1. Before the epidemic occurred in West Africa, did you have a response plan and guidelines to respond to EBOLA or other infectious disease? If Yes, to what extent was it useful? If No, why?

- Guinea-Bissau has an Epidemic Management Committee since 1994, created in response to the heavy Cholera outbreak occurred at the time.

- When the last Ebola outbreak hit West Africa, the National Committee had to review:
  - The composition;
  - The TOR;
  - The Contingency Plan; because at that point, it was focused on Cholera only.
1. Before the epidemic occurred in West Africa, did you have a response plan and guidelines to respond to EBOLA or other infectious disease? If Yes, to what extent was it useful? If No, why?

Today the National Emergency Committee has:

- Regional Committees;
- Multidisciplinary members;
- Epidemic Contingency Plan

It was helpful, because:

- Country had a National Emergency Committee;
- A contingency plan;
- Some experience.
5. Was your Institute or yourself involved in risk communication activities related to Ebola? If so please describe

INASA was directly involved in risk communication activities related to Ebola, as the Information and Communication on Health, is INASA responsibility, at national level.

We have been leading the subcommittee of Social Mobilization (under National Emergency Committee) who is incharge for the development of communication support and sensitization activities.

Dr. Placido Cardoso, INASA
5. Was your Institute or yourself involved in risk communication activities related to Ebola? If so please describe

Posters and stickers prepared by INASA and Partners.

Dr. Placido Cardoso
Ebola response simulation for Public Health Workforce

Training and Simulation conducted by INASA and Partners.

Dr. Placido Cardoso
6. The public health workforce: what is needed to be better prepared, both in the national response and international cooperation? Describe and enumerate the challenges. Do you think that IANPHI should offer a training program to develop an internal response group?

One of the challenges is related to the level of implementation of the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) in the country among health workforce:

- More training in “Case Definition” and reporting mechanisms on all infectious diseases accordingly to the country epidemiologic profile;
6. The public health workforce: what is needed to be better prepared, both in the national response and international cooperation? Describe and enumerate the challenges. Do you think that IANPHI should offer a training program to develop an internal response group?

- Implementation of IHR and;
- Accomplishment of standard measures of IPC among public health workforce in their daily activities.

Certainly, IANPHI can play important role on this mater, working with INASA to address these challenges. The development of training program can be one of the strategic activities.
7. With the lessons learned how can we improve the use of IHR for a better response?

- As stated before, IHR is one of the challenges to be taken into consideration, engaging all levels of its implementation in the country.

- The health workforce should be trained thoroughly and POEs activities ensured and supported at all levels.

Dr. Placido Cardoso
Thank you