

APRIL 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:

IHR.Programme@phe.gov.uk

Or alternatively, reach out to our communication leads:

Ellie Fairfoot, Project Officer
ellie.fairfoot@phe.gov.uk

Beenish Arfeen, Project Administrator
beenish.arfeen@phe.gov.uk

Annabel Grieve, Project Manager
annabel.grieve@phe.gov.uk



Updates from the IHR Project

Country and Regional Leads Week – Developing Priorities



At the end of April, the Country and Regional Leads from our IHR focal areas visited the UK for a week of meetings to develop work priorities for the 3 year project cycle.

These meetings between the Subject Matter Experts and Country/Regional Leads developed on the country roadmap sessions that took place in January and focused on designing SMART, high level objectives for opportunity, exploration and implementation in country.

Based on the IHR JEE benchmarks, the teams worked together to start developing 22/23 priorities relating to their subject areas and the needs of the country/region. The meetings were also valuable for the teams to reconnect in person after the last few years of restricted travel due to COVID-19, and the opportunity for cross project learning and reflection was valued by those involved.

EPRR Team Visit Ethiopia and Support the EPHI PHEOC Training Programme

The Emergency Preparedness Rapid Response team travelled to Ethiopia last month, with the purpose of re-engaging with partners following a 2-year period of no in-country deployments due to COVID-19.

The trip coincided with an invitation to join a validation workshop designed to review and endorse the EPHI Public Health Emergency Operations Centres (PHEOC) Handbook, which the EPRR team had contributed to the development of. The team also met with Africa CDC partners to discuss various collaborative workstreams, which included the PHEOC Network 5-year Strategy Member States consultation workshop which both teams facilitated virtually, advancement of PHEOC e-learning modules and support of future SimEx training.

The trip was a valuable opportunity for the EPRR team to re-engage with colleagues from both organisations.



[Read more about the visit on the hub](#)

Developing and Strengthening Multisectoral Coordination in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

The UKHSA's IHR Strengthening Project and GHD | EMPHNET have partnered to support countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) to develop and strengthen multisector coordination. Multisector coordination (MSC) – or the “collaboration between stakeholders from multiple and diverse sectors and disciplines working towards the shared goal of enhanced health emergency preparedness” – is a thread running through the International Health Regulations (2005).

An initial 3-day workshop on “Developing and Strengthening Multisectoral Coordination in the Eastern Mediterranean Region” face-to-face workshop, was held in Amman, Jordan on 15-17 February 2022. Senior officials from Iraq and Pakistan public health institutes, ministries, provincial governments and colleagues from sectors outside of health were in attendance.

The workshop content included an overview of the MSC project; country presentations of their own MSC arrangements, successes and challenges; and a broad overview of the key themes and issues emerging from the situational analysis. Within the workshop, country groups undertook a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) of key components of their MSC systems.

The workshop was the first step in a series of joint activities planned to develop and strengthen MSC in the EMR through tailored support to countries. GHD | EMPHNET and UKHSA are working with country representatives to develop the details of this support, based on workshop discussions and identify opportunities for regional cross-learning and engagement.

[Read the full article, now on the hub](#)

[Watch the interview with Dr Anne Wilson \(UKHSA\) and Dr Magdid Gunied \(GHD EMPHNET\) below:](#)



Updates from the IHR Project

IDSR Cascade Training in Karachi West

The UKHSA IHR Strengthening Project team in Pakistan has been conducting Integrated Disease Surveillance Response (IDSR) Cascade Training in Karachi West, Sindh. The district is the hub of multiple disease outbreaks such as a measles outbreak that has been ongoing for a year and Naegleria, which is a new emerging disease in this area.

Three days of IDSR training in Karachi West was followed by training for Karachi Kemari. There were 17-20 participants attending this training. The participants at both sessions appreciated the training content, modules, and trainers. They took a keen interest in the group activities and hands-on, practical sessions.

This is the 8th district in Sindh province that UKHSA has trained on IDSR. This training added to the participants knowledge base, and will enhance their surveillance and data reporting skills. Timely identification of outbreaks is important in controlling disease and saving lives.



Environmental Epidemiology Training at Levy Mwanawasa Medical University, Zambia

The UKHSA Radiation, Chemical and Environmental (RCE) hazards team as part IHR Strengthening Project in Africa have been working with ZNPHI and other key stakeholders to strengthen the national capacity to improve environmental surveillance, epidemiology and response to chemical incidents in Zambia. Following a scoping mission undertaken in 2019 and subsequent dialogue with ZNPHI, the delivery of a FETP module on environmental epidemiology was recognised as the ideal route to strengthen capacity in country. It also complimented other UKHSA input into the FETP such as the recent Leadership module delivered in early February by the workforce team.

A class of 24 attended the week-long training, which involved a field visit to Chunga Sanitary Landfill site which is the official disposal site for the Lusaka City Council (LCC). The landfill is located on the northern side of the City of Lusaka, near the boundary with Chisamba (a district in Central Province).

Three members of the RCE team, across Chemicals & Poisons and Environmental Epidemiology facilitated this training alongside national representatives from LMMU, the UKHSA team in Zambia, ZNPHI and ZEMA via interactive presentations, and problem-based learning. The feedback received was generally very positive with great interaction throughout from participants.

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

“Learning from this course has opened my eyes to chemical hazards that should be investigated, I was currently looking into food contaminants with a focus on biological/infectious contaminants, since this training, I will be making sure to also look into levels of chemical contamination in the food”

Lecturer from Levy Mwanawasa Medical University, Lusaka

UKHSA attends The 2nd Annual Meeting of the Regional Network of Reference Laboratories of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Member Countries



The West African Reference Laboratory Network (WARLN) was set up in 2017 by the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It was founded to enhance regional support for member countries on biological diagnosis quality and accessibility and surveillance capacities, as well as early detection of Public Health threats.

The 2nd Annual Regional Reference Laboratories Network meeting was held in Lomé, Togo from the 28th to 30th March 2022, and was attended by UKHSA IHR Strengthening Project staff, Dr. Olusola Aruna, (Nigeria Country Lead/Senior Public Health Advisor), and Dr. Olubunmi Negedu-Momoh (Technical Adviser on National Reference Laboratory). The meeting was organised by the WAHO with attendance from all 15 ECOWAS countries, as well as delegates from academic institutions and stakeholders in the region, and international global health and development partners.

The meeting focused on a regional roadmap for the surveillance and control of antimicrobial resistance (AMR); entomological surveillance of Arboviruses; regional Biological Risk Management, Policy and Strategic Plan; and regional support for Quality Management Systems (QMS).

The UKHSA team met with the Laboratory Lead for WAHO (Dr. Abdourahmane Sow) to discuss areas of support provided by WAHO and UKHSA to Nigeria and the need for collaboration going forwards. Dr Sow highlighted WAHO's recognition of the invaluable support provided by UKHSA to NCDC Laboratories (NRL Gaduwa and CPHL Lagos) especially the significant improvement seen in their Stepwise Laboratory Quality Improvement Process Towards Accreditation (SLIPTA) audit performance and star rating.

The WAHO meeting ended with the presentation of the award of excellence for all the performing Reference Laboratories in the West African Laboratory Network. The NCDC NRL was leading in the West African Sub-region with a WHO- AFRO 5-star rating followed by CPHL with a star rating of 4. The leadership of NCDC, the laboratory team and the UKHSA were commended for their demonstrable commitment to QMS implementation.

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

Updates from the IHR Project

IHR Strengthening Project Supports NCDC Hosting the Fourth Annual Disease Surveillance Review Meeting

The UKHSA IHR Strengthening Project supported the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to host the fourth Annual Disease Surveillance Review Meeting (ADSRM).

The "Strengthening Sub-national Disease surveillance: Incorporating New Frontiers in Developing an Effective Surveillance System" review meeting was held between the 22nd and 24th of March 2022 in Abuja, Nigeria. The meeting assessed, the implementation status of recommendations from the third ADSRM, activities involving One Health stakeholders at the subnational level, the outcomes of learning needs assessments of State Epidemiologists, and the midterm joint external evaluation of IHR core capacities.

[Read about the successes of the meeting on the hub](#)



DHIS-2 Android Capture App: An Innovative Intervention to Improve IDSR Priority Disease Data Flow



Timely submission of priority infectious disease data is vital for identifying disease outbreaks. To facilitate this, UKHSA in Pakistan has begun pilot use of the DHIS -2 Android Capture mobile app, which allows health facilities to upload disease data, in collaboration with NIH and the People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI) in district Hyderabad of Sindh Province.

For the successful roll out of the app, comprehensive hands-on training in the use of the app was developed and delivered to health facility in-charges by the UKHSA in-country IT team. A total of 46 health facility in-charges were trained to upload daily disease data using the mobile app. Provincial and district health authorities have appreciated the work and innovative ideas of UKHSA towards the implementation of an IDSR system in Pakistan.

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

Updates from the IHR Project

National Method Verification Training, Zambia

At the end of March, staff from the IHR Strengthening Zambia laboratory and workforce development teams trained 20 laboratory staff from 8 laboratories over 4 days in Method Verification. The Zambia Ministry of Health (ZMoH) selected participants that had not been previously trained in method validation and who were working in laboratories undergoing accreditation to ISO 15189 Standards for Medical Laboratories. Based on learning from training provided in the Copperbelt region in November 2021, they also introduced a new session on teaching adults to learn as well as further exercises on assay verification plans and reports. There were debriefs between facilitators and participants at the end of each day of the training ensuring that the needs of participants were considered throughout the training period.



[Read about the training on the hub](#)

Supporting the Professional Development of the Administration/Human Resource Workforce of the Nigeria Centre For Disease Control

As part of our core mandate of supporting system strengthening and building workforce capacity, the UKHSA IHR Strengthening Project in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPM) has been supporting the professional development of the Admin/Human Resource workforce at NCDC.

A Workforce Needs Assessment of the Admin and HR departments at NCDC completed by UKHSA showed there was the need to bridge and fill a number of gaps observed in these departments. One of which was the need to build capacity through the professional development of the Admin/HR workforce in strategic Human Resource Management. Professional development would allow the Admin/HR Personnel to be able to improve their organisational capabilities to match strategic intents and objectives, and engage people with and champion workforce development across other departments of the Institute.

An exercise was designed to deliver a bespoke learning intervention for the Admin/HR personal through the deployment of the 5D methodology (Diagnose, Design, Develop, Deliver and Drive). The first phase of the exercise (Diagnostic) was conducted from March 14th-16th, 2022.

[Read more about the first phase of the training on the 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

Monthly Media Round Up

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

 **Dr Sam Collins**
@DrSamColl

📢 **JOB ALERT** 📢 Please RT. An exciting opportunity to become our new Senior Public Health Advisor in 🇬🇧 beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/job/... Come join the @UKHSA @UKgovGHS #IHR_strengthening project and make a valuable contribution to #globalhealth @PHJobsUK @pubhealthjobsuk



7:44 AM · Apr 30, 2022 · Twitter for Android

 **Dr Sam Collins**
@DrSamColl

📢 **JOB ALERT** 📢 Please RT. An exciting opportunity to become our new Senior Public Health Advisor in 🇬🇧 beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/job/... Come join the @UKHSA @UKgovGHS #IHR_strengthening project and make a valuable contribution to #globalhealth @PHJobsUK @pubhealthjobsuk



7:42 AM · Apr 30, 2022 · Twitter for Android

 **Dr Sam Collins**
@DrSamColl

Great news. We very much look forward to building on our #IHR_strengthening achievements together 🇬🇧🇪🇹 @UKinEthiopia

 **Dr Eberke Okereke MBBS DTM&H MSc (PH) FFPH** @DrEmeruemJnr · Apr 12
Replying to @ila_tadesse
Congratulations to Dr Hailu and to @EPH Ethiopia!
@DrSamColl @Martin_Muita_

8:17 AM · Apr 12, 2022 · Twitter for Android

 **Liz McGinley**
@Lzmcgin

Two exciting #publichealth roles with a great and dedicated #ihr_strengthening team

 **Dr Sam Collins** @DrSamColl · Apr 22
📢 Job alert. Please RT 📢 Two awesome @UKHSA posts. One in 🇬🇧 and one in 🇪🇹. Come join the most exciting project in government right now #ihr_strengthening healthjobsuk.com/job/v4124853 and healthjobsuk.com/job/v4124853 @pubhealthjobsuk @PHJobsUK @DrEmeruemJnr @UKgovGHS

Show this thread

11:15 AM · Apr 23, 2022 · Twitter Web App

 **Annabel**
@abl_g

📢 We are looking for an events management and logistics service provider to support our #ihr_strengthening project in #Zambia from July. Please apply and spread the word. Deadline 11th May.

Details here:
contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/43481c9...

Applications here: ...mily-contract-search.secure.force.com/ProSpend_CS_C...

4:42 PM · Apr 11, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

April Wellbeing Tip

April showers bring May flowers! As the weather gets nicer and the days get longer, make sure you are making the most of the sun. Whether this be having your lunch outside, or making plans after work - exercising, socialising or both - it's important we are getting up from behind our desks and enjoying some time outside.