

Welcome

This publication provides updates for colleagues and partners across UKHSA and the Overseas Territories.

If you have any queries, feedback or contributions please contact: UKOTs.Programme@ukhsa.gov.uk

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Pollution Response Workshop in Cayman

In March, Paul Harold (Environmental Public Health Scientist, EHE) and Annabel Grieve (Programme Management Lead) contributed to a pollution response workshop hosted by Hazard Management Cayman Islands (HCMI) and the Cayman Islands Department of Environment and led by the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). The workshop focused on maritime oil spill response with UKHSA presenting on and highlighting the need for public health to be considered throughout the response. There was attendance from the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Department of Environmental Health, the police, coastguard, fire service, army, Red Cross and others agencies.



Engagement was positive with delegate feedback confirming the value of this training, which identified several areas for improvement in existing contingency plans. The workshop was a good example of cross-CSSF programme working and we look forward to further collaboration in the future.

Network Spotlight: Electronic Health Records Network (EHIS) - navigating health information systems in small islands

Electronic Health Records (EHRs) play a pivotal role in modern healthcare systems and can improve efficiency, patient safety, and overall health outcomes if deployed correctly. When systems function well, they also play a pivotal role in improving population health by strengthening surveillance and preventative health management. Over the last couple of years, the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) have experienced challenges and learnings associated with transitioning to EHR systems in respective territories.

As a result of various ad-hoc request for support, a scoping study was undertaken to understand where UKOTs are in their transition, to identify areas of mutual learning, and to identify specific public-health related needs that may be supported. Following the study, the EHR Network was established to share learning, challenges, and resources across territories. The top three areas of focus are, 1) Procurement, 2) Implementation Support, and 3) Monitoring and Surveillance.

Next steps have included meetings dedicated to the priority areas with UKOTs sharing examples and discussing challenges. There has been representation across ten UKOTs with a range of consultants offering expertise. This is important as this space has allowed for UKOTs to ask questions, share advice and work together to improve implementation, system surveillance and outcomes.

For further information on the EHIS Network or to join, contact: ukots.programme@ukhsa.gov.uk.

Launch of the UKOTs Prison Health Needs Assessment Toolkit at DUCaPHEN Conference

The UKOTs Prison Health Needs Assessment (HNA) Toolkit was launched by Sunita Sturup-Toft at the Dutch Caribbean Public Health Expertise Network (DUCaPHEN) conference in Sint Maarten during March. The Toolkit is intended for people and organisations who want to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the health system and health-related needs in a prison system. This is a practical guide divided into nine chapters including a set of tools (interview guides, checklists, and questionnaire).

Find the Prison HNA Toolkit on the TGHN website: <https://ukot-phn.tghn.org/our-work/prison-health/>

“The toolkit has provided a really helpful framework for how to conduct a Prison Health Needs Assessment. It offers a step-by-step guide, whilst also including flexibility to adapt the assessment to our local context. We have applied the toolkit to establish a Steering Committee, determine the scope of the assessment and consider different data gathering methodologies. We anticipate that the Prison Health Needs Assessment will draw focus to the information we already have regarding our prison population, as well as identify the health needs and extent of the current healthcare services available to them. This will inform ongoing policy and development of the prison services in the Cayman Islands.”

Rachel Corbett, Epidemiologist, Cayman Islands

International Health Regulations Caribbean Sub-Regional Meeting

In mid-March 2024, Petra Manley, UKOT Programme Epidemiologist, attended the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) Caribbean Sub-Regional Meeting for Border Health and Points of Entry (PoE) held at Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.



The meeting brought together delegates from the Caribbean countries and territories including Chief Medical Officers, representatives from Port Authorities, representatives responsible for IHR oversight in countries hosting 2024 ICC matches (Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Saint Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, St. Vincent & the Grenadines). Other participants included representatives from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) responsible on IHR amendments process or US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Day 1 and 2 focused on developing work plans for the Caribbean Sub-region for capacity building in the management of public health events during port travel and air travel. Day 3 was dedicated to expanding surveillance and response in the Sub-region in preparation for the 2024 International Cricket Council Men's T20 World Cup. On Day 3, Petra presented about surveillance in mass gatherings, reflecting on UK experience from the London 2012 Olympics and Birmingham 2022 Games.

Apart from the formal agenda, the meeting offered a great opportunity to discuss the strengthening of the Border Health and PoE strategies, share experience on IHR provisions in the Sub-region and network with colleagues.

Media Spotlight



Hazard Management Cayman Islands

22 March · 🌐

Marine Oil Spill and Collision at Sea Exercise

Representatives from the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) are here in the Cayman Islands facilitating a three-day workshop focused on a maritime incident in the territorial waters of the Cayman Islands. The workshop is funded by the UK Government and hosted by Hazard Management Cayman Islands, and includes an exercise scenario that incorporates Search and Rescue (SAR) operations, as well as environmental and pollution response issues.

The purpose of the exercise is to consider the challenges such an incident would create, and how the Cayman Islands Government, NGOs and private sector stakeholders would work together to respond and mitigate against the impacts.

The broader aims and objectives of the exercise include testing the multi-agency response mechanism for a complex (but realistic) maritime SAR incident and pollution scenario in Cayman waters.

Participants include all emergency responders who would be involved in such a response, such as the Cayman Islands Coast Guard, Dept. of Environment, Hazard Management, the RCIPS Air Operations Unit, Cayman Islands Fire Service, the Cayman Islands Regiment, OfReg, fuel and gas companies and many other representatives who form part of the broader National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) structure.

Read more here: https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=751550370405370&id=100066512405946&mibextid=WC7FNe&rdid=NDIA12tb3MpM776k

More on GENPAR Training next month!



Lara Kontos, MSc • You

Global Health | Project Management | Workforce Development

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Last week, UK Health Security Agency's Global Operations team had the privilege of hosting Rohini Pande to lead a Gender in Infectious Disease Epidemic Preparedness and Response (GENPAR) training. The training aimed to improve understanding of why gender is critical in epidemic prevention, preparedness and response, review the GENPAR toolkit (developed by the World Bank Group), and enable participants to utilize GENPAR tools in health emergency programming. The GENPAR training empowers participants to use gender as a lens to improve health emergency programming. #Gender #EpidemicPreparedness #InfectiousDisease

GENPAR toolkit: <https://inkd.in/eJNde2kM>



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