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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Leadership and Management ‘train the trainer’ model put to the test in Zambia

Working in partnership Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) and Ministry of Health (MOH), Workforce Development colleagues from IHR-SP UK and Zambia teams delivered a three-day work Leadership and Management workshop. The workshop was aimed at middle managers, attended by colleagues from the ZNPHI and MOH. Its success resulted in several participants expressing interest in sharing the material to members of the wider public health system across Zambia by way of a ‘train the trainer’ approach.

As a result, the Workforce Development and Emergency Preparedness teams designed a train the trainer version of this workshop and returned to Lusaka from 30th July – 4th August, where 19 colleagues from ZNPHI, MoH, and the UKHSA- IHR programme gathered to pilot this new way of working. Participants are enthusiastic to take the next steps which will involve co-facilitation of trainings scheduled for October/November 2023. These sessions will be evaluated to help us further understand the effectiveness of the previous training activities. Our next steps will be to work with ZNPHI to build a sustainable model for the in-house delivery of these trainings going forward.

Read about the event on the hub


The UKHSA-delivered IHR Strengthening Project (IHR-SP) in collaboration with the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) EPR cluster and the World Health Organization (WHO) conducted dissemination and orientation workshops in all ten provinces of Zambia from 10th-14th July 2023. Epidemic Prevention, Preparedness, Management and Control (EPPMC) Committee Terms of Reference (TORs) were also disseminated to subnational level. A two-day preparatory meeting prior to the dissemination was held from 6th-7th July 2023. The multi-hazards EPR plan has since been successfully rolled out in 50 districts, with work ongoing in the remaining 66 districts.

Read the full article on the hub
Updates from the IHR Project

Nigeria Demonstrates Improvement in its Second Joint External Evaluation (JEE)

As a signatory to the adoption of the International Health Regulations (IHR) at the 58th World Health Assembly, Nigeria conducted its first Joint External Evaluation (JEE) in 2017 using the JEE tool. This first JEE enabled the development of a five-year National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) in 2018 to help improve the country's ability to prevent, detect and respond to public health emergencies, and also formed the baseline that will be used to measure the country's improvements in subsequent JEEs.

The IHR-Strengthening Project, delivered by UKHSA, has been part of the country's JEE journey since 2017, providing technical expertise in several IHR thematic areas to the National Coordination Unit for IHR, Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) and its partners. This is in line with the UKHSA IHR-SP's core mandate to work with partner countries to support improved IHR compliance and global health security.

The UKHSA IHR-SP continues to support strengthening Nigeria's capacity to comply with the IHRs and was particularly recognised for its efforts as one of the few international partners supporting the Chemical Events thematic area of the IHRs in the closing speech of the Director General of the NCDC. Following the conclusion of the Second JEE in Nigeria, the UKHSA IHR-SP will be working with the NCDC and its partners to finalize the creation and subsequent implementation of the country's second NAPHS.

The IHR-SP One Health team supports the pilot of the WHO Response Preparedness Programme (RePrep) Operational Tool and the Workforce Development Operational Tool (WFD OT) in Ethiopia

The World Health Organization (WHO) Response Preparedness (RePrep) workshop on preparedness for response to zoonotic outbreaks was held in Addis Ababa from 23-26 May 2023. The workshop is part of the RePrep programme that the WHO developed to support countries in developing a joint, intersectoral framework for zoonotic disease outbreak response. The workshop in Addis Ababa was among the first implementations of this programme globally and the first in Africa.

This pilot of the RePrep to Zoonotic Disease Outbreaks Operational Tool and the Workforce Development Operational Tool (WFD OT) was organised by WHO upon request from the Ethiopia National One Health Steering Committee (NOHSC) represented by Dr Feyesa Regassa from the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI). Facilitators included WHO HQ representatives, Lisa Sheuermann leading on the RePrep pilot and Ong-orn Aim Prasarnphanich leading on the WFD-OT pilot, WHO Afro representatives included Dr Tieble Traore, Dr Dilyis Morgan and Triantafyllia Efthymiou, WHO Ethiopia representatives included Dr Patrick Abok and Dr Mohammed Abdikadir, and Dr Kiki Oluwaroore represented the WHO office in Nigeria. UKHSA IHR-SP as a valued partner was represented by Lukeki Kaindama, as a facilitator, and Dr Baye Wassie who provided technical contributions in the group work and plenary discussions.

Read the full article on the hub
Updates from the IHR Project

Strengthening dengue vector surveillance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province: A joint initiative of UKHSA and Integrated Vector Management (IVM) Program

In collaboration with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provincial Health Department, the UKHSA delivered International Health Regulations Strengthening Project (IHR-SP) has successfully established real time surveillance of 43 priority infectious diseases, now including dengue fever. By implementing an Integrated Disease Surveillance & Response (IDSR) system for dengue fever, the aim is to strengthen routine surveillance, improve early detection, and prevention and control of the disease.

A one-day training workshop was subsequently arranged to build the capacity of staff involved with vector surveillance activities in the community. A total of 84 vector surveillance staff participated in the workshop and learned how to record, report and analyse vector surveillance data by using DHIS 2 system.

In the long term, the DHIS 2 vector surveillance data will be integrated with the already established National IDSR system for 43 priority infectious diseases, for an effective routine disease surveillance and event-based surveillance system.

Read about the event on the hub

UKHSA's IHR-S Project and Pakistan’s National Institute of Health to develop collaborative action plan for capacity strengthening of Provincial Public Health Reference Labs

In a continuous effort to expand Public Health Reference Lab (PHRL) infrastructure and networks to support integrated disease surveillance and response (IDSR) of priority diseases in Pakistan, a comprehensive scoping visit of Punjab provincial and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) regional labs was conducted by the technical teams of UKHSA and Pakistan’s National Institute of Health (NIH) in June.

The objectives of visits were to assess capacity within the PHRLs to test for priority diseases, understand the use of open system laboratory techniques across the networks and identify gaps and challenges faced by current operations.

Muhammad Sartaj, Pakistan country lead for UKHSA's IHR-SP said:

“UKHSA and NIH are dedicated to developing a joint action plan to provide technical assistance to these PHRLs to enhance their capacity for testing of priority diseases and development of tiered public health lab networks in Punjab and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. We will continue to work in partnership to implement the action plan and will keep future progress under active review.”

Read the full article on the hub
A selection of recent appearances of the IHR Project in the media. Please click the items to view the posts.

Wellbeing Update

Get your flu vaccination
The flu vaccination programme in UKHSA will start on 2 October. There will be limited on-site clinics and vouchers available, find out more about the flu vaccination: who should have it and why on GOV.UK
Find out more on the UKHSA Pulse Occupational Health flu page

Check your eye health
Eye strain
It is recommended to take an eye break from your screen every 20 minutes. Read more about fighting eye strain.

Check your Display Screen Equipment assessment is up to date
There are local DSE coordinators available to help, if you need assistance with your assessment or workstation setup. DSE training and assessments must be carried out every 3 years. Further support is available from Occupational Health if other adjustments are required. Find out more about the DSE assessment.