



## Supporting Survivors

### CHECKLIST

Survivors of infectious diseases and people who develop chronic illnesses from an outbreak often experience significant disadvantage. Survivors might experience clinical sequelae, as has been documented for Ebola, Lassa fever, and polio, requiring ongoing clinical care and potential psychosocial stress or stigma. Physical and/or mental complications can contribute to an inability to work, or to sustain relationships or previous life activities. Stigma toward survivors might result in employment discrimination and loss of housing. This checklist addresses both short-term and longer-term considerations for survivors, including facilitating reintegration of survivors into their communities.

**Directions:** Review this checklist before sending survivors home and when developing a survivor support policy.

#### Before Sending Survivors Home

- Provide the survivor with **information** about recovery and how to get follow-up care.
- Coordinate with psychosocial support workers to ensure **follow-up with the survivor** to address grief, isolation, or other mental health concerns.
- If feasible, **replace** - or provide the means for survivors to replace - personal property destroyed during the emergency (e.g., clothes, mattress, and cell phone).
- Conduct **community outreach** efforts about survivors returning and their need for safety, reintegration, and health.
- Explain to survivors how to **access material supports**, and the type, amount and duration of support for which they qualify.

#### Developing Survivor Support Policy

- Work with survivors, families, community leaders and other representatives on the **survivor support policy**.
- Ensure policy provides a clear definition of **eligibility criteria** for support and duration of support.
- Put mechanisms in place to ensure supports are provided to **all who are eligible**.