Tabletop exercise

Imagine that there is a disease emerging on one of the borders of your country. It causes febrile illness and seems to be an unknown hemorrhagic illness – there have been 23 cases over 2 weeks, and 10 deaths. Most of these have occurred in two small villages near the border, but a handful of the later cases occurred in a nearby city, leading to concern for a rapidly emerging outbreak.

1. **OUTBREAK RESPONSE STATUS QUO**

DATA	**ANALYTICS**	**DECISION-MAKING**
List the *type* of data you might need to support a response. Next to the data type, write where this data is in your country – who is responsible for collecting it, who receives it? Examples include: • Labs/diagnostic tests • Epidemiological data from clinics/hospitals (what kind?) • Data from contact tracing teams • Data on mobility patterns across the border or in-country • Data from operational partners • Data on social response to the outbreak	Think about what analytics you would normally do (we'll talk about modeling later). Who is responsible for the analyses (which agency or individuals)? Who manages the data sets and processes the data? Which partners outside the Ministry of Health are involved?	How do the analyses from all the data streams reach decision makers? List all the agencies/instutions/people who are involved in turning analyses into decisions. Draw arrows between the actors to indicate who would report to whom. Be as specific as possible! (Minister, agencies within govt, NGO's, operational partners, academics?)

See if you can draw a diagram tracing the flow of data to decision making with the key actors involved.

2. MODELING SUPPORT

Given what you have learned, how could modeling help each of these aspects of outbreak response (data collection, analytics, and decision making)?

Where do you think the "weak links" are in the diagram you have drawn of the actors and data flows above in terms of:

- Data gaps?
- Analytic gaps (and human capacity)?
- Decision-making gaps?

If you were to invest $50 million in your country's ability to respond to outbreaks, where would you invest along the pathway (or is the problem elsewhere? Maybe public trust or education?)