

UKOTs Public Health Programme Newsletter

October 2023

In this edition:

- Reflections: IPS Conference
- Prison Mental Health Service Provision in Montserrat
- UKOTs Power Outage Project
- Media Round Up

Welcome! This publication provides updates for colleagues and partners across UKHSA, OHID and the Overseas Territories. If you have any queries, feedback or contributions please contact: UKOTs.Programme@ukhsa.gov.uk

Reflections: Infection Prevention Society (IPS) Conference

Reflections by Janice Toplass, IPC Nurse Specialist, UKOTs Programme

October was a fantastic month for promoting Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) as the programme was able to support 8 national IPC leads and focal points from 7 UKOTs: Anguilla, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, British Virgin Islands, Falkland Islands and Montserrat; to attend the UK's IPS Conference in Liverpool, UK. We had 2 posters from our UKOTs IPC and AMR network in the conference with Dr Tiffannie Skerritt from Montserrat delivering an excellent poster talk.

The Conference had 3 main themes: Antimicrobial Resistance, IPC and the Environment, and Preparedness. It exceeded expectations with the wealth and breadth of knowledge catering to all, through world class speakers, academic lectures, poster presentations, industry stands and networking giving everyone inspiration and fresh ideas to take back to the workplace.



Taking the opportunity whilst everyone was together we held an additional training day and were joined by Dr Natalie Wright, Health Protection Lead. This allowed more networking between UKOT colleagues, time to reflect on the learning from the conference and an opportunity to talk about IPC care bundles and quality improvement.

The feedback has been excellent and colleagues have many 'take homes' to explore in relation to their own healthcare systems for improving IPC and patient care.

Prison Mental Health Service Provision in Montserrat

In October, Ian Rummery, a Community Psychiatric Nurse in St Helena, visited Montserrat with Sunita Sturup-Toft, Consultant in Global Public Health, to pilot the Prison Mental Health Standards developed by the UKOTs Prison Health Network. Ian has been involved in developing prison mental health services in St Helena for the past 5-6 years, so his clinical perspective and Sunita's public health perspective was a great match for this visit to Montserrat.

Ian reflected on the visit as being an excellent opportunity to observe the existing structures and processes of the prison and mental health services; identify problems within the mental health legislation in Montserrat; and support Montserrat colleagues in improving mental health services and treatment pathways in the prison.

The peer support approach to this visit was highly favoured by all because it welcomed knowledge sharing from multiple perspectives, which was enabled through having real life conversations.

UKOTs Power Outage Project

As part of the UKOTs programme, the Behavioural Science and Insights Unit conducted an evidence assessment on public behaviour during power outages to develop actionable recommendations for mitigating negative impacts on health and wellbeing.

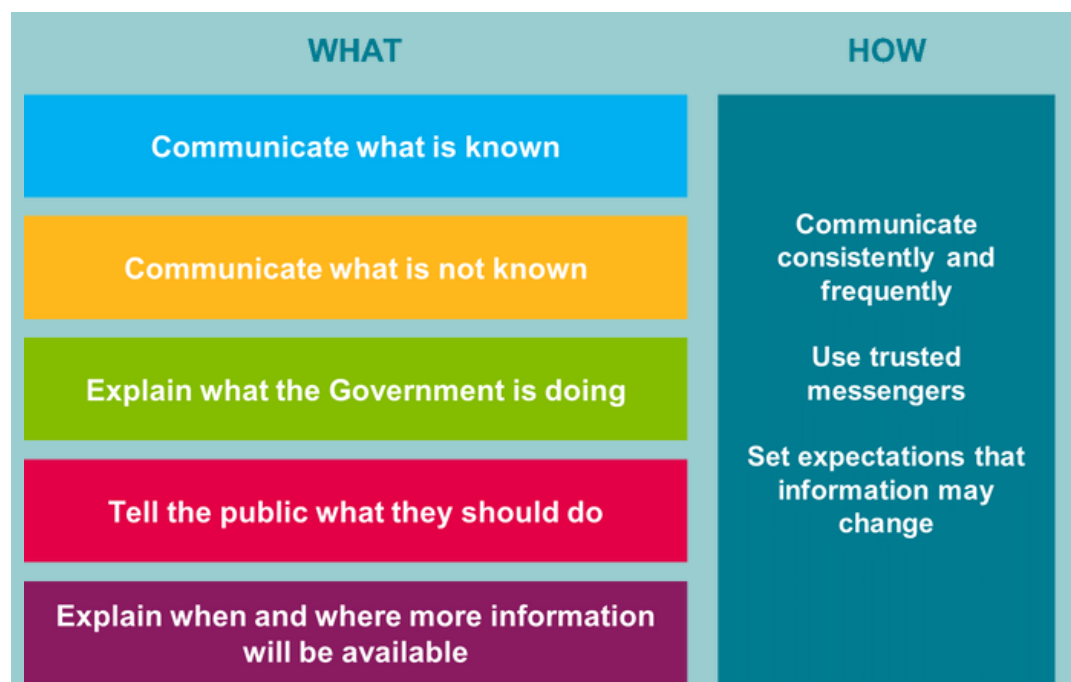
We found that negative impacts of power outages could be minimised if essential needs are met, highlighting the importance of preparedness at individual, community and government levels. Therefore, government agencies are recommended to map what actions people could take to meet essential needs (incl. food, hydration, safety, light, information), and how the government can support (e.g., putting in place agreements with community centres and supermarkets to store supplies, providing information about how residents can prepare and what to do during an outage).

We specifically recommend co-producing response plans and materials with communities, especially with those needing targeted support during outages (e.g. people using electric medical devices, people with alternative communication needs).

During an outage, clear, honest and accessible government communications are paramount.

Using the Krebs method (see image); communicate what has happened, what the government is doing to resolve the situation, when supply is likely to return, what the public can do to protect themselves and their communities, and when more information will be shared.

Given the limited evidence for small island contexts, we are planning a survey on residents' experiences of power outages in Montserrat.



Please contact bsiu@ukhsa.gov.uk for additional information.

Media Round Up



AdamPileUK
@adampileUK

Today is [#WorldMentalHealthDay2023](#)

The [@FCDOgovUK](#) are proud to support [@UKHSA](#) in their work to improve mental health services in the [UK Overseas Territories](#), including a recent visit to support services in [#Montserrat's](#) [prison](#)



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SHG'S MENTAL HEALTH TEAM LEAD SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT OF MONTSERRAT

St Helena Government's Mental Health Team Lead, Ian Rummary, and UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Public Health Consultant, Sunita Sturup-Toft, recently visited Montserrat and provided mental health strategy and interventions support to the territory's prison.

Montserrat is a small island located in the Caribbean and, like St Helena, is a UK Overseas Territory.

The UKHSA received a request from the Governor of Montserrat to explore what more could be done to address the increasing mental health challenges within the island's prison. Montserrat has a similar sized prison to St Helena and faces similar challenges in managing its prison population. Ian has been involved in developing a health care service for HM Prison Jamesstown, and so agreed to support the request in conjunction with UKHSA.

Ian and Sunita arrived in Montserrat on 27 September 2023 and departed on 11 October 2023. During their time on Montserrat Ian and Sunita met with the Montserrat mental health team, other health professionals, as well as the police and prison personnel.

Ian commented:
"This was an amazing opportunity to meet fellow professionals in a similar sized Overseas Territory and discuss ways in which we care for people who are in prison and experiencing mental health problems. My colleagues in Montserrat were so welcoming and we have had very productive discussions

"On St Helena it is easy to lose perspective as we work in isolation. To have the opportunity to visit another Overseas Territory and hear both their successes and challenges has been professionally and personally very rewarding. I am very grateful to UKHSA for giving me this opportunity."

Notes to editor:
Ian's visit to Montserrat was funded by the UKHSA as part of the OT Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) Governance Programme.

From left to right standing: Adegboyega Bamisile (Clinical Psychologist - Montserrat), Donamie Mathieu (Mental Health Nurse Practitioner - Montserrat), Sunita Sturup-Toft (UKHSA Consultant), Ian Rummary (Mental Health Team Lead - St Helena) and sitting Donique Layne (Community Psychiatric Nurse - Montserrat).

SHG
23 October 2023

The St Helena Independent Volume XVII, Issue 46, Friday 27th October 2023

TURKS AND CAICOS Weekly News

MENU

NEWS TIPS: Have you spotted a fire, a car crash, were you the victim of a robbery - contact our friendly rep

We're here to help Ask about our Customer Assistance Program if you were affected by Hurricane Fiona.

TCI healthcare professionals attend Infection Prevention Society Conference in Liverpool

Weekly News reporter

November 10, 2023

Mrs Jackylyn Campbell-Sutton, Chief Nursing Officer and National Infection Prevention and Control Focal Point within the Ministry of Health and Human Services and Mrs Subrena Forbes-Pedican, Infection Control Nurse at the Turks and Caicos Islands hospital, recently returned from the 16th Infection Prevention Society Conference held in Liverpool, United Kingdom, 17th - 19th October 2023.

The conference centred around three main themes: antimicrobial resistance, the environment and preparedness.

The methodology involved presentations of oral papers and poster talks, academic lectures, exhibitions and poster viewing.

Topics presented and discussed during this three-day conference included but were not limited to: The Basics of Microbiology; Challenging the Status Quo in IPC part A & B with a view of the evidence for the WHO's 6-step technique; The effects of climate on health care infection; Closing the IPC divide between high and low-income settings through education; Assessing knowledge on the good, bad and the ugly aspects of healthcare water systems, Part I & II and Pandemic Planning Preparedness.

The conference was followed by a one-day post-reflection and workshop session convened by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) Programme IPC Specialist, Mrs Janice Toplass.

Dr Natalie Wright, Health Protection Lead and Consultant in Global Public Health for the UKOTs programme joined the group for the morning and provided additional insight to the UKHSA UKOTs Public Health programme.

This activity, including travel, accommodation and conference fees, was funded by the FCDO Conflict, Stability and Security Fund's (CSSF) Governance programme. Delegates submitted an application of interest, extended to Infection Prevention Leads and National Focal Points, from the UK Overseas Territories, through the IPC UKOTs Network which was established during the COVID-19 pandemic. IPC leads from seven (7) UK Overseas Territories



Ngo Bibaa Lundi-Anne Omam · 1st
PhD Candidate at University of Cambridge | 2023 Fellow @Skill World Foru...

I will be moderating this webinar session. Do join and engage with the speakers
[Scarlet Tabot](#) [Enanga Longsti](#) [Lara Kontos](#), [MS Julia Smith](#), [PhD](#)

Gender and Public Health Emergencies

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Join us for an informative Webinar on October 27th at 2 PM (GMT)/ 10am (EDT)/ 4pm (CEST) where experts will share insights on critical topics related to public health and gender during emergencies. Don't miss out on these enlightening presentations:

- 📄 "Educating mothers on Hygiene practices during a Cholera outbreak in conflict-affected areas of the South West region of Cameroon" by [Scarlet Tabot Enanga Longsti](#) from Women in Global Health Cameroon
- 📄 "An overview of the UK Overseas Territories Prison Health Needs Assessment Toolkit with a gender lens during emergencies" presented by [Lara Kontos](#)
- 📄 "Conscripted to Care – Women on the frontlines of COVID-19 Response" (10 minutes) featuring [Julia Smith](#), PhD from Simon Fraser University

Stay tuned for engaging discussions and the chance to ask questions of our presenters. Save the date. Let's advance our understanding of gender, health, and emergencies together! 🌍🗣️ #PublicHealth #GenderEquality #WebinarAlert

Details of how to join will be circulated on our google group. If you are not already a member, join today!
https://lnkd.in/e/R6_WZex

ONLINE WEBINAR www.genderandcovid-19.org

GENDER AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Join the Gender and Public Health Emergencies Working Group to hear from these great speakers! Webinar participation details provided on request.

THIS DATE: OCT 27 2023 TIME: 10:00 BST REGISTER NOW

LARA KONTOS
UK HEALTH SECURITY AGENCY

LONGSTI ENANGA
WOMEN IN GLOBAL HEALTH CAMEROON

JULIA SMITH
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

The UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) Programme has been ongoing since 2016 and is funded by the UK Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) Governance Programme through the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). UKHSA is the implementing partner with support from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) at DHSC.