end in itself; they are merely a basis for many countries to develop a national action plan to address weaknesses in the implementation of the IHR. The second block of high level debates will focus on the potential role of non-governmental organizations in supporting the implementation of the IHR at regional, national or local level. The session will explore the boundaries of the rules of engagement for collaborations that serve the overall aim and objectives of the GHSA.

#### **Expected outcome**

Participants will be better informed on opportunities for partnerships and ways to collaborate with a range of stakeholders. Governments will be better equipped to decide if, when, and how to engage in those partnerships and recognize the added value other partners may contribute; NGOs and private partners will better understand government and international organizations' position and better pursue opportunities for working with traditional actors in national and global health. All stakeholders will be inspired and encouraged to engage with each other to effectuate preferred outcomes.

### **Practical approach**

The session will be introduced by several NGOs, private partners, or foundations, who will present their assets and interests in a short session. These introductions will be followed by a moderated panel discussion with participants from NGOs (including academia), private sector, foundations, government and international organizations. Like in the previous session, the rest of the audience will be able to make comments or raise questions using an electronic system. All speakers will be invited to close the panel with a practical suggestion to the Steering Group or one of the Action Packages.

### **Block 3: Panel discussion on future of GHSA: how to sustain achievements 16:00 - 17:00**

The GHSA is seen as a temporary accelerator. Although we are still in full business, the last session of the day will be used to discuss on how activities that have started under the umbrella of GHSA can be sustained in the long run.

### **Expected outcome**

The aim of the session will be to sensitize partners on how activities could be embedded in other national or international programmes, mechanisms or projects. We will discuss ways to energize the engagement of the development sector, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. We will also discuss the need and options for adjustments in the way of working of the GHSA partners in order to ensure a smooth transition after the sunset of the GHSA.

### **Practical approach**

Different partners that are engaged in long term capacity strengthening, including development agencies, will be invited to give their views on their continued engagement and commitment to sustaining and expanding activities.

### **Closing ceremony 17:00 - 17:15**

The conference will be closed by the Dutch Minister of Health, Ms Schippers and the chair of the GHSA Steering Committee and Minister of Health of Indonesia, Ms Moeloek, who will summarize the discussion and provide input for the Steering Committee, Action Packages and other participants. A 'Summary of the chair' will be presented to all participants. Several Heads of Delegation will be filmed during the conference, asking them to provide one or two take home messages for participants. These personal testimonials will be used to close the Conference.

## **Day 3 - Inspiration**

On the third day of the meeting several site visits will be organized.

- A visit to the Port Health Authority will provide insight in how the provisions for an IHR Point of Entry are carried out in practice in one of the biggest ports of the world.
- In the Netherlands a sharp reduction in the use of antimicrobials in the veterinary sector could be achieved, through a shift in focus from treatment to prevention. This site visit will be dedicated to the Dutch One Health approach to antimicrobial resistance.
- The Erasmus Medical Centre (Rotterdam) is Centre of Excellence for research of viruses and virus infections that is recognized worldwide. This visit will not only give insight in the scientific progress, but also provide an opportunity to discuss biosafety, biosecurity and dual use.
- The Dutch Life Sciences sector has a lot to offer to global health security; not just products and services, but also inspiration for good manufacturing practice. A visit to Leiden Bioscience Park, where public-private collaboration runs in the veins of many organizations, will provide insight in options to work in Public-Private Partnership.





**This is a publication of**  
Ministry of Health, Welfare  
and Sport

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October 2016