Financing Epidemic Outbreaks
Seychelles experience

Seychelles is an mid-ocean island country with a population of less than 100,000. Priority investment in the social sectors in the past three decades have resulted in high rate of literacy and good health status, including high immunisation rates against childhood diseases. Non-communicable diseases account for the greatest proportion of morbidity and mortality, although infections such as leptospirosis persist and HIV and Hepatitis C are on the increase. Seychelles is vulnerable to new outbreaks of viral epidemics.

Government is responsible for most of the provision and expenditure on health care, although there is a growing private sector. Preparedness for epidemics is financed through recurrent budgets of the relevant Ministries and other public bodies. Planning and coordination is ensured through a number of high-level bodies and reviews and simulation exercises are carried out periodically. The prevention of outbreaks rests not only on these measures but in having good infrastructures and access to services and care that build resilience.

Nevertheless, outbreaks do occur and apart from the direct health impact will also have social and economic impact through increased expenditure, reduced productivity and income. In principle, epidemics are regarded as unforeseen events and funds can be mobilised from centralised contingency funds held by the Ministry of Finance.

(Awaiting some cost information for the presentation)