

FEBRUARY 2023

# 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](mailto:IHR.Programme@ukhsa.gov.uk)

Or alternatively, reach out to our communication leads:

Ellie Fairfoot, Project Officer  
[ellie.fairfoot@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:ellie.fairfoot@ukhsa.gov.uk)

Beenish Arfeen, Project Administrator  
[beenish.arfeen@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:beenish.arfeen@ukhsa.gov.uk)



## IHR Strengthening Project Nigeria Team - Highlights from Q1 – Q3 2022/23 Financial Year

The IHR Strengthening Project has worked in Nigeria formally since October 2018. Our activities in country are guided by the IHR Core Capacities, and Joint External Evaluation (JEE), and are closely aligned with country identified priorities, enabling us to provide technical expertise in the following thematic areas:

- Laboratory Systems and Network
- Chemical Events
- Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance
- Emergency, Preparedness, Resilience and Response
- One Health and
- Workforce capacity building

Over the last couple of months with thanks to our partners, the UKHSA IHR Strengthening Nigeria team has embarked on a number of activities tied to each thematic area covered. This article gives a great overview of the team's engaging and impactful work between Q1 – Q3 of 2022/2023 Financial Year.

[Read the full article here](#)



## Pakistan In-Country Team Collaborates with WHO to Hold National Workshop on the 2nd Joint External Evaluation (JEE)

Joint External Evaluations (JEE) are a voluntary, collaborative process to assess country's core capacities under IHR 2005. Pakistan was the first country in the EMRO region to volunteer for the first JEE in 2016 and established a baseline of Pakistan's IHR core capacities to develop a five year National Action Plan for Health security. To track the progress made since 2016 and identify gaps, the second JEE will be conducted by the end of March 2023. Based on the second JEE findings and Mission Report recommendations, Pakistan will update its national action plan for Health Security.

The National workshop on the 2nd JEE self-evaluation and Joint Assessment of International Health Regulations (2005) was held on 6th- 9th February, 2023 at Islamabad. The meeting was attended by the National and Provincial focal persons of the 19 technical areas of IHR core capacities.

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



# Updates from the IHR Project

## Step-Down Delivery of Laboratory Diagnostics of Diphtheria to Key Regional Labs in Nigeria



Laboratory diagnosis of Diphtheria and Pertussis in Nigeria is limited, the lack of expertise within this specialized area of laboratory diagnostics has considerable public health implications, particularly since toxigenic strains persist and clinical cases and sporadic outbreaks continue to occur in Nigeria; a recent outbreak was reported in the southwest region of Nigeria in December 2022.

Between the 16th and 20th of January 2023 a workshop was held at the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) laboratories in Abuja supporting the step-down delivery of laboratory diagnostics of diphtheria to key regional laboratories in the country.

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

## Copperbelt Microbiology Team Review Meeting

IHR Strengthening project laboratory team has been working in partnership with the Zambia Ministry of Health (MOH) to strengthen IHR capacity and sustainable public health networks at national and subnational level in Zambia. Two activities took place in February. Esther Musongole and Jumoke Sule attended a 3-day workshop with MOH colleagues to develop training material in laboratory audit and risk management for use in the MOH laboratory certification programme. This workshop ensured that training delivered to participants of the programme is standardised across the board.

The second activity was a two day annual review meeting of the Copperbelt Microbiology Team (CBMT) which was sponsored and supported by UKHSA.

In February 2022, following a brief microbiology mentorship to a laboratory in the Copperbelt, the mentorship was extended to four additional laboratories and the CBMT was formed. The team has monthly virtual meetings and quarterly face to face meetings with training on topics they identify covering laboratory quality and safety, microbiology diagnostics and leadership. In addition the team has CBMT-led monthly operational meetings and formed audit, research and interlaboratory comparison sub-committees to drive their action plan. The annual review meeting took place to showcase the work done by the team as a result of the collaboration over the last 12 months.



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

# Updates from the IHR Project

## The Project Supports the Ethiopia Subnational Amhara and Somalia One Health Task Forces

Since its establishment in 2016 the Ethiopian National One Health Steering Committee (NOHSC) and its Technical Working Groups, with the support of development partners such as UKHSA IHR Strengthening project, have worked to advance the multisectoral collaboration mechanism through a One Health (OH) Approach. Among the various efforts is the establishment of sub-national/regional OH platforms which support the establishment of 10 Regional OH Taskforces (ROHTFs), 7 zonal and about a hundred woreda (administrative regions of Ethiopia) platforms.

At the beginning of this fiscal year, the NOHSC in collaboration with OH partners planned to conduct supervision and backstopping activities in selected ROHTFs of the country. Work was conducted to assess the progress and major challenges of OH taskforces during OH operationalization in Amhara and Somali regions and to provide backstopping support based on the findings in order to reinstate their functionality.



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

## The Inauguration of the Nigeria National One Health Technical Committee

Recognising the role of One Health (OH) coordination in improving country compliance to the International Health Regulations (IHR) for global health security, UKHSA was very pleased to support the inauguration of Nigeria's National One Health Technical Committee (NOHTC) on Friday 17th February 2023.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the committee were agreed during the development of the 5-year strategic plan (2019 – 2023) for OH in Nigeria, which was endorsed by the three Line Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Rural Development and Environment. The aim of the NOHTC, as stipulated in the OH Strategic Plan, is to supervise the operation of the National One Health Coordinating Unit (NOHCU). The NOHTC is also to provide technical advice on national OH coordination to the ministerial level, in the form of the National One Health Steering Committee (NOHSC).

The inaugural meeting set the stage for fine tuning the ToR for the NOHTC, as well as provided members a breakdown of its membership, functions and statutory duties which will be instrumental in the upcoming revision of the OH Strategic Plan which will be coming to an end in 2023.

[Read the full article on 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.



One of the ways that the [#IHR\\_Strengthening](#) project team in Nigeria works with public health institutions is in contributing to building technical capacity and strengthening systems/networks. [@NCDCgov](#) [@ifedayoTiffy](#)



UK Health Security Agency and 9 others

8:33 AM · Feb 6, 2023 · 10.3K Views



This collaboration between the Project and [@cipmnigeria](#) on professional development of the admin/HR workforce of [@NCDCgov](#) supports the institutional strengthening of the [#Nigeria's #IHR](#) National Focal Point.

8:33 AM · Feb 6, 2023 · 931 Views



This week, the [@UKHSA #IHR\\_Strengthening](#) Project hosted a 3-day workshop to support the [@NCDCgov](#) Administration/Human Resource Workforce with additional skills in the design and implementation of competency framework in organisational development.

8:33 AM · Feb 6, 2023 · 1,212 Views



[@UKHSA #IHR\\_Strengthening](#) project team works in partnership with [@mohzambia #CBMT\\_ZAMBIA #COPPERBELT\\_MICRO](#) presented their amazing work at our successful 2-day review meeting. Thanks to partners and [#UKHSA M&E](#) for attending [@mohzambia @cidrzinfo @APHL](#)



10:07 AM · Feb 25, 2023 · 687 Views

## Monthly Wellbeing Update

The Kaido Challenge is back! Kaido is a four-week wellbeing challenge designed to help you engage with your health in a fun and interactive way. The focus is on four key pillars of health: Physical Activity, Mental Health, Nutrition and Sleep. But it's not your usual step challenge...

You will work together, competing against other teams, to earn points for the improvements we make in your lifestyle. These points fuel your progress along a virtual journey, unlocking milestones and the opportunity to win prizes and rewards. And don't worry if physical activity isn't your thing - with Kaido you can garden, meditate, and even food-swap your way to victory!

How to get involved:

- Watch the [challenge launch](#) video to get you started.
- [Sign up for the challenge](#) using your UKHSA email and join the IHR Dream Team (either by searching or getting me to add you). You can use the Kaido website and/or download the Kaido mobile app which you can link to your wearable devices to track physical activity or manually input.
- Already have an existing Kaido account? Simply login using [this link](#), click 'Join the Challenge' button and create your team. You can also invite your colleagues to join your team by inputting their email addresses.