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Challenges And Difficulties In Implementing And Adopting Isolation And Quarantine Measures Among Internally Displaced People During The Covid-19 Pandemic In Mali

Introduction:

Isolation and quarantine are among the key measures that protect internally displaced people (IDPs) against COVID-19. This study aims to identify the challenges encountered by humanitarian actors, and health, political, and administrative stakeholders in implementing them. It also describes the difficulties faced by IDPs when adopting them, and the local initiatives developed to overcome those difficulties.

Method:

We conducted a qualitative survey consisting of individual interviews and focus groups among IDPs, humanitarian actors, and health, political, and administrative stakeholders. The data was collected between November and December 2020 in the Bamako and Ségou Regions of Mali. Interviews were recorded with audio recorders, then transcribed and thematically analysed using the NVivo 13 software.

Results:

The study involved 36 individual interviews and 8 focus groups with 68 participants of whom IDPs represented 72.3%. The main challenges reported on IDP sites included difficulties in contacting positive cases, the lack of facilities for quarantine and isolation, the lack of physical space for building new facilities, and the lack of financial resources to support IDPs during isolation and quarantine. The difficulties reported included: changes in social behavior and practices, fear of stigma, a poor level of literacy, and language barriers. To address those difficulties, the local initiatives developed by IDPs included strengthening the awareness of IDPs on COVID-19, early warning of site's leaders about positive and suspected cases, and setting up a toll-free number to facilitate access to appropriate information on COVID-19.

Conclusion:

The results of this study will help improve the implementation of isolation and quarantine measures, the response to COVID-19, IDPs health, and population health. They can be used as evidence to guide policy by adjusting current strategies and focusing on IDPs who constitute a group with increased vulnerability.

Keywords: Cerebral palsy;Acupuncture;Nerve repair;Nerve recombination;Movement and Fine motor function; Cognitive function development