**WHO Collaborating Centre
for Community Health and Development**

SENSEMAKING PROTOCOL for COVID-19 Response M&E System:
Systematic reflection on graphs of COVID-19 new cases and response activities: What we are seeing, What it means, Lessons learned and Implications for adjustment

A. Sensemaking with Graph of Number of New Cases of COVID-19 Over Time

Date: Project/Group: Dialogue Participants:

1. **What are we seeing?**
[Display and review graph of new cases of COVID-19 over time]

- What pattern are we seeing in this display of new cases of COVID-19 over time?

- At what point(s) in time is the number of new cases increasing (getting worse)? At what point(s) is it decreasing (improving)? Staying steady?

2. **What does it mean?**
[Display graph of new cases of COVID-19 over time; Review and annotate graph to show/update critical events related to pattern of new cases of COVID-19 over time]

- [Orientation] Let's consider what critical events or candidate factors may have affected the level and pattern of new cases of COVID-19. To do that, we will reflect on the pattern (i.e., increases, decreases) in the number of new cases over time. [For example, critical events or factors associated with a decrease in new cases might include formation of a COVID-19 response structure, stay at home orders, mask weaking mandates, closure of particular businesses, influx of residents, changes in testing, or other changing conditions.]

- When you see worsening in this indicator (i.e., increase in new cases), what critical events may have contributed? [Please name each critical event, and note the date of onset (and termination).]

- When you see decrease/no change in this indicator (i.e., decrease or steady level in new cases), what may have contributed? Please name each critical event, and note the date of onset (and termination).]

- What was the group hoping to see in the pattern of new cases over time? How does this differ from what we actually see?

B. Sensemaking with Graph of COVID-19 Response Activities Over Time

Date: Project/Group: Dialogue Participants:

1. **What are we seeing?**
[Display and review graph of the cumulative number of COVID-19 response activities (e.g., related to surveillance, risk communication, infection control, etc.).]

- What pattern are we seeing in the cumulative number of COVID-19 response activities over time? [Note: In a cumulative graph, the steeper the line, the more activity; the flatter the line, the less activity.]

- At what point(s) in time are COVID-19 response activities increasing? At what point(s) are they decreasing? Maintaining?

2. **What does it mean?**
[Display graph of response activities; Review and annotate graph to show/update critical events related to pattern and timing of response activities]

- [Orientation] Let's consider what critical events or candidate factors may have affected the pattern of COVID-19 response activities over time. To do that, we will reflect on the pattern (i.e., increases, decreases) shown in this graph of the cumulative unfolding of response activities over time. [For example, critical events or factors associated with an increase in response activities might include changes in organizational structure for response, new policies or programs, enhanced enforcement, new resources, expanded partnerships, or changes in staff or leadership of the response team.]

- When you see increased levels of response activity (steeper lines), what critical events or factors may have contributed? [Please name each critical event, and note the date of onset (and termination).]

- When you see decreased level of activity (line flattens out), what may have contributed? [Please name each critical event, and note the date of onset (and termination).]

- What level of response activity did the group intend, and how well did it meet it?

C. Lessons Learned and Implications for Adjustment:

Date:			Project/Group:				Dialogue Participants:

- What are our lessons learned (to date) about responding to COVID-19?

- Given what we are learning, what adjustments should we make in the COVID-19 response (if any)?

- What specifically should we do to assure more comprehensive and effective response activity?

- What challenges need to be addressed to make needed changes in the COVID-19 response? How can meet them?