

MARCH 2022

# THE IHR PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Updates from UKHSA's  
International Health Regulations  
Strengthening Project

## In this edition

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Welcome! This publication provides updates for the project's internal colleagues and external partners. If you have any queries, feedback or contributions please contact:  
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# Updates from the IHR Project

Access the latest news from the IHR Project and its partners on the ["News" page of our online knowledge hub.](#)

## Africa CDC Celebrates its 5 Year Anniversary

On the 31st March 2022 Africa CDC celebrated their 5 year anniversary with members, partners and the entire Africa CDC staff attending the celebrations at the African Union headquarters in-person and virtually.

The UKHSA IHR Strengthening team has worked closely with Africa CDC since 2017 and looks forward to another 3 years of partnership, working toward improved health security across the continent and beyond.



## IHR Strengthening Project Celebrated During British Science Week 2022



Our International Health Regulations Strengthening Project was showcased on the Government Science and Engineering Blog during British Science Week (11th-20th March 22) to celebrate different roles in science across the government.

Nadia Nisar, Health Management Information Analyst from our Pakistan team talks about how her role in Islamabad contributes to public health and highlights her achievements of training public health professionals as part of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Response implementation across many districts in Pakistan.

[Read more about Nadia's contribution to science and her reflections of working as part of the project](#)

## Successful Cross Project Learning Exchange between the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Zambia National Public Health Institute



This month a learning exchange took place with members of the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) travelling to Abuja to visit colleagues at the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). Members from the IHR project and the Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) team were also in attendance. This is the first formal knowledge exchange visit between national public health institutes that the project has sponsored and the peer-to-peer learning enabled open discussions about the challenges, successes and how processes and principles have been adapted to unique country and cultural contexts.

Dr Ifedayo Adetifa, NCDC Director General said:

*“National Public Health Institutes are not meant to operate in silos. Global health security is not only about what happens in individual countries, but cross-border. A threat in one country is a threat to all. This visit is valuable to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and we trust it proves significant to the Zambia National Public Health Institute in strengthening our capacities to protect our people and the world from infectious diseases.”*

As the IHR project moves forward into a new funding cycle we will continue to place a strong emphasis on peer to peer learning and it's vital role in capacity strengthening at the heart of our partnerships.

**[Read the full article on the hub](#)**

**[Read the press release from NCDC](#)**



# Updates from the IHR Project

## Introduction to UKHSA at the UK High Commission in Addis Ababa

On February 25th, 2022 an introductory session to the IHR Strengthening Project and wider UKHSA was held at the British High Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The session was open to the wider UK High Commission and approximately 25- 30 people were in attendance. During the session Dr. Ahmed Razavi, Dr. Martin Muita and Kulvir Gill updated on UKHSA transition, the status of the IHR project, areas of work, mission, vision and planning for the next 3 years for both Ethiopia and Africa CDC. The introduction helped to build a wider understanding of what UKHSA is doing both in the UK and in Ethiopia.



**[Read more about this on the hub](#)**

## LQMS Implementation at the Provincial Public Health Lab (PHRL), Khyber Medical University

Since 2016, UKHSA has been offering technical and logistic assistance to Department of Health across Pakistan to adopt and implement Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR). Public Health laboratories hold an essential role in an IDSR system. They provide timely diagnosis of communicable diseases to guide effective disease prevention measures.

UKHSA supported PHRL KP province in the development of quality documentation and the standardisation of work processes to meet international standards. UKHSA collaborated with PHRL to develop a comprehensive Lab Quality Manual to ISO standards and WHO guidelines.



**[Read more about this work on the knowledge hub](#)**

## Updates from the IHR Project

# Copperbelt Work: Kitwe Teaching Hospital Mentorship

Laboratory services are essential in all aspects of health. High quality services are developed and maintained using a quality systems approach. The Stepwise Laboratory Quality Improvement Process towards Accreditation (SLIPTA) program has been developed by WHO and its partners to improve the quality of laboratory services in order to better contribute to public health services including disease control programmes, to IDSR, IHR (2005), AMR and many others. Between 31st January to 11th February 2022, Esther Musongole and a team from MOH were embedded in Kitwe Teaching Hospital (KTH) Laboratory, Zambia supporting a 10-day onsite 'QMS implementation' mentorship.

**[Read more on the hub](#)**



## The Writeshop: Improved Academic Writing Skills for IHR Strengthening Project Staff

Strengthening local capacity is one of the triple mandates of the IHR Strengthening Project. To achieve this mandate, the project has innovatively designed and delivered a series of academic writing workshops (The Writeshop) for its project staff from Africa and Asia. It aimed to support and enable project staff to develop academic publications from the project. Specific objectives of the Writeshop were to provide a general understanding of academic publications, the key principles and rules of publishing, to coach participants in developing a structure for planning and writing journal articles, and to build capacity to generate ideas and capture evidence from the project for wider dissemination.

**[Read the full case study on the hub](#)**

# New Resources Available on The Knowledge Hub

Access the latest resources and publications from the IHR Project and its partners on the **"Resources" page of the knowledge hub.**

## The WHO Strategic Partnership for Health Security and Emergency Preparedness (SPH) Portal.

The WHO Strategic Partnerships for Health Security and Emergency Preparedness (SPH) Portal identifies over 60 bilateral or multilateral donors or partners engaged in financial and/or technical support for IHR capacity development across the 19 IHR (2005) technical areas. The IHR Project's country and regional level contributions to the global COVID-19 response are captured on this WHO SPH Portal. The Resource Landscape section of the WHO SPH Portal displays the activities of donors and partners contributing to IHR technical support for health security.

**[See UKHSA's latest updates on the portal](#)**

**[Read more about the work on the "COVID-19" section of the hub](#)**

## Workforce Development Tool of the Month March 2022 - Resilience for Leaders



This is the tenth 'tool of the month' from the IHR Project's Workforce Development Team. We are sharing our favourite concepts, models, hints, and tips that resonate with us and really helped us out in different work environments. Please come back each month to see what we are sharing. As with any concepts, models, hints and tips – these do not represent a fixed way of doing things, they are not hard and fast rules – if they resonate with you please make use of them – if they don't that's fine too!

**[Read the article on our Publications page on the Knowledge Hub](#)**

## March Wellbeing Tip

Ramadan Mubarak to our colleagues and beyond celebrating this month! During this time, many Muslims will be fasting during daylight hours as well as practising increased prayers and spiritual time. It's important that we support them by being aware that some may adjust their working hours during Ramadan to ensure better productivity, consider whether international partners may be engaged in Ramadan and take this into account, and if you're hosting team meetings/socials during Ramadan, be aware that Muslim colleagues may not be able to join in!

# Monthly Media Round Up

A selection of recent appearances of the IHR Project in the media. Please click the items to view the posts.

**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA - Mar 7

Our **#IHR Strengthening** team works with public health institutions in Africa and Asia to better prepare for and respond to public health emergencies. This week laboratory leaders from @NCDCgov visited our Porton, Colindale and Birmingham sites in a learning exchange.



2 4 13

**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA

Staff from Nigeria's Central Public Health Laboratories and National Reference Laboratories met with subject matter experts, attending workshops on lab-quality management, leadership, and health and safety - providing them with practical tools to implement at their own labs.



1:09 PM - Mar 7, 2022 - Twitter Web App

**Dr Sam Collins** @DrSamColl

Dr Oladejo - 'the aim of the visit is to agree jointly the peer-to-peer exchange priorities and areas for support and learning between @ZMPublicHealth and @NCDCgov'. This is an important visit to understand collectively how we deal with **#ihr\_strengthening** in 🇳🇬 and across 🌍

9:58 AM - Mar 14, 2022 - Twitter for Android

**Dr Ebere Okoroke MBBS DTM&H MSc (PH) FFPH** @DrEmmanuelr

We believe in long term partnerships - building & learning together. This is an example of the mutually respectful & beneficial partnerships described by @JNkengasong in the @NewPublicHealthOrder for Africa. Well done team! @DrSamColl @solaruna @NCDCgov **#IHR\_Strengthening**

**Dr Sam Collins** @DrSamColl - Mar 13

Great to be back in 🇳🇬 for Exercise Keep Pushing 4, a functional PHEOC SimEx incorporating 7 State EOC's. This will test capacity to coordinate the response to a #publichealth emergency. Just one of many key elements in our **#ihr\_strengthening** collaborations. Look out for updates!

9:49 AM - Mar 14, 2022 - Twitter for iPhone

**Dr Sam Collins** @DrSamColl

@ZMPublicHealth @NCDCgov and @UKHSA **#ihr\_strengthening** knowledge exchange visit to the Federal Capital Territory Emergency Operating Centre. Learning from Nigerias EOC journey in the face of challenging **#publichealth** threats 🌱



Sola Aruna and 4 others

9:34 AM - Mar 15, 2022 - Twitter for Android

**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA - Mar 1

Our **#IHR Strengthening** team works with public health institutions in Africa and Asia to better prepare for and respond to public health emergencies. Last week, in partnership with @AfricaCDC, we hosted a Lab Leadership Training for Resilient National Public Health Laboratories.



2 5 9

**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA

Delegates from 12 countries looked at leadership from the perspective of leading themselves, leading others in their organisation & leading in a system. Strengthening leadership is key for improving health security & allows for opportunities for future collaboration. @AfricaCDC



8:59 AM - Mar 1, 2022 - Twitter Web App

**awils** @awils8

What a great 10days meeting again with our **#ihr\_strengthening** Pakistan team and friends and colleagues from @nih\_Pakistan and MNHSR&C. It has been too long! We are definitely stronger together as we share and learn together.



11:57 PM - Mar 15, 2022 - Twitter for iPhone

**Dr Sam Collins** @DrSamColl

QMS is vital for a well functioning public health laboratory system 🧪. Our **#ihr\_strengthening** experts are at CPHL in #lagos this week to continue our capacity strengthening collaborations with @NCDCgov 🌱

**Adebisi Ajiloye** @AdebisiAjiloye - Mar 18

Visiting colleagues at the @NCDCgov Central Public Health Lagos. First day of learning exchange on QMS completed. We at the IHR project love supporting the new public health order in Africa @AfricaCDC through a lasting respectful relationship between @UKHSA and @NCDCgov



7:15 AM - Mar 18, 2022 - Twitter for Android

**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA

Last week the team delivered a module on Environmental Epidemiology as part of the **#Zambia** Field Epidemiology Training programme with @ZNPHI and stakeholders across health and environment - developing skills to better investigate diseases of suspected chemical causes.



2:56 PM - Mar 7, 2022 - Twitter Web App

2 Retweets 7 Likes

Tweet your reply Reply

**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA - Mar 7

Replying to @UKHSA

As part of the course, the team and delegates visited a landfill site in Lusaka. This highlighted some of the hazards from emissions at such sites and helped support some of the key concepts on environmental epidemiology featured in the training.



2 4

**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA - Apr 1

This week the team have been supporting @FMOHnigeria at the inauguration of the National Committee on Chemical Surveillance and Emergency System (NCCES) bringing together @NCDCgov, @fmening & other key stakeholders to better prevent, detect and respond to chemical events.



2 2 4

**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA

The NCCES aims to take forward development of chemical surveillance and response guidelines, standard operating procedures, undertaking chemical laboratory surveys and assessing relevant chemical legislation (e.g on waste). **#Nigeria #IHR-Strengthening**



11:30 AM - Apr 1, 2022 - Twitter Web App