

APRIL/MAY/JUNE 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)

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# Updates from the IHR Project

Access the latest news from the IHR Project and its partners on the **"News" page of our knowledge hub.**



**[Read about the event on the hub](#)**

## Celebrating the Completion of the Workforce Development Programme in Pakistan

In March 2022, the UKHSA in collaboration with National Institute of Health (NIH) launched two workforce development programs to build the softer public health skill of surveillance and public health labs staff involved in implementing Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) in Pakistan.

The Aspiring Labs Leaders (ALL) program and Public Health System Mentoring (PHSM) scheme were designed and delivered by UKHSA. They aimed to develop support the IDSR workforce's leadership skills and public health networking through peer-to-peer support. The ALL program and PHSM scheme completed in next six months after the initial training workshops in March 2022.

In February 2023 a two-day event was delivered to provide top up training and evaluate both programs.

## Laboratory Leadership Training for Resilient National Public Health Laboratories in Dakar, Senegal

Enhanced leadership, workforce and organisational development in partner country and regional public health organisations is one element of the IHR Strengthening Projects' triple remit. To address this remit UKHSA has established a programme for Public Health Laboratory managers to facilitate skills development in the areas of laboratory management and leadership. This has been delivered previously by public health laboratory colleagues from 12 member states of the Eastern and Southern region of Africa.

After a year there was a request to deliver the content to colleagues from Francophone and Lusophone member states on April 12-17 in Dakar, Senegal. The training brought together 20 laboratory leaders (including Lab Directors from National Public Health Institutes) from 10 African countries (two from each country) to discuss technical and leadership aspects of laboratory management.

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



## Updates from the IHR Project

### UKHSA National Institute of Health (NIH), Pakistan training workshop on Mpox laboratory diagnosis



The first case of Mpox was confirmed in Pakistan on 25th April 2023 followed by two more cases with travel history from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



On 27th April 2023, the National Command & Operation Center (NCOC) of Pakistan identified the need to enhance national capacity for detection of Mpox virus. In this context, a two-day national training workshop on laboratory diagnosis of Mpox was jointly organized by UKHSA and NIH from 9th to 10th May, 2023 in Islamabad with participation from technical leads of national, provincial and regional public health Reference Laboratories.



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

### Supporting a Case Study on Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) in Chongwe Zambia

A team of UKHSA staff, Zambia National Public Health Institute staff and Levy Mwanawasa Medical University (LMMU) visited Chongwe's Chalimbana community on 28th February 2023. The visit aimed to explore the topic of potential toxic health effects of chemical use in mosquito control in Zambia, which had been highlighted as a priority for Zambia in previous discussions with stakeholders.

UKHSA's environmental epidemiology lead, Dr Leonardi, proposed that a team would visit Chongwe, a location in the vicinity of Lusaka, to interview health workers involved in Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) and other activities as part of integrated mosquito management in that community.

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



# Updates from the IHR Project

## Field Epidemiology Training at Levy Mwanawasa Medical University

UKHSA in conjunction with Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) and Levy Mwanawasa Medical University (LMMU) conducted a training in Environmental Epidemiology to Master of Science Field Epidemiology fellows at LMMU.

The main objective of the training was to increase capacity in chemical responsiveness as a public health service through a combined effort of several agencies in Zambia. The module delivered lectures and interactive group work discussions of case studies. Some of these case studies were developed in Zambia and the team is on track to develop more Zambian based case studies to be used for future trainings.

The training concluded with a field visit to Chunga landfill, which is the only landfill in Lusaka City. The aim of this visit was to interact with families living close to the landfill and understand perceptions of their environment, health status and quality of life.

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

## UKHSA supported successful completion of 2nd Joint External Evaluation (JEE) in Pakistan

The UKHSA Pakistan in-country team has made a significant contribution to the second Joint External Evaluation (JEE) in Pakistan. UKHSA was officially requested by the federal ministry of health to facilitate the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) exercise for the International Health Regulations (IHR) in Pakistan, both at the federal and the provincial level. UKHSA started working in Pakistan after formal invitation by the country to assist in compliance with IHR-2005, following the recommendation made in the first JEE in 2016. After 6 years, Pakistan requested WHO to carry out the second JEE to analyse improvements and to gauge status of IHR compliance.

The JEE exercise commenced in February 2023 and finally concluded in May 2023, using the latest version (version 3.0) of the JEE tool which consisted of 19 areas, each further segregated into sub-areas, the total capacities amounting to 56. The UKHSA team participated in the processes of identifying tailored recommendations which will guide Pakistan towards developing a roadmap to enhance their preparedness and response capabilities. Throughout the JEE activities, the Government of Pakistan and partners formally acknowledged and applauded UKHSA's positive contribution to the JEE process, which will pave the way for future strengthening of IHR capacity and capability in Pakistan.



[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.

**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA · May 31  
Our [#IHR\\_Strengthening](#) project team works with public health institutions in Africa & Asia to better prepare for & respond to public health emergencies - including strengthening [#publichealth](#) leadership



**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA

Last week the [#IHR\\_Strengthening](#) Project's Radiation, Chemical and Environmental (RCE) hazards team co-delivered a Poisons Centre workshop with [@Fmohnigeria](#) to develop key goals, stakeholder responsibilities and a roadmap for establishing a poison centre in Nigeria.



**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA  
Our [#IHR\\_Strengthening](#) project team works with public health institutions in Africa & Asia to better prepare for & respond to public health emergencies - including strengthening [#publichealth](#) leadership



**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA · Apr 21  
The Laboratory Leadership training for Resilient National Public Health Laboratories took place last week in Dakar, Senegal, with participants from across francophone and lusophone West African MS. [@AfricaCDC](#) [#laboratoryleadership](#) [#laboratorymanagement](#)



**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA · May 19  
Our [#IHR\\_Strengthening](#) project team works with public health institutions in Africa & Asia to better prepare for & respond to public health emergencies - including strengthening [#publichealth](#) leadership.



**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA · May 19  
The [#IHR\\_Strengthening](#) Project continues to work with the Copperbelt Province Microbiology Team looking at assay verification, root cause analysis, laboratory quality, leadership, research methods and public speaking.

1 1 1,560

**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA · May 19  
Thanks to [@mohzambia](#) and our co-trainers from [@TDRCNdola](#) & [@cldrinfo](#) for their continued commitment to improving microbiology practice in [#Zambia](#). [#IHR\\_Strengthening](#) [#Microbiology](#)

1 2 2 7,937

**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA · May 31  
Poison centres play a key role in the implementation of International Health Regulations by providing a national and sometimes regional enhanced capacity to treat chemical poisonings and detect potential public health issues.

1 1 1 9,131

**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA · May 31  
The team also supported [@Fmohnigeria](#) in hosting the 3rd National Committee on Chemical Surveillance and Emergency System meeting in Abuja, with [@NCDCgov](#), [@FMEvng](#) and other stakeholders, involving key discussions on chemical surveillance guidance, SIMEX & laboratory capacity.

1 1 1 8,984

**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA · Apr 21  
The programme aims to encourage delegates to explore management & leadership concepts useful to their workplace, creating a self-sustaining network of public health laboratory leaders across Africa - and enabling information and learning exchanges.



1 1 1 9,544

**UK Health Security Agency** @UKHSA · May 19  
The team working with [@mohzambia](#) looks forward to expanding this work in an effort to strengthen medical microbiology laboratory services toward improved clinical and public healthcare outcomes in Zambia. [#IHR\\_Strengthening](#) [#PublicHealth](#) [#Microbiology](#)

1 1 1 7,992

## Wellbeing Update

The [Walking at Work campaign](#) highlights the many benefits of getting more movement into your working day!

For many people at work, with the increase of remote working life has become a lot more sedentary and it can be difficult to fit exercise into our busy schedules. Walking meetings are one way to ensure you get exercise into your day. There are some great resources on the [Living Streets Campaign](#) which can help you get the most of your meetings.

Resources that can support different aspects of your workday:

[Pre-Meeting Meditations](#)

In these 60 and 90-second guided meditations, you and your teams can reset before a meeting to boost productivity.

[Mindful Leadership Wisdom Series](#)

In this series you'll discover how mindfulness can improve your leadership skills in the workplace.

[Tech Neck](#)

In this 6-minute Daily Move session, you'll be guided through gentle full-body exercises that'll release the tension in your neck after a long workday.

