

SEPTEMBER 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:
IHR.Programme@ukhsa.gov.uk

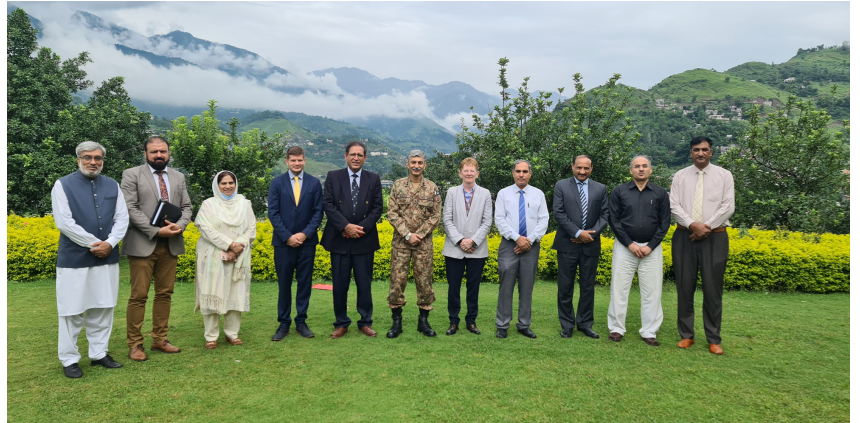
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Senior Leadership Team visit Pakistan to Celebrate the Successes of IDSR Implementation

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

In August, the Senior Leadership Team travelled to Pakistan. Together with federal and provincial representatives from the National Institute for Health (NIH), they co-facilitated a national workshop celebrating the key achievements in IDSR. The workshop was incredibly successful and explored the challenges and opportunities for further expansion of IDSR throughout Pakistan.



"What Pakistan has achieved in 6 years would have taken other countries 30 years. This is a time to celebrate success, explore areas of good practice, opportunities for improvement, and to move forward together to further strengthen IDSR in Pakistan"

Dr Muhammad Sartaj,
Country Lead for Pakistan

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

Sample Management and Molecular Detection of Monkeypox Training

The IHR Strengthening Project Ethiopia Laboratory Team in collaboration with Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) delivered sample management and molecular diagnosis of Monkeypox training from 22-26 August 2022.

As part of the emergency preparedness for Monkeypox laboratory detection capacity, the IHR laboratory team and EPHI provided Monkeypox sample collection and transportation training to 32 laboratory professionals from regional laboratories across Ethiopia. Monkeypox molecular detection (Rt-PCR) training was also provided to 6 laboratory personnel from 4 regional laboratories for 3 days from August 24-25, 2022. Both trainings were well received by the participants, and training will continue to be rolled out for other regional laboratories.



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

Leadership Development Programme in Ethiopia

After 18 months of work and planning with Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), the IHR Strengthening Workforce Development team led by Peter Robinson delivered a Leadership Development Programme from August 10th to 13th in Bishoftu city, Ethiopia, aimed at supporting senior leaders at EPHI.



"We had unforgettable experience and learning during our stay at Kuriftu. We laughed, ate, learnt from each other, exercised, planned to use the most out of the leadership training for the best interest of the institute and ourselves, and so much more"

Dr Getachew Tollera,
Deputy Director
General Office.

26 delegates from the EPHI management committee from Directors to Director Generals participated in the programme. Participants were trained in leadership concepts focussing on leading themselves, their teams, and the wider system. The programme was well received by the delegates who particularly liked the adult learning style, the lively discussions and fruitful interactions among their colleagues. All participants left with a personal action plan for their own leadership practice and development with their teams with follow ups planned to check progress after 1 month and 3 months.

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

Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards and Public Health Foundational Training has Positive Impact in Zambia

In June 2022, the IHR Strengthening Project Radiation, Chemical and Environmental (RCE) team, with the support from the IHR Strengthening Zambia team, delivered Chemical hazards and public health foundational training. The training consisted of presentations and interactive workshops designed to develop skills in managing chemical public health emergencies and demonstrate how emergency response, planning, and chemical surveillance can help prevent and limit the impact of chemical incidents.

The RCE team has been working with ZNPHI and other key stakeholders to strengthen the national capacity to improve environmental surveillance and response to chemical incidents in the country. This was RCE's third time in-country, and the delivery of the training provided initial steps on improving these key aims. The training also offered the opportunity to introduce the concept of a chemicals technical working group which would improve multi sectoral collaboration between stakeholders to deal with chemical issues in country.



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

Public Health Emergency Simulation Exercise Training of Trainers



Public health emergency simulation exercises play a role in identifying the strength and gaps in health system capacities and lay out practical corrective actions needed to develop and implement preparedness and response capacities at national and subnational levels.

To this end, the Africa Centres for Disease Control (Africa CDC) in collaboration with the IHR Strengthening Project, and the Eastern Central and Southern Africa Health community conducted a public health emergency simulation exercise management training for trainers in Chongwe, Zambia, 18th – 23rd July.

The training was aimed at strengthening country's preparedness to various public health emergencies via testing the all-hazard plans, emergency preparedness and response plans. 30 Participants' were trained in identifying the types of exercise to run, how to design, conduct and evaluate exercises, and how to train others on exercise management. The aim of the training was to allow respective countries to build their capacity, be able to identify gaps and challenges in their emergency preparedness and response, and amend them to be better prepared for public health emergencies. During the 6 days, the participants were engaged in concept note creation for exercises; developing and designing exercises; using tools and documents at hand. As a result, they were able to run their own table-top exercise the last day on a scenario presented.

[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](#)

Monthly Media Round Up

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

Annabel @abi_g

Hiring! Come and join the wonderful #IHR_Strengthening MREL team in London.

[healthjobsuk.com/job/UK/London/...](https://healthjobsuk.com/job/UK/London/)

9:01 AM · Sep 16, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

Sola Aruna @solaruna

Last week, the #IHR_Strengthening Learning Exchange Visit kicked off with meeting of both teams including @NCDCgov @DrSamColl @pantuvoj @awils8



9:34 AM · Sep 26, 2022 · Twitter for Android

Sola Aruna @solaruna

Followed by a warm welcome by @NIH_Pakistan CDC Chief Dr Mumtaz Ali Khan & Chief PH Ref. labs Dr Muhammad Salman and colleagues. Rich exchanges with @NCDCgov and visiting team.



9:50 AM · Sep 26, 2022 · Twitter for Android

Sola Aruna @solaruna

Visiting team privileged to be received by @nhsrcofficial DG (Health) Dr Shaba Saleem and top team. Excellent discussion on #IDSR implementation in #Africa & further potential #IHR_Strengthening bilateral learning. @DrSamColl @UKHSA @NCDCgov @UKgovGHS @awils8



10:03 AM · Sep 26, 2022 · Twitter for Android

Sola Aruna @solaruna

Privileged to attend #IDSR training in beautiful Muzaffarabad. Thanks to Dr Aftab Ahmed & Dr Syed Nadeem for giving visiting team opportunity to share thoughts with participants. @UKHSA @NCDCgov @DrSamColl @pantuvoj @awils8



11:05 AM · Sep 26, 2022 · Twitter for Android

Ellie Fairfoot @fairfoot_ellie

Amazing example of cross project learning from our #Pakistan and #Nigeria teams! #IHR_Strengthening

Sola Aruna @solaruna · Sep 26

Last week, the #IHR_Strengthening Learning Exchange Visit kicked off with meeting of both teams including @NCDCgov @DrSamColl @pantuvoj @awils8

[Show this thread](#)



1:08 PM · Sep 30, 2022 · Twitter Web App

NCDC @NCDCgov

Last week, we held a 3-day training on proper use & care of the Biosafety Cabinet & other ancillary equipment for our lab network supported by the @UKHSA #IHR_Strengthening team

Participants were trained on operational principles, routine maintenance & decontamination procedures



Ifedayo Adetifa and 6 others

3:39 PM · Sep 25, 2022 · Twitter for Android

Anagboso Ikenna @Anagbosolikenna

I'm glad to be part of this training. Happy thanks to @NCDCgov @UKHSA #IHR_Strengthening Project



Anagboso Ikenna

NCDC @NCDCgov · Sep 25

Last week, we held a 3-day training on proper use & care of the Biosafety Cabinet & other ancillary equipment for our lab network supported by the @UKHSA #IHR_Strengthening team

Participants were trained on operational principles, routine maintenance & decontamination procedures



11:40 PM · Sep 25, 2022 from Places · Twitter for Android

Sola Aruna @solaruna

@UKHSA #IHR_Strengthening Project is glad to support @NCDCgov welcome stride in building local sustainability in equipment maintenance for its lab network. @bumyn15

NCDC @NCDCgov · Sep 25

Last week, we held a 3-day training on proper use & care of the Biosafety Cabinet & other ancillary equipment for our lab network supported by the @UKHSA #IHR_Strengthening team

Participants were trained on operational principles, routine maintenance & decontamination procedures



9:08 PM · Sep 25, 2022 · Twitter for Android

September Wellbeing Tip

This month we want to share a resource with you from the Samaritans on Top Tips for being a good listener. You can use this resource in conversations with your family, friends and colleagues [listening-tips-poster.pdf \(samaritans.org\)](#).



SAMARITANS

SHUSH

-listening tips

Top tips for becoming a better listener

Samaritans wants to encourage people to listen to the really important things their friends, family and colleagues need to tell them, and to devote some time and attention to being better listeners.

- S** Show you care: Focus on the other person, make eye contact, put away your phone.
- H** Have patience: It may take time and several attempts before a person is ready to open up.
- U** Use open questions: That's all most that you've got, and follow up by "Tell me more".
- S** Say it back: To check you've understood, but don't interrupt or offer a solution.
- H** Have courage: Don't be put off by a negative response and, most importantly, don't let you have to fill a silence.

samaritans.org/tips