

AUGUST 2022

# THE IHR PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Updates from UKHSA's  
International Health Regulations  
Strengthening Project

## In this edition

- Updates from the IHR Project
- New resources on the IHR Project Knowledge Hub
- Media roundup
- Wellbeing tip

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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## Microbiology Mentorship - The Science Group Team's Visit to Zambia

In June 2022 as part of the IHR Strengthening Project, the Science Group team visited Zambia, with the purpose of finalising work plans with our partners at Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) and Ministry of Health, visiting the laboratories in the Copperbelt Province, and running a team building workshop with the Copperbelt Province Microbiology Team.

Dr Jumoke Sule and Esther Musongole met with Professor Chilengi, the Director General of ZNPHI and colleagues to discuss how we can collectively build sustainable capacity for diagnosis of diarrheal infections from sample collection to surveillance and reporting at ZNPHRL and network laboratories. They also met with focal points from the Ministry of Health and confirmed plans to support the Ministry's Quality Management Systems (QMS) certification and mentorship programme for laboratories in the Northern Province. This work is being led in-country by Esther Musongole, a qualified mentor and auditor and this activity will contribute to strengthening the wider public health laboratory system.



The team also undertook a scoping visit to the Zambia Food and Drug Control Laboratory, to assess areas to support QMS strengthening. Their toxicology laboratory is working towards accreditation to ISO 15189 standards for medical laboratories, which presents a great opportunity to practice a One Health approach to diagnostics. As a result, following the trip, the team ran a half-day remote workshop on QMS for 43 staff. This was well received by the laboratory director, who opened and closed the meeting, and stressed to the participants how valuable the work was to the business activity of the organisation.



The team then travelled to the Copperbelt Province, meeting the Copperbelt Province Microbiology Team (CPMT) and visiting their laboratories to understand the context in which they worked to run a team building workshop. They also visited the Tropical Diseases Research Centre who also participated in the workshop, presenting on their laboratory function and activity. Moving forward they will be working in collaboration with CPMT to achieve some of their shared objectives.

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

# Updates from the IHR Project

## IHR Strengthening Project Attends the Africa Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) Southern Africa Regional Conference 2022

The Africa Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) hosted the 2022 Southern Africa regional Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP) conference from August 3 to 5 2022 in Windhoek Namibia. The theme for the conference was “Strengthening Health Security through Evidence-Based Public Health Interventions in Southern Africa and beyond”. Mrs Carol Mufana from the IHR Strengthening Zambia team and FETP residents from our partner organisation ZNPHI attended. The conference was a great opportunity for inter-country learning among FETP participants from all the countries present and demonstrated the need to have adequate numbers of appropriately skilled field epidemiologists in Africa even more.



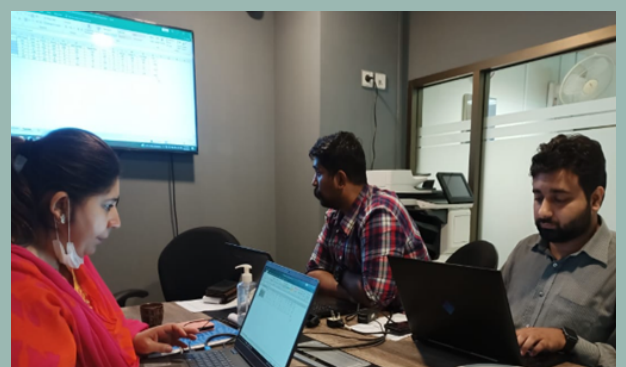
With the IHR Strengthening Project and ZNPHI’s strong focus on strengthening FETP in Zambia and the Southern Africa region going forward, the conference presented an opportunity to meet and create working relationships with other FETP coordinators in the region.

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

## Disease Data Flow in Response to Floods Emergency in Pakistan

The recent extended spell of heavy monsoon rainfalls in Pakistan has resulted in heavy floods, especially in three provinces (Baluchistan, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). The natural disaster has caused heavy loss of lives, structures and livelihoods.

Considering the high risk of water, food and vector borne diseases in flood relief camps, timely and reliable disease data was vital to guide response activities. NDMA, the National Ministry of Health Service Regulations & Coordination (MoNHSR&C) and the National Institute of Health (NIH) requested the UKHSA IHR Strengthening project to assist in establishing disease data flow from affected areas. The IDSR provincial and district focal persons of affected districts and UKHSA in-country surveillance and epidemiology team were included into a technical working group to propose and agree mandatory steps needed to initiate data flow.



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



# Updates from the IHR Project

## Mentoring and Laboratory Leaders Workshops with Ethiopian Public Health Institute

In July, the IHR Strengthening Project Workforce Development and Laboratory teams collaborated with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) to deliver two workshops in support of workforce strengthening.

The first 2-day workshop focussed on the development of mentorship skills for EPHI quality assurance colleagues charged with supporting hospital laboratories in achieving quality management accreditation. Participants practiced and developed the key skills to enable them to engage with laboratory staff and provide support by applying the R-GROW model (Relationship, Goal, Reality, Options and Will). This was well received by the participants who committed to using the new skills that they had acquired.

The next week, the teams again collaborated to deliver a 5-day workshop on Laboratory Leadership – sharing and discussing leadership and development practices and applying them to a laboratory setting. Participants were aspiring laboratory leaders from across EPHI. Each day consisted of a workforce session in the morning followed by a laboratory expert presenting in Amharic in the afternoon, demonstrating how those principles can be applied in context.



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

## IHR Strengthening Project attends the first stakeholders' meeting on health security in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region

Dr Anne Wilson (Head of the Project) was invited to and attended the first ASEAN Health Security Partners-Stakeholder meeting in Bangkok (July 27th-29th).

This meeting was co-chaired by the Singapore Ministry of Health and Canada Global Affairs, with all ten ASEAN nations represented and over 12 international partners present.



This important meeting enabled the IHR strengthening project to follow up on recent visits to a number of countries in the region and to continue its scoping and exploration of possible future IHR strengthening activity in the coming months and years. Existing partnerships were strengthened, and fruitful discussions were had on how the IHR-S project might better understand the priority IHR needs in the region and how best the project might collaborate going forward.



[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.**

## Telling our own story in global health - experience from Nigeria

Nigeria Centre for Disease Control | July 2022

An enlightening paper from the current and former Director Generals of the Nigeria Centre of Disease Control. The paper outlines the successful journey NCDC has taken to ensuring high quality data and outputs are published in international peer-reviewed journals and accessible for others to learn from.

The paper specifically highlights the contribution of the IHR Strengthening Project to Nigeria being able to tell it's own story in global health

**[Find this publication 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](#)**

## August Wellbeing Tip

It is important to ensure we are still getting enough exercise whilst working from home, a good way to do this is simply going on a walk. This can be done before work and you can talk to a friend or even listen to a podcast whilst doing so!

# 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 · 26 Aug

Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) is a framework to improve the response to the leading causes of infectious disease. The UKHSA #IHR\_Strengthening project has been working with our partners in Pakistan to improve IDSR for the past six years



**How we work**

- Peer support and mentoring for public health leaders
- Strengthening partner IHR coordination, planning and strategic function
- Workforce development through needs assessment, planning and strategies
- Context-specific technical training and strengthening of existing systems

**Expert technical areas**

- biosafety and biosecurity
- chemical hazards and poisoning
- epidemiology and disease surveillance
- emergency preparedness and response
- information systems
- laboratory systems and networks
- One Health
- points of entry
- workforce capability building

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**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA · 19 Aug

Replying to @UKHSA

This week, we partnered with @EMPHNET for a two-day workshop in Amman, Jordan, focusing on multi-sectoral coordination and strengthening emergency preparedness.



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**UK in Nigeria** @UKinNigeria · 11 Aug

The @UKHSA #IHR\_Strengthening Project led a 5-day workshop to develop internal auditors for @NCDCgov lab campuses to continuously improve on Lab quality management system to international standards within the Public Health network of labs.



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**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA · 26 Aug

This week together with federal and provincial representatives at @NIH\_Pakistan, the #IHR\_Strengthening team co-facilitated a national workshop celebrating the key achievements in IDSR & the challenges and opportunities for further expansion of IDSR throughout Pakistan



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**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA · 19 Aug

Delegates from Iraq and Pakistan shared their experiences, challenges, and best practices for health coordination across government sectors, particularly around advocacy and effectively engaging stakeholders in prevention, detection & response of infectious disease outbreaks



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**Taonga Thomas Tembo** @TaongaThomasTe2 · 19 Aug

@UKHSA #IHR\_Strengthening team this week jointly delivered a QMS training with @mohzambia as part of the QMS National Certification Program for Labs in the Northern part of the Country. All the very best to Labs and #IHR\_Strengthening team will continue to be a trusted friend



3 6

**Sola Aruna** @solaruna · 24 Aug

Glad to Join visiting @UKPHRST @LSHTM @PSIOxford colleagues in their collaborative engagement with @NCDCgov on #Monkeypox research in #Nigeria #IHR\_Strengthening Project #StrongerTogether @DrSamColl

**Gill Atkinson** @GillAtkinson11 · 24 Aug

Our @UKHSA have a long term and mutually beneficial partnership with @NCDC. I was delighted to meet with a team including @LSHTM who are here in to advance cooperation on #Monkeypox research.



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**GHD/EMPHNET** @EMPHNET · 17 Aug

GHD/EMPHNET in collaboration with @UKHSA is conducting a two-day training workshop in Amman, #Jordan under the IHR Strengthening Project. #IHR\_Strengthening



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**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA · 26 Aug

Dr Muhammad Sartaj, #IHR\_Strengthening project country lead talks about this achievement

**Dr Muhammad Sartaj**  
IHR Strengthening Project Country Lead for Pakistan, UKHSA

What Pakistan has achieved in the last six years would have taken other countries thirty years.

This is a moment to celebrate achievements, explore areas of good practice, opportunities for improvement and to move forward together to strengthen IDSR implementation in Pakistan and ultimately contribute to enhanced global health security.

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**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA · 16 Aug

Last week, some of our #IHR\_Strengthening project team headed to Bishoftu, #Ethiopia to partner with @EPHIEthiopia in delivering leadership training, to help develop and strengthen public health leadership.

**Dr Sam Collins** @DrSamColl · 24 Aug

People often ask me why I do this job. Because of days like today. Meeting incredibly dedicated partners and determining mutually beneficial ways to improve health security in . Exciting times ahead in Azad Jammu and Kashmir #ihr\_strengthening



2 5 14

**GHD/EMPHNET** @EMPHNET · 17 Aug

Strengthening advocacy and multi-sectoral coordination in the #EMR workshop - day 1 @UKHSA #ihr\_strengthening



**UK in Ethiopia** @UKinEthiopia · 15 Aug

Last week, the @UKHSA #IHR\_Strengthening workforce team and @EPHIEthiopia were in Bishoftu, Ethiopia, delivering leadership training, to help develop and strengthen public health leadership.

Stronger public health leaders means stronger global health security for us all



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**Annabel** @abl\_g · 30 Aug

Come and join our wonderful #IHR\_Strengthening project team in #Pakistan

[fco.tal.net/vx/appcentre-e...](https://fco.tal.net/vx/appcentre-e...)

**Annabel** @abl\_g · 1 Sep

More vacancies! Come and join our wonderful #IHR\_Strengthening team in #Zambia

- [fco.tal.net/vx/appcentre-e...](https://fco.tal.net/vx/appcentre-e...)
- [fco.tal.net/vx/appcentre-e...](https://fco.tal.net/vx/appcentre-e...)