

Folder eCC_00019979 is in stage Annual_Report_Due

Name of the University, Hospital, Research Institute, Academy or Ministry

Imperial College London

Name of the Division, Department, Unit, Section or Area

Department of Primary Care and Social Medicine

City London **Reference Number** UNK-215

Title WHO Collaborating Centre for the Public Health Education and Training

Report Year 07-2022 to 07-2023

1. Annual report on the agreed workplan

Describe progress made on the agreed workplan. For each activity, detail (1) the actions taken, (2) the outputs delivered, as well as (3) any difficulties that may have been encountered. Three responses are expected. [maximum 200 words per activity]. Indicate, if an activity has been completed previously, has not yet started or has been placed on hold.

Activity 1

Title: At the request of WHO, conduct a review on primary health care workforce

Description: Strengthening primary health care is a priority in Eastern Mediterranean Region and WHO is working actively on improving primary health care services and primary health care workforce in line with WHO's recommendations and GPW13.

Status: completed

1. WHO EMRO: A Strategy on Primary Care-based Models of Care for the Eastern Mediterranean Region: Expert Consultation

Working with colleagues at WHO (EMRO) our team conceptualised the best approaches for health system development to meet population health. The current silo thinking, planning and management led to serious fragmentation in service delivery. This makes individuals and patients journeys through the health system more difficult, costly, and above all will lead to less desired outcomes. The concept we developed is an integrated health system based on primary care, as the first contact with the health service. It provides a comprehensive health service through effective gatekeeping functions. We also worked on a book chapter called Person-centred Prevention with the International Association of Person-centred Medicine to push for a better health system journey for individuals and patients.

Outputs: a presentation In June 2022 at Three-day WHO-EMRO meeting in Cairo on Health workforce in the Mediterranean Region with leading professionals in the region; contributions to a WHO document about Enhancing the Health Workforce in the EMR.

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7076938239965585409>

Book Chapter on Person-centred Prevention: https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-17650-0_17

2. Fellowships from EMR Training in Primary Care and Public Health

<https://www.imperialwhocc.org/visiting-programmes/postgrad/>

WHO Collaborating Centre Postgraduate Fellowship Programme is a well-established career development programme for family physicians. It allows for research skills development alongside practical clinical skills enhancement in areas of interest or specialty for each fellow. In November 2022 WHO CC welcomed 3 fellows: Dr Samiya Al Khaldi and Dr Nasrin Al Zadjali from Oman, as well as Dr Joud Almutairi from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Dr Joud developed expertise in bariatric management of obesity, whilst Dr Samiya and Dr Nasrin gained experience in the UK system of primary care. The experiences learnt allow the fellows to further their careers and bring innovations to their home country health systems.

3. General Health Council in Libya -- Medical Education and Primary Care Integration:

This talk highlighted the imperative of integrating prevention and promotion into medical education to address contemporary healthcare challenges. The rationale emphasised economic and societal benefits, aligning with global health needs. Transformative education strategies proposed included curricular reforms, interdisciplinary collaboration, and technological integration. We stressed the global relevance of such integration and showcased successful international programs. Faculty development initiatives and ongoing training programs were suggested to support educators. Evaluation methods for effectiveness and continuous improvement were underscored. The conclusion emphasized the collaborative efforts needed from institutions, educators, and policymakers to adapt medical education in response to the dynamic healthcare landscape. <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7076493377285808128>

4. Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever in Iraq Project - Project with Iraqi Universities and US Scripps Institute
Recently, the incidence of Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) infection has largely increased in Iraq and hundreds of cases were confirmed by PCR. The project involves the preparation of effective treatment and vaccines in collaboration with the Universities of Basrah and Baghdad and the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Scripps Research, California, USA. The goal: to prepare anti-CCHF monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) using convalescent blood. mAbs are effective and were employed to treat many viral infections such as the MDR HIV. A second aim of the project is to use the switched memory single B cell transcriptome to design the best epitope that triggers effective memory long term response. The funding proposal was prepared, with expected time and cost outcomes. Experts needed to conduct the work (from cohort preparation to treatment and epitope design) were contacted and agreed. Currently, the team is applying for project funding support through the University of Basrah. The other work is regarding CCHF large outbreak in Iraq, the team is working on updating the previously published article (link below).

Published article on the topic: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijregi.2023.01.007>

5. Oral Health Projects in the EM Region and UK.

We developed a Rapid Review protocol titled 'Profile and Performance of Oral Healthcare Systems in WHOEMRO region: A rapid review' Available from: https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display_record.php?ID=CRD42022290580. The rapid review presented at 3rd ArPHA conference 2023, website: ArPHA Conference 2023 – ArPHA.

We developed a fund application for a research project focusing on Oral healthcare in LMICs: Titled 'Evaluation of Oral Healthcare in WHO-EMRO countries'. The overall aim of the project is to assess the utilisation, cost, and effectiveness of OHCS provided by Ministries of Health and UNRWA in WHO-EMRO countries. The project protocol was presented as a poster at the 12th Lancet Palestinian Health Alliance Conference, on 21-23 November 2022. Website: Posters | ICPH (birzeit.edu). The fund application will be submitted to relevant fund calls.

We also developed a research project focusing on NHS dental care access in the UK: Titled 'Evaluation of access to NHS dental care services. The overall aim of the project is to identify dimensions, people's abilities, and determinants (barriers and enablers) related to NHS dental care access.

6. US Primary Care Development

Invitation by the US National Academy of Medicine (NAM) to participate in the international work on "the essential role of primary health care for health security and securing health". Washington DC. July 2023. Outputs: A talk on closing the gap between public health and primary health care. Contributions to the discussion. A draft publication for peer review.

Activity 2

Title: In support of WHO, conduct a review and evaluate on the impact of public health services to strengthen health systems for UHC.

Description: This activity is one of priority areas in WHO, the work on UHC monitoring and GPW13 impact framework is ongoing.

Status: completed

1. Roadmap to Strengthen Public Health and Emergencies Workforce (Nov 2022 – June 2023):

Competency-based education is one of the three inter-related action areas used to strengthen workforce, along with redirecting the services towards Essential Public Health Functions and thirdly, the mapping and measurement of the workforce competency. Our WHO Centre was the leading research team that helped map out all existing competency frameworks and decoded them to develop a practical framework that will be published in the near future. <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7008409533257535488>
From this project we also worked with WHO EMRO on workforce development through a Membership of the steering Group (three meetings so far).

2. Electronic Health Records – Systematic Review Accepted:

Publication focuses on doctor-patient relationships in the Gulf Countries. It has been submitted to the WHO Frontiers in Public Health special issue on Digital Health. The review's findings shed light on the positive impact of EHR implementation in Gulf countries. Physicians reported improvements in their quality and performance, as well as increased accuracy in monitoring patient health. These positive outcomes align with existing evidence highlighting the advantages of EHRs in enhancing care delivery. The recommendations provided in the review offer valuable guidance for future EHR implementation efforts in the Gulf countries and potentially in other similar regions. The significance of providing targeted training to healthcare professionals and evaluating the impact on adoption rates, particularly among physicians, is emphasized. Furthermore, the review acknowledges the value of EHRs in facilitating remote healthcare delivery, as demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic, underscoring their role in ensuring seamless continuity of care.

3. Institution of Health Metrics/ Global Burden of Diseases:

In collaboration with The Institute of Health Metric and Evaluation, Faculty of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, USA our WHO Centre continues its important work through bilateral meetings, joint publications as well as leading on research topics. Currently, we are studying the burden of head and neck cancers in EMR and cardiovascular disease burden in Iraq and EMR. We are also reviewing maternal mortality in the Eastern Mediterranean Region of the WHO, looking at recent trends of 22 countries. This work is supported by systematic reviews. This will help Member States address the unacceptable high levels of maternal death in their countries. These papers will become the pillars of a new and formative discussion on prevention in the post-pandemic era.

4. Health System Resilience WHO EMRO (June 2020 – ongoing)

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, health systems worldwide experienced overwhelming pressures, revealing their lack of coping mechanisms and resilience. In response, WHO EMRO approached our WHO Centre to collaborate on a project aimed at assessing and improving health system resilience. This collaborative effort involves colleagues from WHO EMRO, WHO Geneva, Oman, Egypt, and our WHO CC. Additionally, our WHO Centre initiated a health systems resilience project in partnership with the Arab Public Health Association (ArPHA) in recent months. Throughout the pandemic, managing the escalating number of hospital and ICU admissions whilst maintaining regular health services, proved to be a formidable challenge in many regions. The primary objective of this joint research is to create and validate an assessment tool for health system resilience. Such a tool will be invaluable in measuring health system resilience in different countries, identifying critical gaps, and devising strategies to enhance performance during and after health crises.

Pre-print: <https://assets.researchsquare.com/files/rs-2605411/v1/8425f397-3b91-4957-99d6-8736f71d5225.pdf?c=1678891409>

5. Rapid Response Team Training based on the WHO Advanced Training Package – MOH Saudi Arabia

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Saudi Arabia, health consultancy group, Itkan, and our WHO Collaborating Centre successfully secured a bid for Rapid Response Team (RRT) trainings for the upcoming year. The Ministry's confidence in our expertise led to this significant assignment. Throughout June, we diligently collaborated to tailor the training materials to the specific nuances of the Saudi context, drawing insights from the pilot training conducted in 2022. The ensuing year will witness our close partnership with the Ministry of Health in Saudi Arabia, ensuring that all trainees receive the necessary and contextually relevant RRT training. Additionally, we are committed to conducting multiple Training the Trainer workshops, designed to enhance the soft skills of the trainers involved in the program. This initiative reflects our dedication to fostering a robust and locally adaptable healthcare training environment in collaboration with esteemed partners in Saudi Arabia.

Activity 3

Title: At the request of WHO, conduct needs assessment on training and evaluation on continuing professional development programmes.

Description: Health workforce capacities is critically important in achieving targets of GP13, especially in achieving 1 million to access services. Thus strengthening continuous professional development in countries in maintaining and upgrading the competencies of health workers is very important.

Status: completed

1. WHO Geneva HQ Educational Trip (MPH, MSc, Fellows) 14-16 June 2023

This is an essential educational activity in the Faculty of Medicine calendar for our MPH, MSc Students and WHO Fellows. The education trip aims to give the students, PH trainees and Fellows an insight into the work of international organisations in Geneva. It also provides students with the opportunity to explore job opportunities and career options if they are interested in international work. This highly sought after annual event is very popular with our students and always oversubscribed.

The experience offers them very topical, informative and engaging talks by WHO experts in the field of public health, including immunisations and equitable access to vaccinations; current (and historical) international health and humanitarian efforts in areas of conflict and epidemics; aiding victims of violence or disaster; health advocacy of displaced and excluded persons; safeguard individuals against sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment; evidence-informed policy; health-related environment/disaster/climate change; emergency preparedness; adolescent and at-risk populations; health systems and universal coverage; leadership and innovation.

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7075412345585311744>

2. Quality Governance Joint Fellowship

In partnership with the Royal Colleges of Physicians, Edinburgh, the WHOCC has developed the Joint Fellowship in Quality Governance program. This comprehensive 12-month training initiative is specifically designed for healthcare professionals seeking to enhance their expertise in healthcare governance. The fellowship comprises ten modules and will be delivered through a combination of in-person and hybrid sessions. The official launch of the program is scheduled for January 2024. The genesis of this endeavour traces back to the WHO EMRO Governance Collaborative, spearheaded by Dr Hala Abuotalib, Regional Adviser. Through extensive discussions with health leaders in both European and EMRO, it became evident that there were notable gaps in knowledge and proficiency related to health governance and its practical application.

Drawing from its previous experiences, the WHO CC has been instrumental in assisting numerous countries in supporting their corporate and financial governance within healthcare organisations, while also introducing essential elements of clinical governance.

With the Joint Fellowship in Quality Governance, the collaborative effort aims to address these identified knowledge gaps and foster a cohort of proficient healthcare professionals equipped to drive effective governance in the healthcare sector.

<https://www.imperialwhocc.org/visiting-programmes/quality-governance-joint-fellowship/>

3. Arab Public Health Association Conference, Cairo Egypt; March 2023

The third Arab Public Health Association Conference was held in Cairo this year; the main theme was the transformation of public health systems in the post-COVID era. This conference highlighted the experiences of the EMR region and neighbouring regions during the pandemic and how to move forward. The main objective of this conference was to make a regional impact through policy changes and publish relevant reports and papers from the conference. Our centre was part of the organising and scientific committee that organised, reviewed, and is now working on implementing the quality of the output at the conference. We have assessed the quality of each abstract and matched it with the conference programme ensuring that the competencies for professional development linked with the theme and learning objectives have been met. All WHO Collaborating Centres and regional WHO offices were invited to attend and contribute through papers and talks at the conference. It was sponsored by Dr Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, Minister of Health and Population, in the presence and participation of more than 15 Arab countries. <https://lnkd.in/e3kaHSrE>

The Third International Conference on Public Health, which concluded its work in Cairo, came out with 25 recommendations that topped the Cairo Declaration of "Public Health", as the participants in the conference unanimously agreed that public health is at the heart of sustainable development plans, and therefore the

strengthening of health systems, laws and public programs is vital to achieving the SDGs. Read those recommendations here: <https://bit.ly/3Fnk89H>

All conference information can be found on: <https://www.arpha.org/arpha-conference-2022/>

4. Rapid Response Team Training based on the WHO Advanced Training Package – MOH Saudi Arabia - Preparation

Preparation for this project entailed a needs assessment that was done by the MOH and analysed by WHO CC team to develop the training project proposal over the next year. The goal of this training project is to train around 270 RRT members. The trainers of these members will be trained by the WHOCC using the gaps identified and the changes suggested from the pilot run the year before in 2022. We diligently collaborated to tailor the training materials to the specific nuances of the Saudi context, drawing insights from the pilot training conducted in 2022. The ensuing year will witness our close partnership with the Ministry of Health in Saudi Arabia, ensuring that all trainees receive the necessary and contextually relevant RRT training. We will continue these efforts onto the upcoming year to ensure that all trainings are run smoothly and the public health workforce in Saudi Arabia is equipped with a regional RRT that responds to global emergencies.

2. Annual report on other activities requested

Should WHO have requested activities in addition to the agreed workplan, please describe related actions taken by your institution [maximum 200 words]. Please do not include in this report any activity done by your institution that was not requested by and agreed with WHO.

3. Resources

Indicate staff time spent on the implementation of activities agreed with WHO (i.e. those mentioned in questions no. 1 and no. 2 above). Do not include any data related to other activities done by your institution without the agreement of WHO. Please indicate staff time using the number of “full-day equivalents” – a day of work comprising 8 hours (e.g. 4 hours work per day for 7 days should be recorded as 3.5 full-day equivalents).

Number of staff involved (either partially or fully)

Senior staff	Mid-career staff	Junior staff, PhD students
7	6	7

Number of full-day equivalents, total for all staff involved

Senior staff	Mid-career staff	Junior staff, PhD students
3	4	3

Implementation of the agreed workplan activities (i.e. those mentioned in questions no. 1 and no. 2 above) normally require resources beyond staff-time, such as the use of laboratory facilities, purchasing of materials, travel, etc. Please estimate the costs of these other resources as a percentage of the total costs incurred (e.g. if you incurred costs of USD 100 and the value of your staff time was USD 50 which makes the total of USD 150, please report 33.3% and 66.7%).

Percentage of costs associated with staff time	Percentage of costs associated with other resources	Total
83.00	17.00	100.00

4. Networking

Describe any interactions or collaboration with other WHO Collaborating Centres in the context of the implementation of the agreed activities If you are part of a network of WHO Collaborating Centres, please also mention the name of the network and describe your involvement in that network [maximum 200 words].

1. Over the last year, we have received a lot of support from WHO EURO Centre for Primary Care, WHO EURO Health System Division (Public Health Service), WHO EMRO Health System Development Division, and WHO Head Quarters Geneva for the projects we are undertaking (Quality Governance; Integration of public health and primary care; public health professionals training, etc.).
2. Many colleagues in WHO HQs, WHO EURO and WHO EMRO were either involved in our research and publication or kindly reviewed our work before submission for publication or too part in teaching as well as presentations on Webinars.
3. The WHO CC received generous support from WHO in serving at various advisory groups and Committees.
4. The NNedPro Global Centre for Nutrition and Health collaboration and continuous partnership in a lot of activities. Our team are active members in their international and Eastern Mediterranean Committees. This year we held a very influential discussion about ultra-processed foods and precision nutrition.
<https://www.imperialwhocc.org/2023/03/08/ultra-processed-foods-personalised-and-precision-nutrition-scene/>
5. Our WHO CC is invited on annual basis to attend the WHO EMRO Regional Meetings this year's theme was Invest and Empower in Workforce. We were part of the panel on Health Workforce in the Eastern Mediterranean: from COVID-19 Learning to Action in Cairo, Egypt
<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7076938239965585409>
6. We have strong collaboration with many leading institutions around the world in research. We successfully published many papers in peer reviewed scientific journal based on such collaboration. Staff at the Centre are involved in over 100 scientific publications this year. www.imperialwhocc.org