MEASURING SEPARATION IN EMERGENCIES: COMMUNITY-BASED SURVEILLANCE

Craig Spencer with Lindsay Stark, Hani Mansourian, Beth Rubenstein and Makini Chisholm-Straker
22 June 2016
OBJECTIVE

- Discuss role of surveillance
- Briefly revisit purpose and methods of first pilot in DRC
- Reiterate learning from pilot and feedback from previous meetings
- Present improvements to tool for next pilot
WHAT IS SURVEILLANCE?

- Continuous – ongoing – systematic
- Collection – analysis - dissemination
- Monitor distribution and trends of incidence
Google Flu Search Activity

Data from Google Flu Trends Estimates. Updated August 2015.
Objective: To test the feasibility of setting up a system capable of continuous, ongoing measurement of the prevalence, trends and basic characteristics of UASC in defined areas in Eastern DR Congo over 11 week period (Aug-Oct 2014).
PREVIOUS SIMILAR PROJECTS

- **Voix des Kivus**
  - Crowd-seeding System in Eastern Congo

- **Plan International**
  - Tracking Violence via SMS in Benin
  - Birth registration in Kenya
COMMUNITY FOCAL POINTS (CFPS)

Role:
- Community members responsible for reporting on child separation in a specific geographic zone
- Real-time
- Not responsible for coordinating response or services

Selection Criteria (3 per village):
#1) Village Chief
#2) Youth or Women’s group leader or Récopé
#3) Member selected from community
- Either #2 or #3 must be female
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION
TRAINING

- 2-day training
  - Obtain consent for participation
  - Introduce project
  - Discuss definitions – child/separated/unaccompanied
  - Temporal and geographic limits for reporting
  - Practice reporting from codebook
  - Distribute phones and project materials
  - Discuss handling problems and follow-up visits
Text is six-component numerical string.
For example: [ 12, 20, 31, 40, (54, 55) 71 ].
For example: [12, 20, 31, 40, (54,55) 71 ] = 12 year old; Female; Unaccompanied; Departure; Reasons for separation: Poverty, Ran Away; Uncle/aunt/grandparents.
HOW FRONTLINESMS WORKS
RESULTS

- 62 unique cases of separation reported/56 confirmed
  - Most between 5-14 years old (70%)
  - M (57%): F (43%)
  - Separated (48%) vs Unaccompanied (52%)
  - Most under care of parents prior to separation
  - Death and disappearance of caregivers (43%)
- Most correct and consistent - elected FPs
LIMITATIONS

- Short time period (8-12 wks)
- Motivation of focal points
- Central role of coordinator
- What group were ‘best’ focal points?
- Were we seeing ‘duplicates’?
CURRENT PILOT LOCATION:

Shire
PROPOSED CHANGES FOR NEXT PILOT:

- Longer study period
- Longer training with refresher meetings/trainings
- Involve local coordinator earlier
- Comparing elected focal points (M:F)
- Measuring duplication
- Household survey to evaluate sensitivity
THANK YOU!