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@ukhsa.gov.uk

Or alternatively, reach out to our communication leads:
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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*
Updates from the IHR Project

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
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**
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 team/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.

Elle Fairfoot @fairfoot_elle - Jun 29

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

Elle Fairfoot @fairfoot_elle - Jun 29

Day 2 highlights: interesting panel on "Women in Global Health Security"; watching my BUKHSA #IHR_Strengthening colleague present on our project’s work around Humanitarian Development and Resiliency in Ebola; meeting with partner, UNHCR - lovely meeting in person.

UK Health Security Agency @BUKHSA - Jun 29

Making it go... Last week the team delivered training workshops in Zambia with WHO, UNICEF, WHO, and other partners to strengthen health and environment to develop skills to better prevent, detect, and respond to these kinds of emergencies.

UK Health Security Agency @BUKHSA - Jun 29

There were presentations also by @brazilmalaria, Brazilian National Agency and @malariaianaisa highlighting some important projects relating to poisons centres and pesticide management being undertaken in Zambia.

@ukhsmalawi

The @UKHSA #IHR_Strengthening project looks forward to working further with @merzoffice in a[iii]n [P]akistan.

UK Health Security Agency @BUKHSA - Jun 29

We’re looking forward to working with our teams in Pakistan to strengthen health and environment to develop skills to better prevent, detect, and respond to these kinds of emergencies.

UK Health Security Agency @BUKHSA - Jun 29

UK, Ministry of Interior & Security, Pakistan @GovanGHS: Jun 29: Health & environment work is underway in Pakistan's health sector. We're working closely with governments and partners to ensure that everyone has access to quality healthcare and other essential services. #IHR_Strengthening #Pakistan #HealthSecurity #Environment

Great to be back with the #IHR_Strengthening project team in #Pakistan this week, with @UKGovGHS colleagues. ASHPOW discussions the great progress made over the last 5 years and looking forward to ongoing collaboration over the next 3 years.

UK Health Security Agency @BUKHSA - Jun 29

The team also visited the border between Malawi and Tanzania to visit the border crossing and discuss the joint health and security efforts.

Thank you Elle @fairfoot_elle 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

4:15 AM - Jun 29, 2022 - Twitter for Android

Replying to @fairfoot_elle

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