

Building bridges between existing public health institutions and functions through Global Health Security activities

Poster number

P3-S19

Richard Gelting¹, Fhatuwani Gavhi¹, Aimee Geissler²

1. Division of Global Health Protection, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Pretoria, South Africa

2. Division of Global Health Protection, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

Strengthening cross-cutting, horizontal Global Health Security (GHS) activities helps to build connections between programs and fill gaps between vertical, disease-specific global health programs, providing flexibility to respond to public health emergencies

BACKGROUND

- The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the importance of investing in flexible, adaptable public health systems that can pivot quickly to dealing with public health emergencies and work across program areas
- Global health security (GHS) activities designed to prevent, detect, and respond to outbreaks and emergencies are critical to providing that flexibility
- Global health security is also, by nature, a cross-cutting, horizontally integrated activity
- In contrast, most global health programs are vertically integrated, typically focused on one or a few specific diseases (PEPFAR, Global Fund, President's Malaria Initiative [PMI])
- Because of the cross-cutting nature of global health security, GHS programs often engage in a broad spectrum of public health programming that lie in the gaps between vertical programs.
- This creates opportunities to forge connections between programs, build relationships, ensure complementarity and avoid duplication.

KEY SUCCESSES

- In South Africa, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and partners have facilitated collaboration between the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) and the National Department of Health (NDOH, the Ministry of Health). These connections have focused on public health emergency management (PHEM) and disease surveillance. These connections will be critical in the future, as these programs converge, and are brought together to establish a fully integrated National Public Health Institute.



Workforce Development: FETP Training

KEY SUCCESSES (cont)

- The creation of the new Global Health Security and Diplomacy (GHSD) Bureau in the US State Department has led to increased collaboration between PEPFAR and GHS activities, including PEPFAR support for workforce development activities such as the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) in South Africa

New Public Health EOC at National Department of Health



CONCLUSIONS

- Strengthening cross-cutting, horizontal GHS functions such as public health workforce, disease surveillance, laboratory, and public health emergency management (PHEM) helps to build connections between programs and fill gaps between vertical, disease specific global health programs
- Global health security (GHS) activities designed to prevent, detect, and respond to outbreaks and emergencies are also critical to providing the flexibility needed to respond to public health emergencies

ADDITIONAL KEY INFORMATION

Additional information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/global-health/topics-programs/global-health-security.html>

Author Contacts: Richard Gelting: rug7@cdc.gov

Fhatuwani Gavhi: tcy0@cdc.gov

No Conflicts of Interest

The authors acknowledge partner organizations in South Africa, including NICD, NDOH, JHPIEGO