

JULY 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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Continued Partnerships with the Zambian Ministry of Health and Zambia National Public Health Institute

Since 2019, the UKHSA IHR Strengthening Project has collaborated with the Zambian Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) to support public health system strengthening towards enhanced health security. On 12th July 2022, all parties committed to a further three years of partnership in Zambia through the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UKHSA and both MoH and ZNPHI.

The IHR Strengthening Project has worked collaboratively with MoH and ZNPHI to help strengthen a number of key areas including workforce planning and development; emergency preparedness and response to health security threats, including chemical hazards preparedness; laboratory systems and networks; and One Health. The signing of the MoUs renewed the strong relationship between partners and the commitment to continue working together in these key areas to enhance health security in Zambia.

Three years after our work together began, the project is very happy to be committing to a further three years of partnership.



from left to right: ZNPHI Director General, Professor Roma Chilengi; ZNPHI Board Chairperson – Professor Peter Mwaba, MOH Permanent Secretary – Professor Lackson Kasonka; Representing the British High Commissioner to Zambia – Ben Powis; UKHSA Zambia Country Lead – Joseph Pett; MoU signing moderator and ZNPHI Director for Strategic Information Management – Ms. Mazyanga Mazaba Liwewe

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

[Watch the live recording on the Ministry of Health Zambia facebook page](#)

Updates from the IHR Project

Chemical Hazards and Public Health Training in Ethiopia

As part of the IHR Strengthening Project, members of the Radiation, Chemicals and Environmental Hazards Directorate (RCE) visited Addis Ababa to deliver targeted needs-based training on chemical hazards and public health to the National Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Technical Working Group, as well as meeting with key partners in Ethiopia.

Colleagues from RCE collaborated with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) and the national multi-sectoral CBRN Technical Working Group in Addis Ababa to deliver competency-based training and desk-top exercise activities. The training focussed on the refreshment and further development of skills in prevention, preparedness, response and recovery for chemical incidents.

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



UKHSA and Department of Health Punjab Province Join Hands to Establish Priority Infectious Disease Data Flow

In Pakistan, the UKHSA IHR project with the support of the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination (MoNHSR&C) and National Institute of Health (NIH) is offering technical support to implement Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR). Most recently, to scale up IDSR Implementation work in the southern belt of Punjab province, the project has joined hands with the provincial health department to roll out real time surveillance system by conducting IDSR cascade trainings.



On the request of the provincial department of health, the IHR project arranged a one day hands-on training workshop for district level disease data entry focal points. A total of sixteen participants attended the workshop representing the Director General Health Services office, Provincial Management Information System (MIS) cell and 11 districts of the southern region.

The training focused on technical sessions pertaining to digital data entry, analytics and interpretation. This collaborative work not only helped to troubleshoot the DHIS disease data flow but has opened a prospective avenue for future programmatic integration of IDSR system with multiple vertical programmes.

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

Building capacity of front-line health care workers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Province, Pakistan

Since 2017, the UKHSA IHR Strengthening Project has worked with the health department in KP province to implement IDSR in accordance with the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005. IDSR cascade training is the IHR project's approach to building the capacity of frontline health care workers and surveillance staff in IDSR in Pakistan. The IDSR cascade training will not only further strengthen the priority disease response but will also enhance local capacities in responding endemic and emerging communicable diseases.

After successful IDSR cascade trainings in seven districts of KP Province, the IHR project has now added four more districts in collaboration with the National Institute of Health (NIH) and provincial department of health. Following this, training was conducted in Northern district of Dir Upper in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Province from Jun 27 to July 02, 2022. A total of 60 health facility in-charges, data entry focal points and district level vertical programme coordinators were trained in two batches.

Each group was trained on standardized IDSR cascade training modules. These modules focused on technical areas of IHR, IDSR, outbreak investigation, public health reference lab and lab network, multi-sector outbreak planning, risk assessment/communication and digital disease data flow mechanism. To enhance participants learning, table top exercises and role plays were carried out for technical areas of outbreak investigation, multi-sector coordination and risk assessment/communication. For effective and timely priority infectious disease data flow, hands on training on DHIS 2 and DHIS 2 capture app was conducted on the last day for each group.



Building on recent successful cascade training, the IHR project is committed to delivering a comprehensive IDSR training package to the remaining three districts in KP province in coming months.

[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.**

Case Studies

Case studies provide examples of the various activities undertaken by the IHR Strengthening Project - the case studies demonstrate the successes, learning and impact of the IHR Project's engagement and work with bilateral partners including National Public Health Institutes, Ministries of Health and regional agencies



UKHSA IHR Project Whole Genome Sequencing Laboratory Workshop at the Ethiopian Public Health Institute

The International Health Regulations (IHR) Strengthening Project provided lab-based training on whole genome sequencing to scientists at the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI). This was an excellent example of how a training workshop originally developed for UKHSA Porton-based genome sequencing staff, could be adapted to work in labs in low-middle income countries, one of the many benefits of intra-and inter-organisational collaboration. The lab-based course was delivered by members of the Novel and Dangerous Pathogens (NADP) Training team, on behalf of the UKHSA IHR project, and was supported by the UKHSA New Variant Assessment platform (NVAP) programme.



Collaboration Between UKHSA and the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPM) to Support the Professional Development of the Administration/Human Resource Workforce at NCDC

In pursuance of one of the triple mandates of the UKHSA IHR Strengthening Project (IHR-SP), to strengthen technical capacity in-country, the IHR-SP in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPM), supported the professional development of the administration/human resource workforce of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). This is the first of its kind in the IHR-SP learning interventions with the Administration/Human Resource department of the NCDC.

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 in Nigeria @UKinNigeria · 27 Jul
This week, @UKHSA #IHR_Strengthening Project commenced a 5-day training for staff working in @NCDcGov Nat'l Reference Lab & others within its network.

Key expected outcomes include good lab work practices, bio-risk management & inventory management of dangerous pathogens.



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UK in Nigeria @UKinNigeria · 28 Jul
@UKHSA #IHR_Strengthening Project is supporting a training the trainer workshop in Nigeria bringing together key #OneHealth stakeholders from @NCDcGov @FmardNg & @FMEvng to build capacity and capability in running Joint Risk Assessment for policy decision making in Nigeria.



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Sola Aruna @solaruna · 26 Jul
@UKHSA #IHR_Strengthening Project accompanied visiting colleagues from @DefraGovUK @CefasGovUK & @APHAgovuk on courtesy call on Hon. Minister @FmardNg



Elle Fairfoot Retweeted
UK Health Security Agency @UKHSA · 15 Jul

Three years after our work together began, we are very happy to be committing to a further three years of partnership working with @ZMPublicHealth and @mohzambia to strengthen #healthsecurity in Zambia, through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.



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Elle Fairfoot @fairfoot_ellie · 29 Jul
Final two days of the #IHR_Strengthening Laboratory Leaders Programme, culminating in an action plan exercise, helping the delegates translate the skills learnt in the sessions into their work.



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Elle Fairfoot @fairfoot_ellie · 27 Jul
The #laboratory team have taken over this afternoon, running an activity exploring laboratory stakeholder scenarios - important work on how effective leadership and management translates into these technical settings.



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Elle Fairfoot @fairfoot_ellie · 23 Jul
Such a privilege to work with this group! Thanks for having us @EPHIEthiopia #IHR_Strengthening



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Dr Sam Collins @DrSamColl · 7 Jul
Positioning continues to be a major #globalhealth concern. Great to spend more time at the Ramathibodi Poisons Centre, a @WHO collaborating centre in #Bangkok today. Looking forward to future collaborations on #ihr_strengthening in the #ASEAN region



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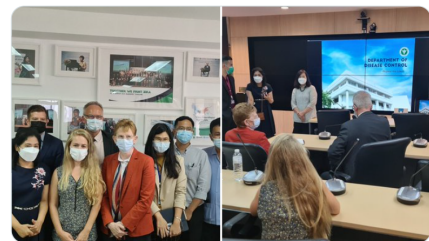
Elle Fairfoot @fairfoot_ellie · 6 Jul
Grateful to have the opportunity to attend the @GHS_conf #GHS22 - learning and listening, and meeting colleagues from across our organisation, and our partners from NPHIs across Africa and Asia. Incredibly proud to be part of the @UKHSA #IHR_Strengthening project team

UK Health Security Agency @UKHSA · 6 Jul
Our #IHR_Strengthening project team attended the fantastic @GHS_conf 2022 in Singapore & link with key partners from National Public Health Institutes across Africa & Asia. Learn more about the IHR Strengthening Project: gphir.tghn.org
[Show this thread](#)



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Dr Sam Collins @DrSamColl · 8 Jul
Fantastic day with the MoPH Department of Disease Control. Discussions focussed on #IHR_strengthening, genomics, FETP, Emergency Operating Centres and the establishment of the #ASEAN Center for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases.



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UK Health Security Agency @UKHSA · 11 Jul
The team also held a series of meetings with the #thailand Ministry of Public Health, Department of Disease Control to discuss collaboration under #IHR_strengthening.



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Summer Wellbeing Tips

1. Stay hydrated - be sure to drink lots of water especially during the hot weather
2. Ensure you get enough rest - hot temperatures might make it hard to get enough rest - try staying cool with a fan or open window
3. Exercise outdoors - try out a new sport such as swimming to maintain physical wellbeing
4. Wear sun-screen - this will protect you from the sun's harmful effects (a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30)
5. Continue to stay safe from COVID - wash your hands & stay home if you feel unwell