

JUNE 2022

# THE IHR PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Updates from UKHSA's  
International Health Regulations  
Strengthening Project

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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](#).

## 75th World Health Assembly - Health Workforce Needs for Africa's Health Security

Last Month, Dr Tiruneh Baye, IHR Strengthening Project Technical Advisor for Workforce development, supported Africa CDC in the planning and execution of an event as part of the 75th World Health Assembly in Geneva, titled "High-Level Meeting on Health Workforce Needs for Africa's Health Security."

The event attracted attendance by Ministers of Health from Ethiopia, Namibia, Zimbabwe and others, Ambassadors from various African countries, Loyce Pace the US Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs, Jim Campbell the Director for Workforce for WHO Jim Campbell and Prof Neil Squires Head of Global Operations at UKHSA.



In addition to organising the workforce event, Dr Baye also supported the Africa CDC delegation with their other planned engagements, as well attending additional workshops and events as part of the assembly

There was also the opportunity for Prof. Neil Squires, and Dr. Tajudeen Raji, Head of Division for Public Health Institutions and Research, Africa CDC, to have a discussion on the two organisations' collaborative work and relations. The discussions revolved around the Field Epidemiology Training Programme, the African Epidemic Service programme, Africa CDC's engagement with EMPHNET, and on how best to strengthen the health workforce on the continent moving forward.

We are delighted to continue our strong partnership with Africa CDC and look forward to the work to come.

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



## Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) Senior Officials Visit to Pakistan

In June, the Pakistan IHR Strengthening (IHR-S) country team hosted a week-long visit by two senior officials from our sponsoring department the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC). Nick Adkin (Deputy Director) and Helen Tomkys (Head of GHS Preparedness) were joined by the Head of the project and other IHR-S UK team members. The visit was part of a wider visit to the Fleming Fund and GAMRIF projects in Pakistan also funded by DHSC. DHSC colleagues were able to see the success and significant progress of the IHR-S work in Pakistan, as well as increasing their understanding of the opportunities and challenges in implementing Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) in Pakistan. The group met with key officials to strengthen the ties for bilateral collaboration, discuss issues of mutual interest and express the department's continued support for strengthening IHR/IDSR innovation in Pakistan.

The visit began with a visit to our partners in the National Institute of Health (NIH) where the UKHSA local team are stationed. In NIH they were welcomed by Major General Aamer Ikram (Executive Director), Dr Muhammad Salman the Chief of Public Health Laboratories Division and Dr Mumtaz Ali Khan the Chief of Epidemiology & Surveillance Division. NIH officials acknowledged the work of UKHSA as pioneers of IDSR in Pakistan and assured ongoing collaborative work in achieving real time integrated surveillance system and public health lab networks in accordance with IHR 2005.



A meeting with the British High Commissioner, Dr Christian Turner CMG, Annabel Gerry Development Director FCDO and other FCDO colleagues enabled further discussion on the evolving UK-Pakistan Health Partnership.

The visitors also attended a quarterly National Technical Working Group on Surveillance and Data flows.

A meeting in the Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Co-ordination was hosted by the newly appointed Federal Secretary of Health Dr Aamir Ashraf Khawaja and the Federal Director General of Health services (DGHS), Dr Rana Safdar at their offices in Islamabad.

The team then visited Lahore, where they met Punjab's Secretary Health, Mr. Ali Jan Khan, Additional Secretary Dr Asim Altaf and their team to discuss the opportunities for future collaboration to strengthen IDSR in Punjab.



These fruitful meetings demonstrated first-hand to DHSC colleagues how far the project has come in the last six years and its journey of achievements and challenges along the way. The strength of the project's partnerships continued to shine through and DHSC colleagues regularly commended the depth, breadth, and warmth of the UK/Pakistan relationships and the continued support for the project's work in Pakistan

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

# Updates from the IHR Project

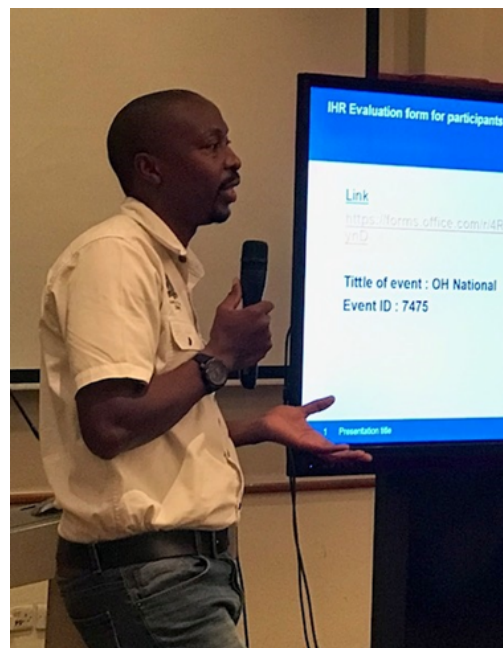
## Stakeholder meeting to determine priorities for the One Health approach in Zambia

A two-day stakeholder workshop, organised and facilitated by ZNPHI and UKHSA IHR Strengthening Project, was held in Lusaka on 26th and 27th May. The aim of the meeting was to determine One Health (OH) priorities for Zambia.

The meeting was attended by over 30 stakeholders with good representation from across animal health, human health, and environmental sectors. There was good engagement during the workshop with active discussions and enthusiasm for OH working from participants.

Through scenario and group work the participants identified a positive way forward to develop the OH approach; providing support for the OH lead at ZNPHI and identifying priorities using a multisectoral approach. Priorities identified included the development of a OH strategic plan and establishing a OH platform.

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



## IHR Strengthening Team attends the Global Health Security Conference in Singapore

Members from the IHR Strengthening project were delighted to attend the Global Health Security Conference 2022 in Singapore. The team had the opportunity to present on some areas of our work, as well as link with representatives from our partner National Public Health Institutes from across Africa and Asia.

Jessica Moll from the IHR workforce development team was invited to present on the project's successful laboratory leadership series which continues to be rolled out across our focal countries in Africa and Asia. Christopher Cartwright, IHR Specialist Registrar, spoke on the projects work on multisector coordination.

The conference provided a great opportunity to network with other global health security practitioners as the UKHSA Global Operations directorate continues to showcase its work across the globe.



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

## June Wellbeing Tip Wellbeing Ways-of-Working!



As you know, the team have been working on a number of recommendations on how we can improve health and wellbeing in the project. We have come up with the following recommendations/"wellbeing ways-of-working", which we hope you can implement as part of your working day:

- Schedule meetings for 20 or 45 minutes to allow breaks between meetings. Include comfort breaks if the meeting is longer than 1.5 hours
- Where possible avoid sending emails outside of 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday unless necessary. If you're working outside of this due to time differences or flexible working – adding a note to say that a response isn't expected until the next working day.
- Cracking down on the culture of people logging on during their annual leave. We don't want people to think this is acceptable nor an expectation, and this needs to be an example set from top down
- Recommend turning off teams/email notifications on phones during out of office hours
- Trying to limit more than 1 high level meetings being held in a day, giving time to reflect on the meeting content and action anything raised
- Try and protect your Friday afternoons where possible. Hopefully this will allow some focus time, tie up any loose ends from the week and help prepare for the next week ahead.

Hopefully these guidelines will allow for a few quick wellbeing wins and help us to manage our work effectively, create time in the day, allow us to catch our breath! We are also in the process of developing a few other wellbeing initiatives, so look out for those to come!

# Monthly Media Round Up

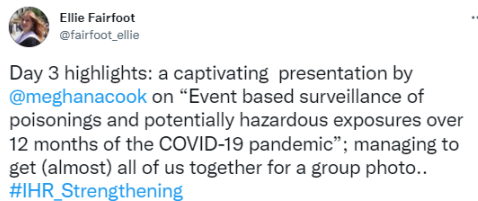
A selection of recent appearances of the IHR Project in the media. Please click the items to view the posts.



**Ellie Fairfoot** @fairfoot\_ellie · Jun 28  
Incredibly excited to be attending the @GHS\_conf 2022 representing the @UKHSA #IHR\_Strengthening Project - looking forward to a jam packed and educational week! #GHS22



**Ellie Fairfoot** @fairfoot\_ellie · Jun 29  
Day 2 highlights: interesting panel on "Women in Global Health Security"; watching my @UKHSA #IHR\_Strengthening colleagues present on our project's work around #workforcedevelopment and #multisectorcoordination #GHS22



**Ellie Fairfoot** @fairfoot\_ellie  
Day 3 highlights: a captivating presentation by @meghanacook on "Event based surveillance of poisonings and potentially hazardous exposures over 12 months of the COVID-19 pandemic"; managing to get (almost) all of us together for a group photo.. #IHR\_Strengthening



**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA · Jun 20  
Replying to @UKHSA  
Last week the team delivered training workshops in #Zambia with @ZMPublicHealth and stakeholders across health and environment to develop skills to better prevent, detect and respond to these kinds of emergencies.



**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA · Jun 20  
There were presentations also by @zemazambia, Swedish Chemicals Agency and @mohzambia highlighting some important projects relating to poisons centres and pesticide management being undertaken in Zambia



**Ellie Fairfoot** @fairfoot\_ellie · Jun 29  
Day 1 highlights: workshop on "Science and Communication - pandemic friend or foe?" about how social + behavioural change (incl health comms) contributes to preventing & controlling #publichealth threats; dinner with colleagues from our partner NPHIs - finally meeting in person!



**Nathan Kapata** @NathanKapata  
Replying to @fairfoot\_ellie  
Thank you Ellie @fairfoot\_ellie and the entire @UKHSA #IHR\_Strengthening Project for the networking dinner! The food was awesome! We value your support in enhancing public health security in Zambia and other parts of the world. #publichealth #GHS2022 #NewPublicHealthOrder  
4:13 AM · Jun 29, 2022 · Twitter for Android



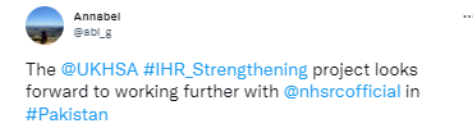
**Olajumokesule** @Olajumokesule  
Replying to @UKHSA  
Thanks to Copperbelt Province Microbiology Team for their commitment and enthusiasm, to @mohzambia and @TDRC\_ndola for supporting this event and to our great in-country @UKHSA team. We missed you @TaongaThomasTe2 #IHR\_Strengthening



**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA · Jun 21  
Replying to @UKHSA  
As part of the Laboratory Strengthening Programme, our Zambia team met with the Director-General of @ZMPublicHealth, the ZNPHL leadership team and @mohzambia quality team to discuss progress made and ongoing collaboration towards strengthening technical capacity



**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA · Jun 21  
The team also travelled to the Copperbelt Province, visiting a Level 3 National Laboratory to run a networking and team-building workshop with the Copperbelt Province Microbiology Group



**Annabel** @abd\_g  
The @UKHSA #IHR\_Strengthening project looks forward to working further with @nhsrcofficial in #Pakistan



**Ministry of National Health Services, Pakistan** @nhsrcofficial · Jun 9  
Health Leadership of MoNHSR&C had a meeting on 8th June 2022, on Implementation of International Health Regulation-2005 (IHR) in Pakistan, with UK Health Security Agency team, Dr. Mr Nicholas John Adkin, Senior Official from the UK Department of Health & Social Care, 1/3  
Show this thread



**Annabel** @abd\_g  
Great to be back with the #IHR\_Strengthening project team in #Pakistan this week, with @UKgovGHS colleagues. Fruitful meetings with @NIH\_Pakistan and MoH discussing the great progress made over the last 6 years and looking forward to ongoing collaboration over the next 3 years.



9:41 PM · Jun 21, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



8:22 AM · Jun 9, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone