

## **CONCEPT NOTE:**

### **Mpox: Community responses and lessons learned**

**Date: 13 November 2024**

**Time: 13:00-14:45 (GMT+1)**

**Languages: English and French**

#### **Background**

Mpox (previously known as monkeypox) is a viral disease caused by an orthopoxvirus called monkeypox virus. It transmits between humans through close contact with lesions, body fluids, infectious respiratory particles or contaminated materials, or from animals to humans through contact with live animals or consumption of contaminated ‘bushmeat’. Mpox causes signs and symptoms which usually begin within a week of exposure but can start one to 21 days later. Symptoms typically last for two to four weeks but may last longer in someone with a weakened immune system. Normally, fever, muscle aches and sore throat appear first, followed by skin and mucosal rash. Lymphadenopathy (swollen lymph nodes) is also a typical feature of Mpox, present in most cases. Children, pregnant women and people with weak immune systems are at risk of developing complications and dying of mpox.

On 14 August 2024, the WHO Director-General determined that the upsurge of Mpox in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and a growing number of countries in Africa constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) under the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR), the highest level of alarm under the IHR.

The clade Ib Mpox outbreak, which began in September 2023 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is having an increasing number of cases in the country and also expanding to neighboring countries. Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda have each reported Mpox cases. Additionally, Cote d’Ivoire is reporting cases of clade II Mpox for the first time since the start of the multi-country outbreak in 2022.

#### **Goal**

The World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa (WHO AFRO) in collaboration with the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) are organizing the webinar “Mpox: Community responses and lessons learned”.

The webinar aims to showcase how countries are responding to the Mpox outbreak, highlighting the progress achieved in the African Region. It will also provide a platform for exchanging lessons learned that could further inspire and support ongoing community interventions addressing Mpox in the Region.

#### **Specific objectives**

The webinar has the following specific objectives:

- Increase awareness of the Mpox outbreak in the African Region.
- Share countries’ experiences in community response and lessons learned in the implementation of preparedness, prevention, diagnosis, care, and treatment of Mpox.
- Encourage inclusive and person-centered responses to the Mpox outbreak in the African Region.

- Advocate for vaccine equity in the African Region.

### **Target audience**

1. Public health professionals
2. Policymakers and health workers in endemic areas
3. Civil Society organizations
4. Researchers

### **AGENDA (1 hour 45 minutes)**

<b><u>Monkey pox: community responses and lessons learned</u></b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
10 mins	Opening remarks	Dr. Akudo Ezinne Ikpeazu, HIV, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis, STIs Team Lead, WHO AFRO  Hon. Dr. David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa, SAA President/ICASA 2023 President
10 minutes	Mpox: overview of the situation in the African Region	Dr. Muteba Michel, Epidemiologist, Emergency Preparedness and Response, WHO AFRO
10 minutes	Mpox risk communication and community engagement	Dr. Julienne Ngoundoung Anoko, Mpox response regional team lead, HEPR-Community Protection WHO AFRO Regional Focal Point, WHO AFRO/Regional Hub of Emergencies
10 minutes	Mpox and HIV interactions: leveraging the experience of HIV programmes to support the mpox response	Dr. Agnes P. Adilakshmi Chetty, Medical Officer STI, WHO AFRO
30 minutes	Exploring countries' experiences and lessons learned	MOH representatives from Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda
10 minutes	Mpox vaccination equity	Dr. Sidy Ndiaye, Technical Officer, Immunization, WHO AFRO
20 minutes	Questions and answers	Moderator and speakers
5 minutes	Closing remarks	Moderator