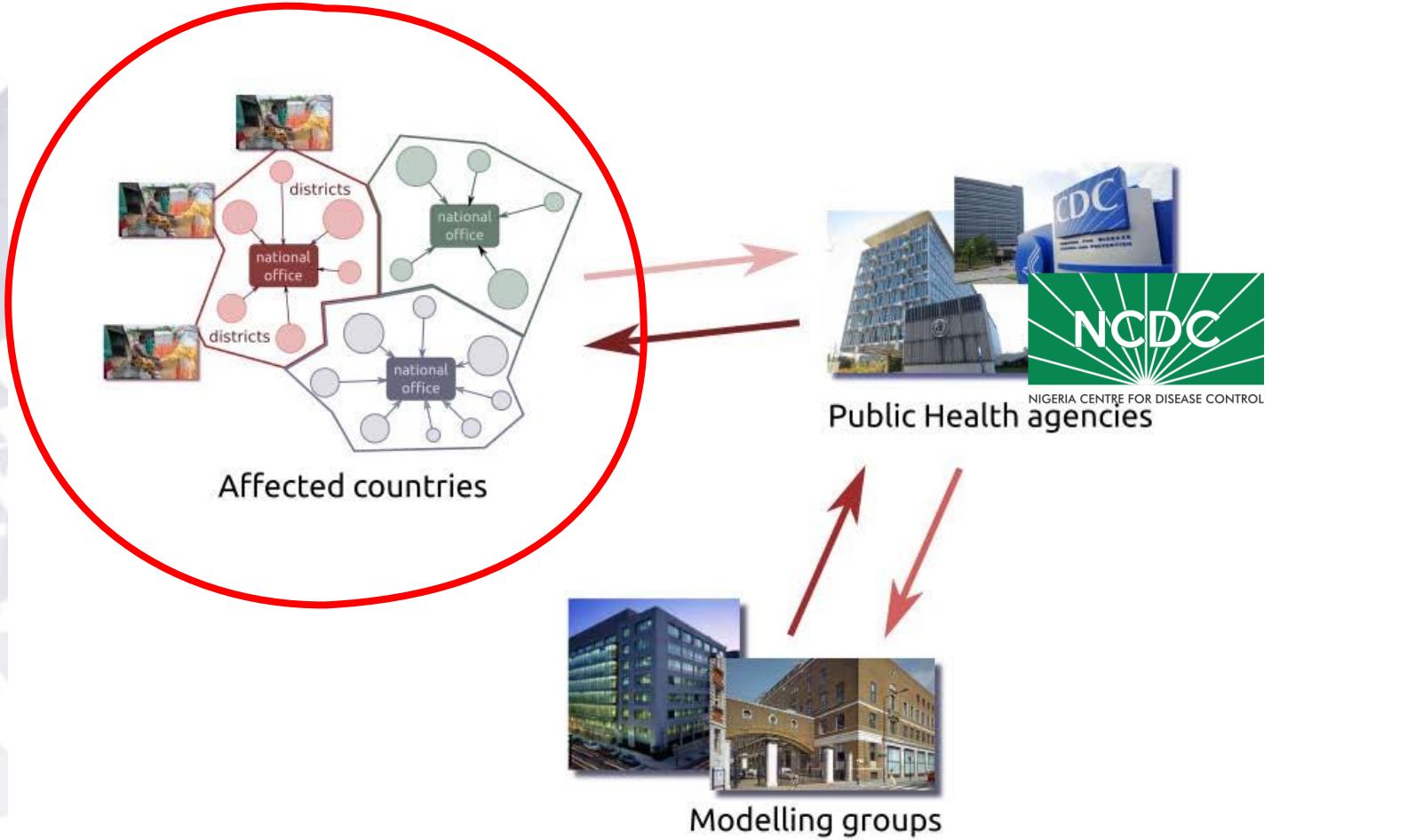
Community-based surveillance (CBS) in the Red Cross Red Crescent Membership

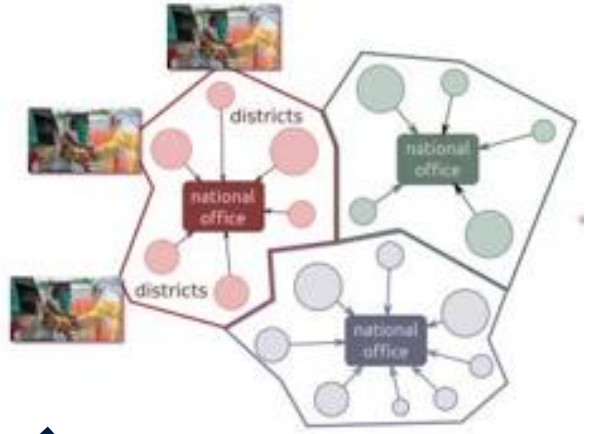
2023

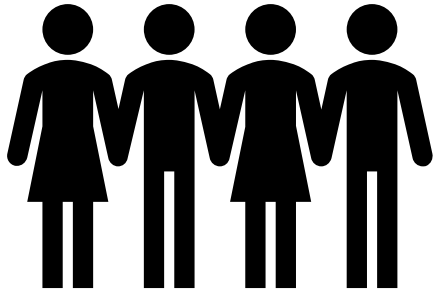
Action?



But Zoom in…

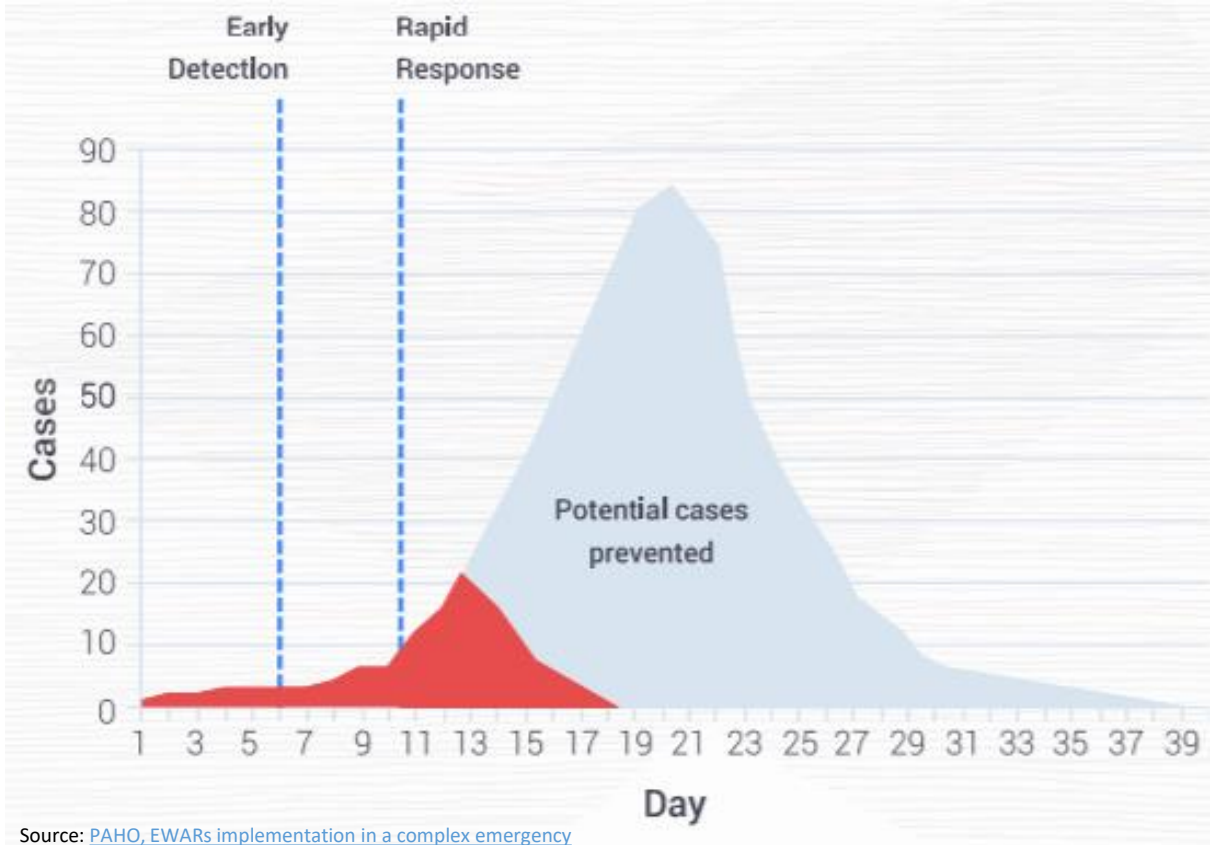
Outbreaks start in communities





What is community-based surveillance and why are we talking about it?

*CBS is the systematic detection and reporting significant public health events within a community by community members**



Source: PAHO, EWARs implementation in a complex emergency

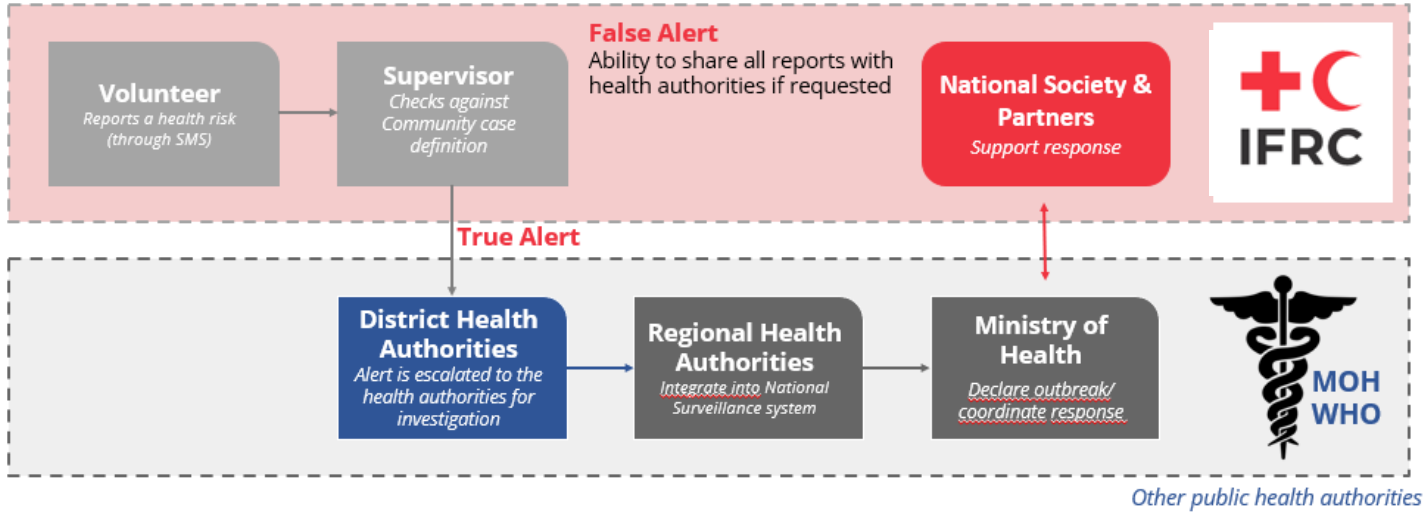
- CBS can extend existing surveillance systems beyond the health facility
- Opportunity to link surveillance with community actions
- Opportunity to engage volunteers systematically in preparedness, early detection and early response
- Early warning leads to early action which results in lives saved
- Community volunteers identify and report on simple health risks of public health concern (they do not need to be medically trained)

*Technical Contributors To The June Who Meeting. A definition for community-based surveillance and a way forward: results of the WHO global technical meeting, France, 26 to 28 June 2018. *Euro Surveill*. 2019;24(2):1800681. doi:10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2019.24.2.1800681

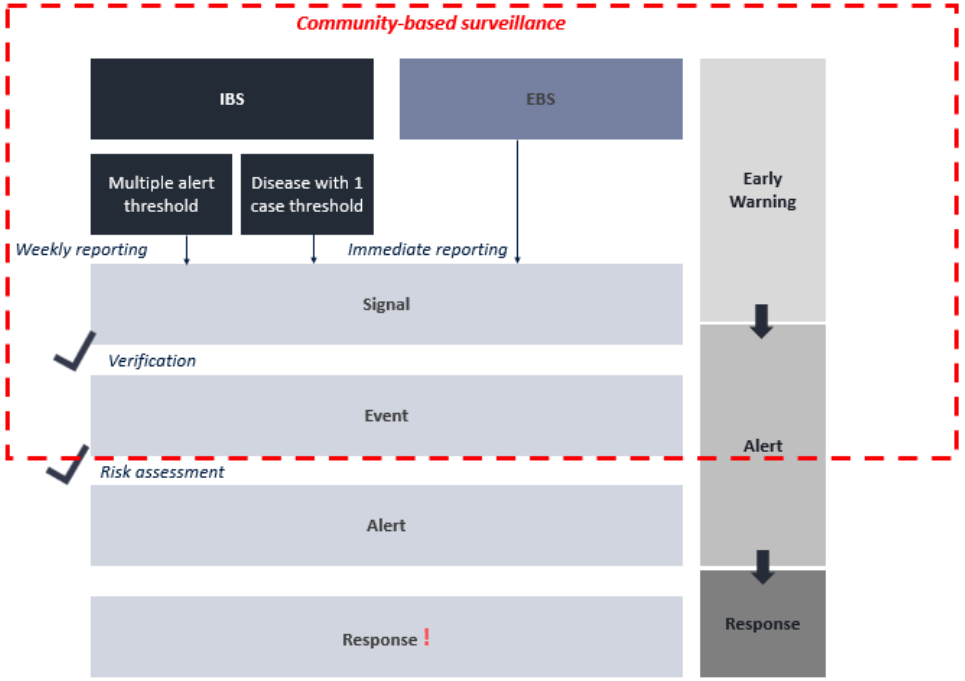
IFRC

Integrating Community-based Surveillance with other systems

- ✓ CBS is designed to extend the existing surveillance system beyond facilities to communities
- ✓ Can integrate into existing systems such as eIDSR, DHIS2, etc. based on the needs and requests by Ministry of Health/ National CDC/Ministry of Agriculture
- ✓ This means CBS is not a separate system, rather it gives us a bigger picture as community information becomes part of the whole surveillance and referral system



EWAR structure



Information Flow

(Example)

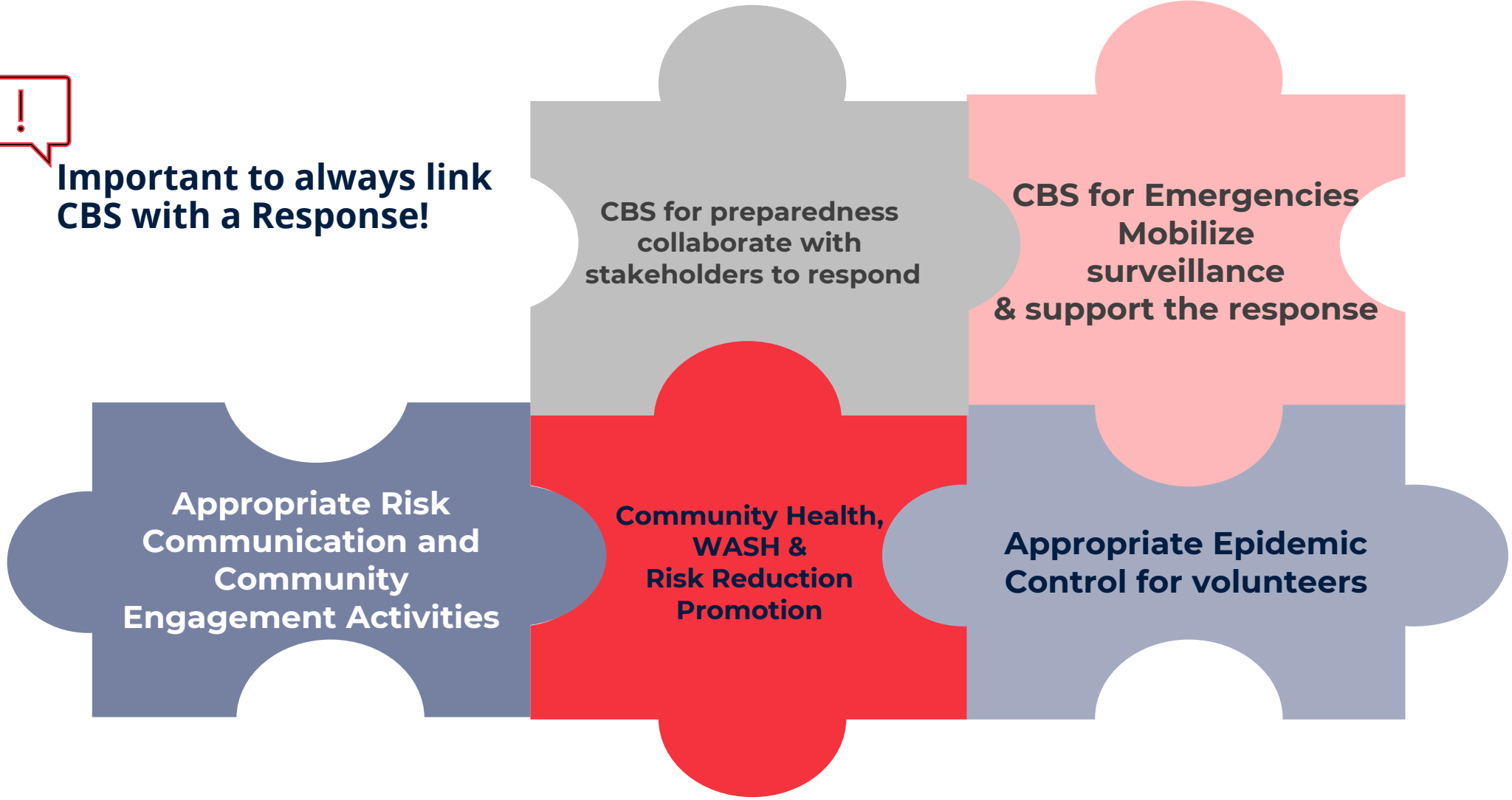
What makes Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies a good fit for CBS?

- Well placed due to **extensive volunteer network**
- Long term **relationship with communities** and ability to deliver key information
- **Experience** delivering education, empowering and **strengthening communities**
- Relationship with MoH and government partners and previous experience in passing on key information about suspected cases.

Using a building-blocks approach:

Building CBS capacity on a foundation of health programming

Important to always link CBS with a Response!



The Red Cross Red Crescent Approach to CBS: Report on Health Risks, not cases/ disease

'Community case definitions' are based on WHO, IFRC and work with Ministry of Health.

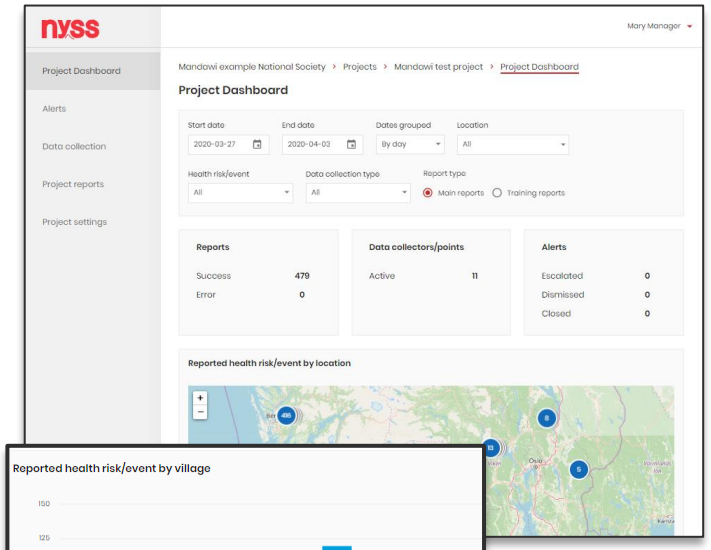
- Primarily **indicator based,** but can also be event based
- **Adapted in each country** to fit with Ministry, local wording and understanding, local volunteer skills and literacy.
- Having general community members engages in these systems is a strength!

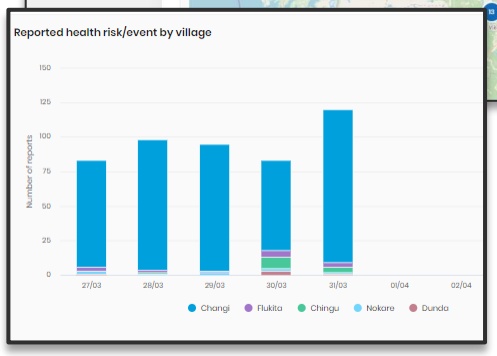
Priority illnesses are ideally limited to only few major outbreak-prone diseases or events – relevant for early warning, & early action.

- Decided **in collaboration** with Ministry departments
- Based on burden of past epidemics, impact and scale of potential outbreaks

Common Data management solutions for CBS reporting

Nyss

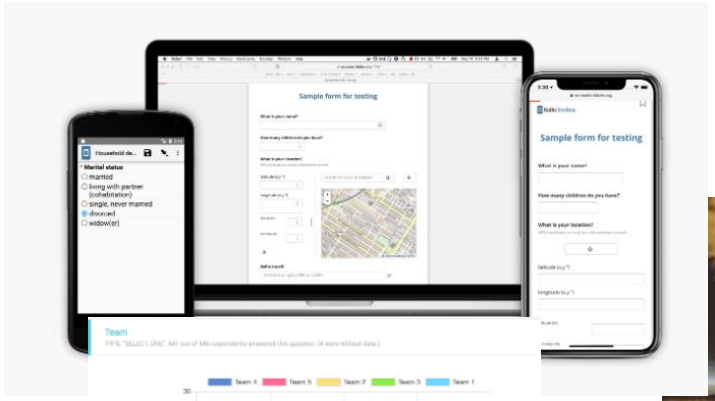


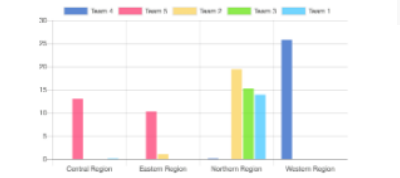


dhis2

eIDSR

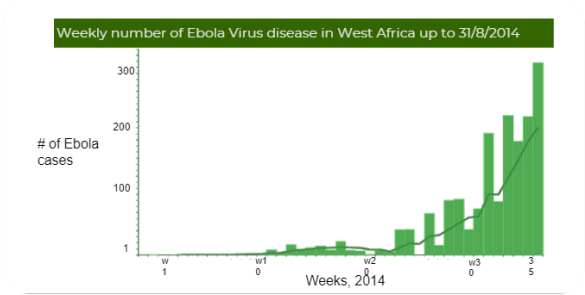
Kobo



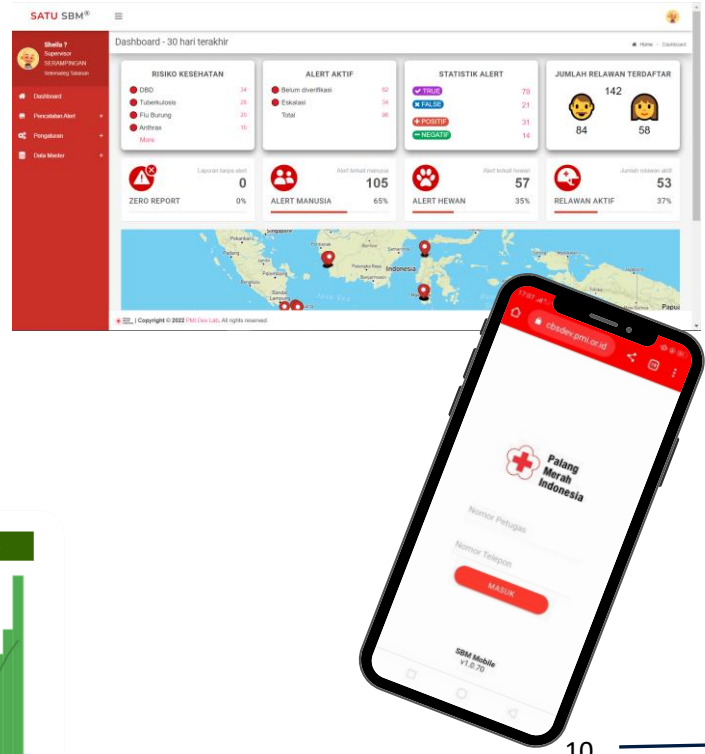


	Central Region	Eastern Region	Northern Region	Western Region
Team 4	0	0	0.18	25.87
Team 5	13.03	10.28	0	0
Team 2	0	1.1	19.45	0

Paper & Excel



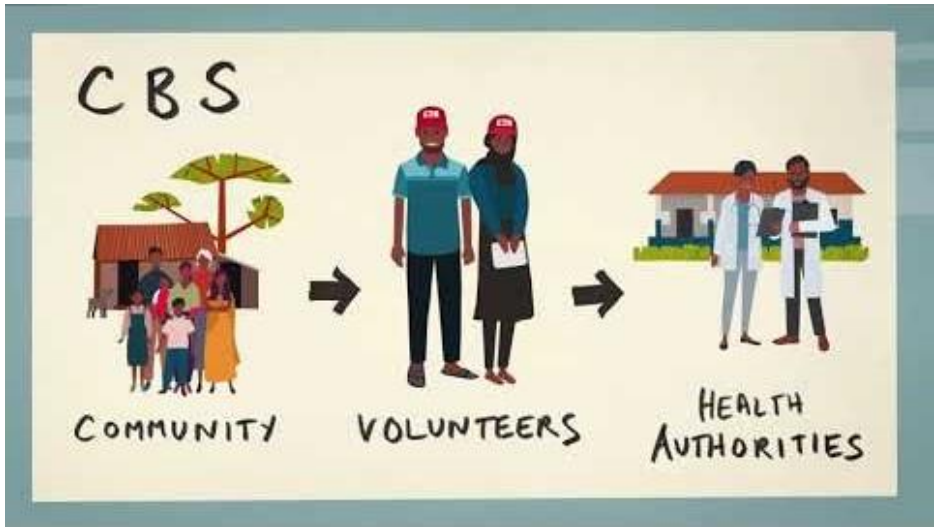
Satu SBM



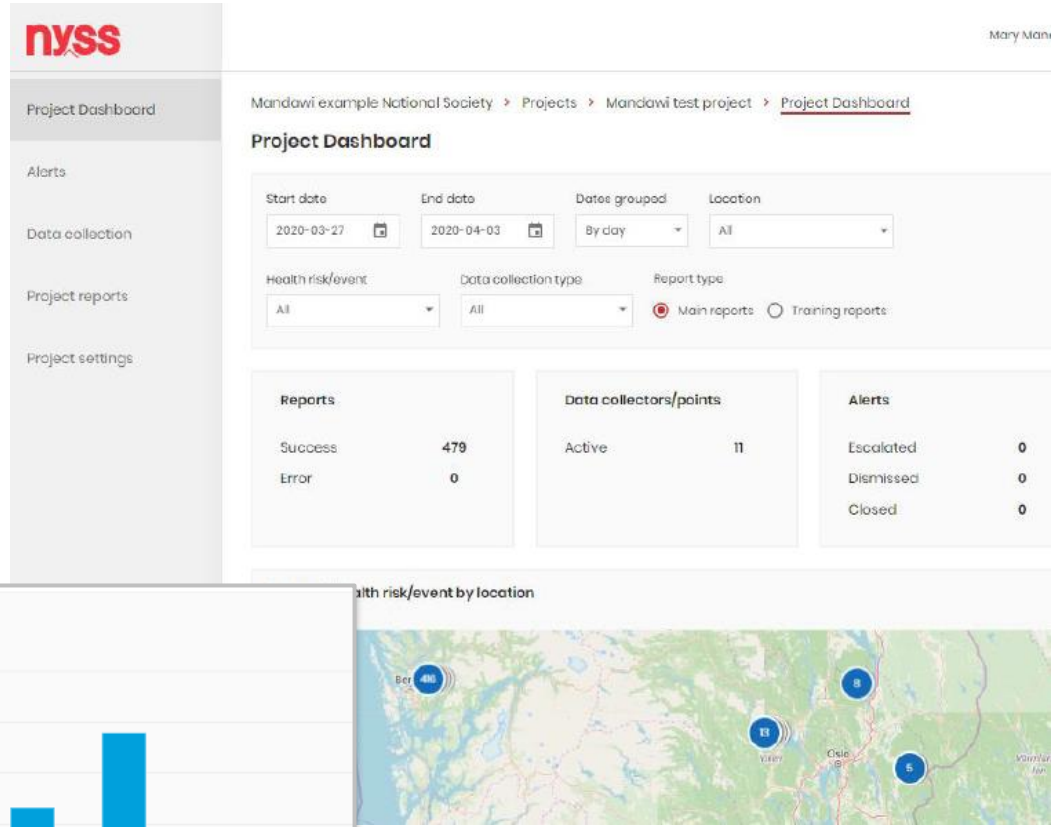
Red Cross Red Crescent

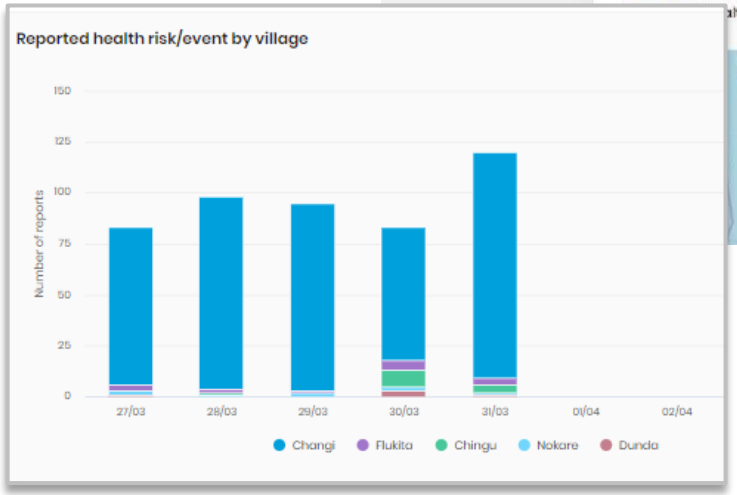
nyss

a community-based surveillance platform



https://youtu.be/784IzOIkzJE





Norwegian **Red Cross**

How does Nyss work?

Volunteers

Volunteers are trained to recognise signs and symptoms of epidemic-prone diseases and to be the focal point in their community for responding to and reporting health risks and events.

Reports

Volunteers report by sending short, coded SMS.

Nyss replies to the volunteers, providing them with health promotion messages so they can initiate the appropriate first aid response.

Aggregation & analysis

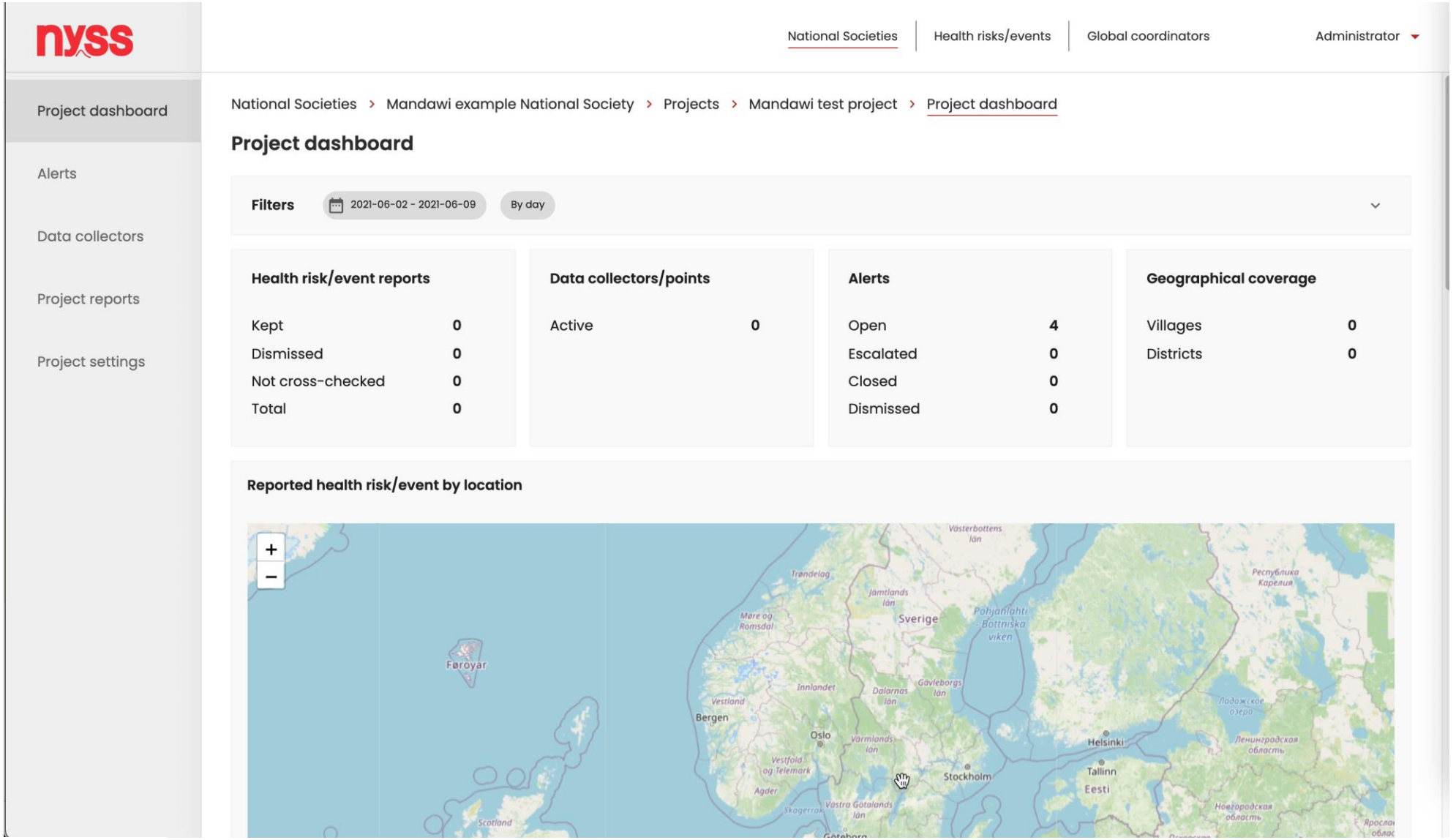
The SMS reports are automatically fed into Nyss, which aggregates and analyses the incoming reports in a visual dashboard, accessible by health authorities and the Red Cross or Red Crescent Society.

Alerts & response

Nyss automatically triggers alerts, informing volunteer supervisors and health authorities about increases in reports above predefined thresholds.

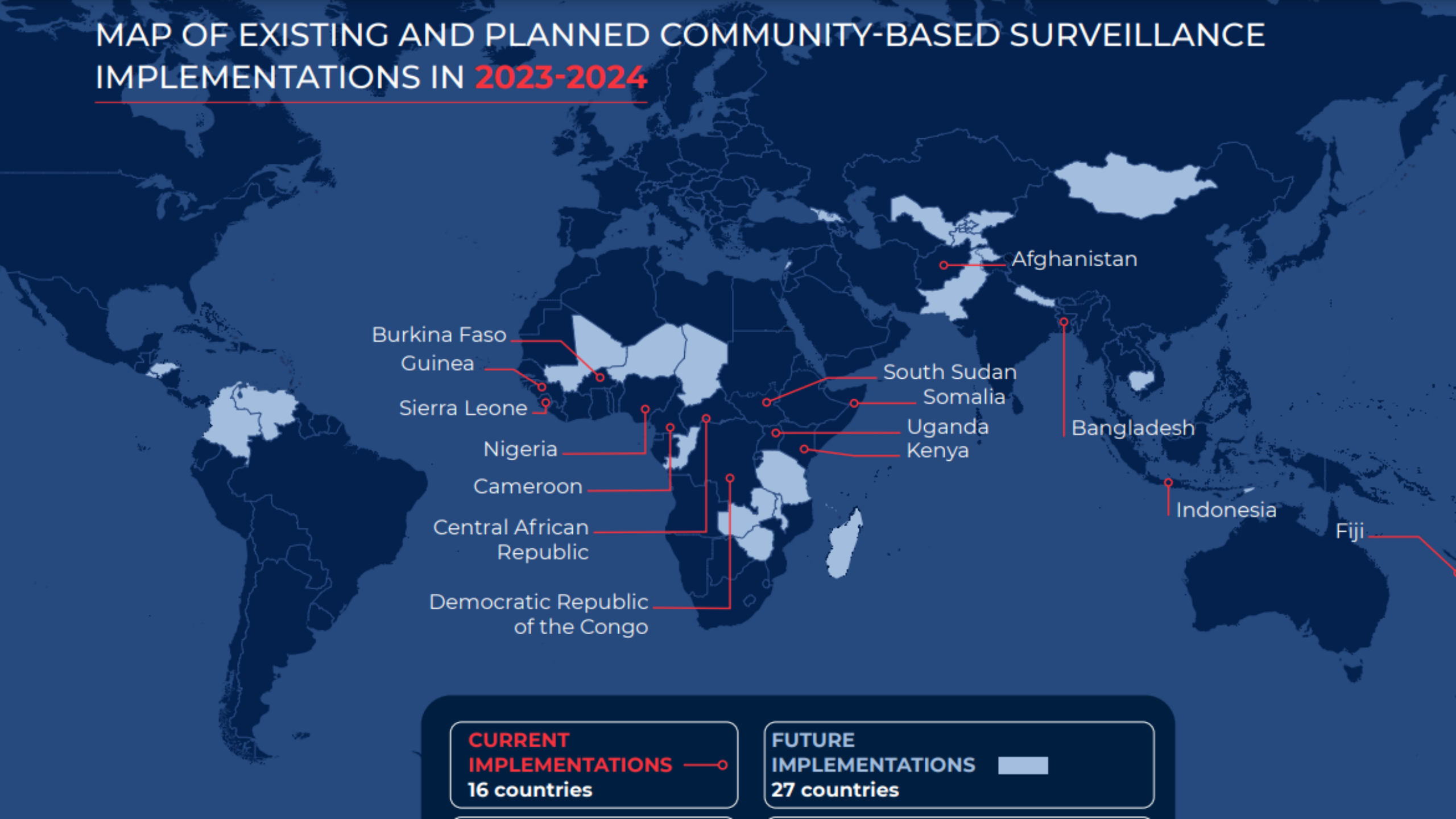
Health authorities can then initiate a response.

Nyss as a project management tool



Norwegian **Red Cross**

MAP OF EXISTING AND PLANNED COMMUNITY-BASED SURVEILLANCE IMPLEMENTATIONS IN 2023-2024



Successful linking early Detection to vaccination campaigns where it is needed most

Early Detection of Anthrax & Mass vaccination campaign in Kenya

- August 15th 2019, A community member shared that a local **young herder and two students had eaten meat from a dead cow and were now sick**.
- All three were diagnosed with anthrax at the health facility.
- A RC volunteer trained in CBS escalated the alert to both human and animal health authorities and it was incorporated into the national surveillance system
- Immediately local traditional community assemblies were created to gain trust within the community
- **Within days, the county vaccinated 10,600 cattle and 14,000 sheep in the vicinity.**
- The outreach work was so successful that the community recognized the risk, prioritized mitigation efforts and has taken over financing its own animal vaccinations.

Detection of the first COVID-19 case in Somaliland through CBS

TRAINING

131 SRCS CBS volunteers were trained on symptoms of Covid-19 and asked to report to the Nyss platform

March 8th

SMS REPORT

The volunteer visited the person and confirmed that the symptoms matched Covid-19 and sent an SMS report to the Nyss platform

March 26th 6PM

RESPONSE

The Ministry of Health went to the village to investigate. The person was asked to self-isolate at home. The person had recently travelled abroad and was tested for Covid-19 early the next day

March 26th 8PM

FUTURE

Volunteers continue to provide key health messages and report on symptoms in communities

DETECT

An SRCS volunteer detected that a person in her community was unwell with cough, fever and difficulties when breathing

March 26th 6PM

ALERT

Nyss immediately triggered an alert to the SRCS supervisor, who crosschecked the information with the volunteer

March 26th 6PM

CASE CONFIRMED

Following the investigation, the MoH confirmed that the person tested positive for Covid-19

March 31st

cbsrc.org

Norwegian Red Cross

Additional details can be found here: https://www.cbsrc.org/somaliland

Successful linking early Detection to vaccination campaigns where it is needed most

Early Detection of Measles by Somali Red Crescent Society

- In August 2021, SRCS Community Based Volunteers **reported 5 alerts of fever and rash through the CBS system** in a village in Oodweine District of Togdheer region in Somaliland.
- The supervisor cross-checked signs and symptoms and immediately escalated the alert to health authorities leading to **clinical confirmation of 2 cases.**
- This sparked a **mass vaccination campaign** with the SRCS deploying mobile medical teams to conduct immunization and health promotion campaigns in the regions. **A total of 2,637 children aged between 9 months and 9 years were vaccinated against measles**
    - 5,568 people were reached with community mobilization, awareness raising, and health education against measles.
- **No other new cases were reported.**

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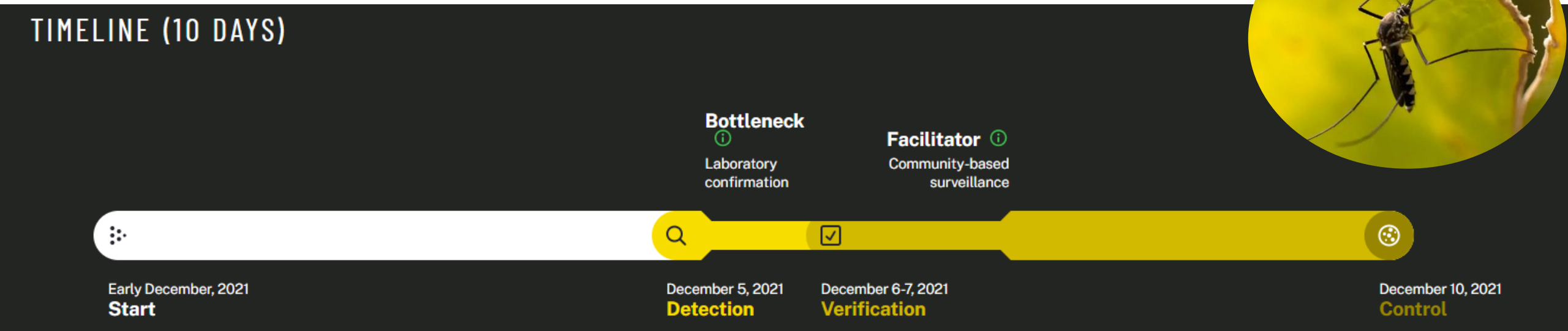
Norwegian **Red Cross**

Stopping Dengue in its tracks

Early Detection of Dengue and community actions in Indonesia

- On December 5th, 2021, a man presenting with signs and symptoms of Dengue was identified by Red Cross volunteers in Sobokerto and referred to the local hospital for treatment and testing.
- Immediately volunteers began local risk communication and community engagement campaigns, speaking during community events on best practices for reducing opportunities for mosquitos carrying Dengue to breed, and mapping the community's environmental risk areas
- The original referred patient tested positive for Dengue, but was able to receive treatment and returned from the hospital on December 10th.
- No additional cases were reported in the area following these actions

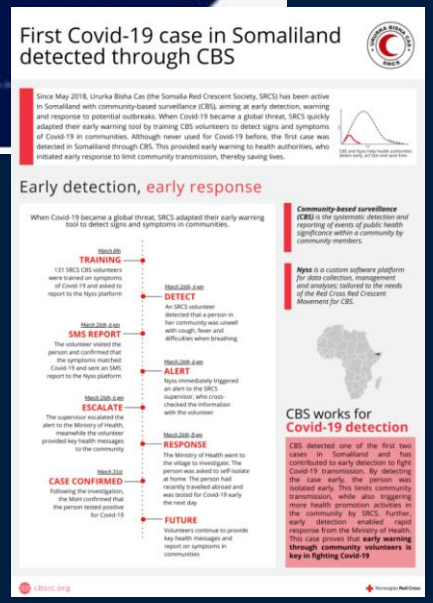


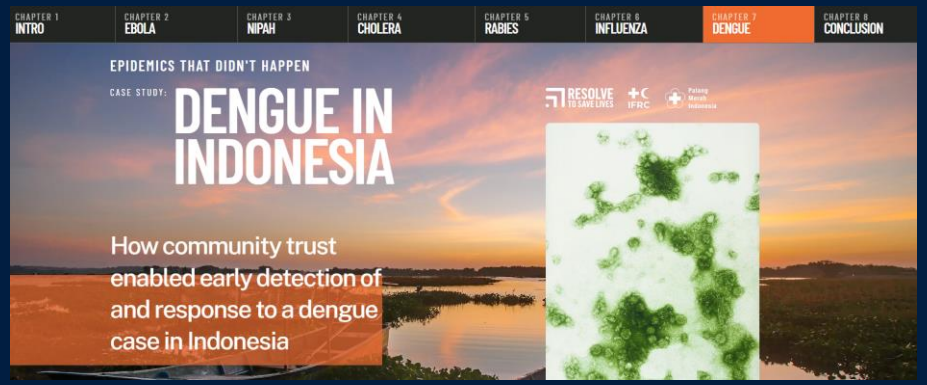
Building blocks of a sustainable approach to CBS

Lessons learned

- ✓ **Value of engaging communities in all steps of the process**
- ✓ **Engage with, and including National Government & community stakeholders from the beginning**
- ✓ **Engage in advocacy efforts at all levels, from the community, to within your organization and beyond**
  - ✓ This has ensured multiple stakeholder's concerns are addressed in the development of protocols and procedures, and makes it easier to integrate data into existing systems later on & improves sustainability
- ✓ **Build CBS activities on a strong foundation of other epidemic control, WASH and first aid trainings & capacities**
- ✓ **Integrate CBS into existing social structures and activities, including the use of digital tools to facilitate the process**

Recent Examples of CBS from the Red Cross and Red Crescent Membership



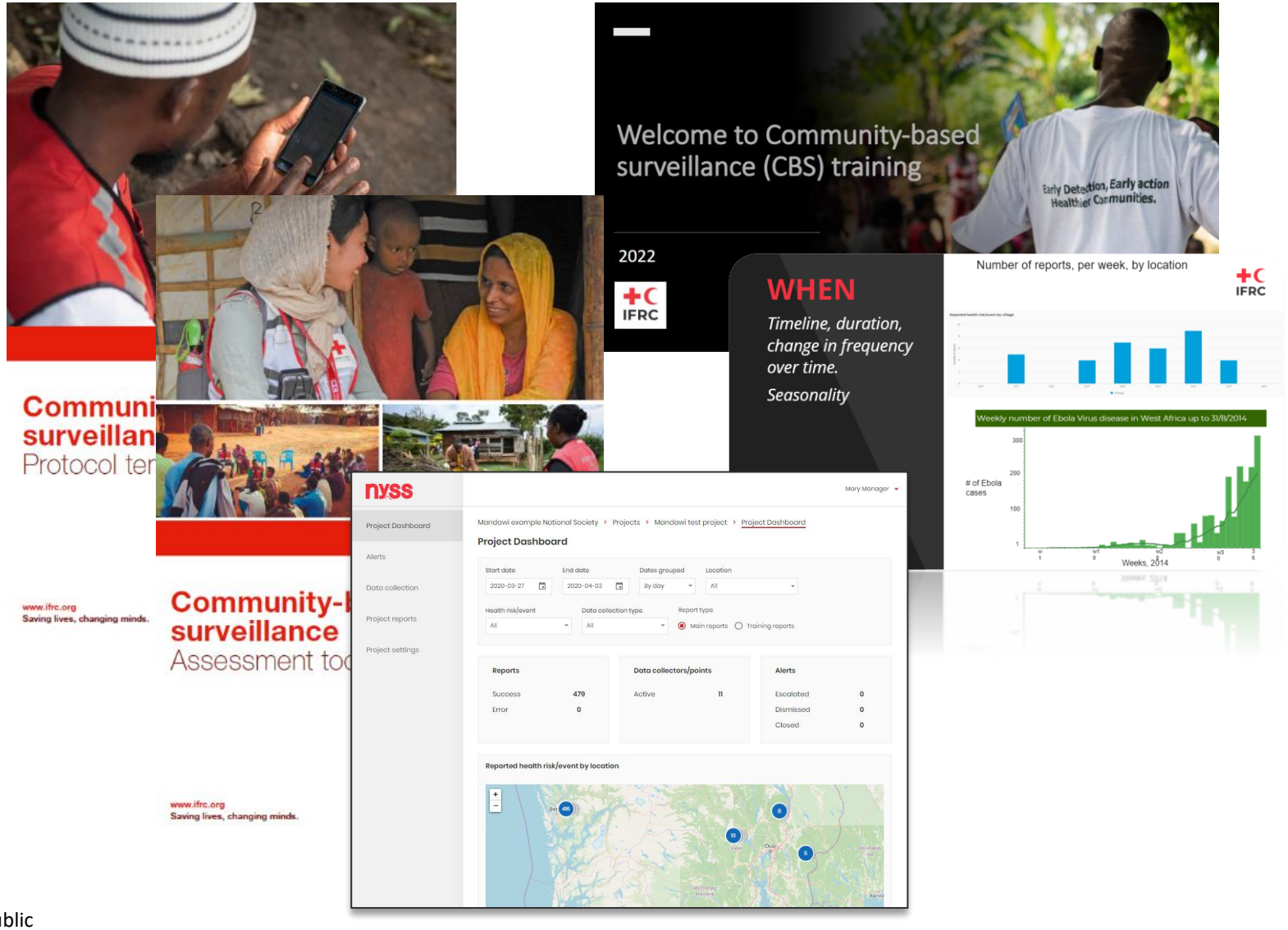


www.cbsrc.org

Public

Questions or comments: *Rachel Goodermote; Rachel.goodermote@ifrc.org*

Red Cross and Red Crescent Community-based surveillance Resources:



https://www.cbsrc.org

- CBS Guiding principles & COVID-19 guidance
- IFRC CBS Assessment Tool
- IFRC CBS Protocol Template
- Training Materials
- FAQs
- Nyss platform for CBS
- Suggested Community Case definitions
- Suggested KPIs

Questions or comments:

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