

Activity 1

Strengthening regional and national institutional capacities in public health and health systems

Description: Strengthening health systems (WHO Report 2000) and developing Primary Care (WHO Report 2008) through sound financial methods (WHO Report 2010;2013) are priorities for the WHO and Member States. This activity is to support such development. In collaboration with WHO, the WHO CC will develop and deliver:

1. Health Leadership and Management Training Course (one-week)

The WHO will assist in the selection of participants from Member States.

The WHO CC is engaged in many activities that support the strengthening public health and health systems across the world.

General

Our WHO CC has extensive experience on health system development both in research and practice. The Centre undertook many of these overlaps with other activities. Our extensive review of health systems worldwide has given us indepth knowledge and experience and we share this with many other countries. It has also enabled us to develop bespoke courses as well as educational modules. This year our work involved strengthening health systems to tackle NCD; health systems in fragile countries; how countries deal with displaced persons; environmental issues and health systems; and the use of technology, eHealth to improve performance of health systems and workforce and health system resilience and response to Covid-19 Pandemic

19 June 2019 (ongoing)

Collaboration with the Public Health Department, Ministry of Public Health Qatar, Deloitte.

The WHO CC worked closely to support the Deloitte Project in strengthening public health in Qatar. It was agreed the WHOCC would provide SMEs to support the project. In addition, the WHOCC Director provided support in the planning and delivery of the first International Public Health Conference (December 2019) as well as the writing and editing the 10 years achievement in public health report. The director delivered a keynote speech at the Conference.

19 June 2019 (ongoing)

Collaboration with the Institute of Health Metric and Evaluation, Facuty of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, USA

The collaboration continues through bilateral meetings, collaborative publications as well as leading on research topics. We are currently working in Maternal Mortality in Eastern Mediterranean Region of the WHO, looking at recent trends in 22 countries supported by systematic reveiews.

20 June 2019

Collaboration with Primary Care International

CEO Julia Beart from Primary Care International visited the WHOCC, Department of Primary Care and Public Health, Imperial College London. A discussion ensued on collaboration and the WHO CC will work jointly to support countries across Europe, the Middle East and Africa through WHO Offices. There are many positive initiatives and innovations that countries could adopt. Discussion already started with WHO EMRO and WHO Europe on the best approaches to strengthen primary care, following the Covid-19 Pandemic. We will report on this in the next year Annual Report.

11 July 2019 (ongoing) WHO CC /ICL School of Public Health Collaboration with WHO Geneva

In discussions with Professors Paul Aylin and Helen Ward the WHO CC explored the possible collboartion with the School of Public Health at Imperial College London and WHO Geneva. The SPH is keen to work closely with WHO. We discussed one of the projects (health emergencies training programme) that WHO could work closely with us to develop online programme taking into account our experience in Global MPH Project. Indeed, the Collaboatarive Project with WHO started in November 2019, with the first meetig heldin London. This work is in support of the newly developed WHO Academy.

27 July -- 02 Aug 2019

Advanced Leadership and Health Management Course, Geneva and London

This full week course for senior executive of children's hospitals across China was organsied jointly in both WHO and deliverd both in Geneva and London. In Geneva the partcipants spent a full day at WHO HQs in lectures and discussions with WHO leaders including two Assistnt Director Generals and later, a visit to the University Chidren's Hospital in Bern, Switzerland. Back in London the programme included a full day visit to Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) for Children as well as interactive discussion groups and excercises on mdern hospital organisation and managment. Professor Rawaf and the WHOCC team gave different talks in various settings.

1 SEP 2019 The MENA Health Policy Forum – Cairo, Egypt (ongoing)

MENA's HPF mission is to contribute to effective, efficient, equitable and sustainable policies that improve health for the most disadvantaged in the MENA. Strong collaboration is in place to address common interest between WHOCC and The Forum. A joint paper was submitted to publication on sexual health service in primay care settings in the Regions. This paper was based on comprehensive study conducted across 14 countries in MENA region.

23 Oct 2019

The Future Hospital: Hospital Presidents from Zhejiang China – a training course in London, UK

The meeting was attended by 30 senior executives/chairs of large hospitals from across Zhejiang, China. This bespoke, 1-week course was organsied by ICL with WHO CC participation and explored many elements of how to strengthen health systems of today to meet the ever changing and increasing population demands on health care. Strong primary will support the role of hospitals in focusing on more complex cases when the rest (over 80% are dealt with at PHC level).

The Director of the WHO CC gave two talks:

- 1. Evaluating quality in primary care
- 2. The patient experience and health leadershipbby

18-19 Nov 2019

Qatar Public Health Confernce

This is the first major public health conference organsied by the Ministry of Public Health. WHO CC took part in the organistion of the conference. Professor Rawaf delivered a keynote speech on the first day of the conference.

9-12 Dec 2019

The 18th Recent Advances in Hospital Management Conference – Cairo, Egypt

This annual event is organised with the support of WHO CC. It is well attended and over 400 partcipants from the Arab World and beyond attended the 18th Conference. The focus of this conference was on technological advances serving patents and communities. The Director of the WHO CC gave two keynote lectures and chaired a panel session.

- 1. The British NHS: What models of care can we learn from 70 years of successful experience?
- 2. Technological Advances and Modern Hospitals providing better care.

02 March 2020

Atlantic Council Meeting - Berlin, Germany

The Meeting was organised by the Atlantic Council, Washington D.C. to discuss political, economic and health opportunities in the Middle East. Senior politicians and researchers attended the meeting from the United States, Iraq, Germany and the United Kingdom. The core of the current crisis in Iraq is rooted in corruption of the political elites and their parties with the illegal militias. We raised the discussion on the impact of these on the health of the population.

22 April 2020

A virtual meeting with Their Excellencies the Ministers of Health of EMR and UN Regional Directors on COVID-19

The COVID-19 meeting that was held by videoconfernce with their Excellencies took place on 2nd April 2020. It highlighted key actions needed to take in order to conatin the spread of the virus. The meeting was held with each region's Minister of Health, the UN and the WHO

Regional Director to discuss actions needed to enable population to have access to better preventive and curative services when it comes to COVID-19. It highlighted the importance of ensuring continuity of care for patients needing access to health care services for acute and chronic illnesses other than COVID-19. Finally, it identified the requests made to their Excellencies the Ministers of Health regarding country-level key actions to engage other sectors to articulate what is refer to as a 'whole of government' and 'whole of society approach'. The meeting also included: Regional updates about COVID-19 by Regional Emergency Directors; comments by DG's Envoy on COVID-19; and open discussion and general comments. The WHO participation as a Member of the WHO EMRO Technical Advisory Committee for Covid-19.

23 April 2020

A virtual meeting Managing the COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis in MENA

Focus was on the status of the pandemic and its containment in the Middle East and North Africa regions. Many senior colleagues from the Region attended and solutions were suggested to take forward with the WHO and MENA government. The WHO CC advised the meeting to look at the paper by the WHO CC team submitted and accepted by WHO EMRO Health Journal: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32538441/

March -June 2020

Series of Joint Webinar on Covid-19 and its impact on health, systems, economyand socal life

The WHOCC staff actively engages and reaches out to the world in educational and learning activities. Many of our courses, which are designed on the basis of face-to-face learning and skills, were changed to online learning and virtual learning. The WHO CC also developed new innovative learning and skills courses considering the emerging public health challenges and the needs of the public. More than 25 webinars were carefully planned and delivered in association with WHO (EMRO and Geneva) and the work continues (ongoing).

In addition, WHO CC staff attended a large number of conferences globally on the topic since the WHO declared the Pandemic, through virtual links and took active part in radio and television interveiwes through many media outlets.

1 May 2020 – 31 May 2020 Training Crash courses

During the period of lockdown the WHO CC team put an extraordinarly efforts in developing new courses to prepare public health workforce and equip them with skills needed to deal with the Pandemic. Among these courses were:

- Epidemiological surveillance for infectious diseases
- Acute event managmnet
- Public Health Practical Conversion Course
- Advanced Leadership and Health Managmnet Course (Modifying existing and popular course run by the WHO CC for years)
- Emergemncy Planning and Preparedness

- Public Health Analysis
- Disease Burden and Health Planning
- Outbreak exit strategy

The main aim of these is to upport the response to life changes imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and enhance the skills of public health workforce.

04 June 2020

Family Physicians and the COVID-19 Pandemic: the Way Forward

A joint WHO Europe and WONCA Europe webinar open to family doctors and other PHC experts covered key areas of managing primary care during the COVID-19 pandemic. While many countries decided to exclude covid patients and focus on routine/essential services through virtual and telephone consultations, others accepted these patients without taking proper protective measures for staff and other patients. Discussions established clarity on the way forward and how to set up guidelines.

Activity 2

Evaluation of Public Health and Health Systems

Description: at the request of WHO HQ, our WHO CC is involved in evaluating public health system functions including public health around the world and conducting relevant research. Additionally, the WHO CC provides on-going training courses on health systems development including systematic evaluation.

General

This year we have been involved in projects looking at evaluation of health systems, primary care and public health functions. In preparation for and during the process of assessment and redesign, we have conducted quantitative research (systematic reviews), analysed data, and projected service needs. We also calculated the number of physicians and other health professionals needed. We also assessed the risk of doing nothing compared with advancing change.

19-20 June 2019

Collaboration with the Institute of Health Metric and Evaluation, University of Washington, Seattle, USA

Professor Ali Mokdad, Chief Strategy Officer at the Institute of Health Metric and Evaluation (IHME) visited the Department of Primary Care and Public Health, Imperial Collage London and met over two days with the WHO CC Team.

The visit was focused on how to strengthen the collboration between the Department of Primary Care and Public Health and its WHO CC with the IHME, Faculty of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, USA. The WHO CC proposed to undertake independent analysis on key topics such diabetes, maternal deaths, and infertility. The collaboration continues through bilateral meetings, publication contributions as well as leading on research topics. We are currently working in Maternal Mortality in Eastern Mediterranean Region of the WHO, looking at recent trends in 22 countries supported by a systematic reveiews.

20 June 2019

Collaboration with Primary Care International

The WHO CC strated a collaboration with Primary Care International's (PCI) Chief Executive to discuss avenues of collaboration. This is an important collaborative work between the WHO CC and PCI with an emphasis on support to LMIC countries to strengthen health systems through primary health care. We are exploring educational activities, training courses and supporting institutional development and health leadership. We also started discussion with WHO EMRO on how to capitalise on the vast experience of PCI.

26-29 June 2019

WONCA 24 Europe Conference – Bratislava, Slovakia

At the 24th European Regional Meeting of the World Organisation of Family Physcians (WONCA), Professor Rawaf spoke and chaired a session on integration. The WHOCC worked with WONCA colleagues to strengthen primary care in Europe and across the globe.

23-24 Sept 2019

The USA Iraqi Medical Scientific Association Annual Meeting, Azmir, Turkey

These annual meetings are designed to gather medical scientists from around the world with connections to Iraq. It addresses wide range of clinical and public health issues the health cytem in Iraq is currenetly facing. Profeesor Rawaf spoke about current and future directions of the health system in Iraq.

28 Oct 2019

WHO meeting on Health Governance – Cairo, Egypt

This is the third meeting of the WHO EMRO on Health Governance. The meeting was attended by key regional players inclduing WHO Geneva, WHO Europe and other UN agencies. Focus was on developing an action plan to strengthen health governance in member States both at institutional and clinical levels. The WHO CC highlighted some of the key n the long experience with clinical and corporate governance.

20-22 Nov 2019

Public Health Review – Doha, Qatar

The WHO CC supported a major review of the public health function in Qatar, led by Deloitte. The multifacted project includes review of the laws, enahanced community enagaemnet and restructuring the function based on current advances in public health. Professor Rawaf visted Qatar and held many meetings with the team over three days.

26 Feb 2020

Inter-country retreat: integrating public health and primary health care services in the European Region

Organised by WHO EURO for mainly Eastern European member states, this meeting discussed the best approach to improve the status of primary care and how to integrate public health

and primary care. The meeting was based on the work of the WHO CC commissioned by the WHO Europe on integration of Public Health and Primary Care and the report published in Octobet 2018 and presented at Astana Conference on Primary Care. The work at that time was led by WHO EMRO and presented at Astana.

April 2020

Imperial College London, WHO Collaborating Centre and WHO Iraq/ Ministry of Health Situational Assessment of the COVID-19 National Strategy

In collaboration with the WHO Iraq Office and WHO EMRO, the Centre carried out an extensive exercise to assess the current status of COVID-19 in Iraq and its management including public health measures to protect population and reduce transmission, and treatment of critically ill Covid-19 patients. The Centre developed a comprehensive risk register based on a Situational Assessment of the COVID-19 National Strategy in the country. The assessment and register covered: governance, disease transmission, health service, public health measures, public acceptance, and economic support. Each area identified key measures and the risk of no or partial action. The assessment addressed the risks, implications, probability of happening, quality and costs, impact, and the risk score. Furthermore, mitigations, time scale and updates were recorded. This process generated important changes in the process of managing the pandemic in Iraq including governance (the role of the national committee, the creation of Supreme Advisory Committee on Covid-19); health service (zoning of hospital to reduce hospital infections, re-defining patient flows, the role of the private clinics and re-shaping primary care); transmission (strengthening public health measures, intensify the role of media, impose legal measures to respect public health laws and National Committee for Health and Safety chaired by Prime Minister); public acceptance (ensuring public engagements at all level); and economic support (this was not taken by government due to the economic situation in Iraq).

20 May 2020

Exit Strategy and Easing of Covid Restrictions, UAE

The shaping of a strategy for easing Covid-19 restrictions was discussed with Dr Jamal Al-Kaabi, the Undesecretaery for Health MoH UAE. The meeting was to assess the current sitaution in the UAE in relation to the Covid-19 Pandemic and what is the best exit strategy to return to some normailty in the Emirate.

15 June 2020

Health System Resilience WHO EMRO

Following the Covid Pandemic most of the health systems around the world were either overwhemed, did not cope or did not show any resielence. We were approached by WHO EMRO to collaborate on work to assess how health system reselience could be improved. The work is in participation and collboration of colleagues from WHO EMRO, WHO Geneva, Oman and Egypt and the WHO CC. We are submitting a proposal for funding. Moreover, a health systems resilience project in collaboration with the Arab Public Health Association (ArPHA) was initiated in the last few months. Since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis on public health, managing the ever-increasing number of patients admitted to hospitals and ICU units while maintaining health services at the regular pace proved to be difficult in many parts of the world. The first stage of research aims to develop and validate an assessment tool for health system resilience. This tool will be valuable for measuring health system resilience in countries, help identify and find ways to minimize critical gaps in health systems and improve their performance during and after any kind of shock to the health system.

Activity 3

Development of national human resources for health capacities

Description: Our WHO CC aims to support Member States in strengthening their national capacities, health workforce policy and plans, including public health leadership. The WHO CC also supports institutional capacity in evidence generation, orientation of education and training. Our programmes include training courses on human resource development (policy, planning, production, utilization, and service delivery); WHO CC also provides consultation, which enables hands-on practical support and technical assistance to Member States.

General

This year, we have focused on educational development to support member States in increasing their capacities in human resource supply. Our emphasis was re-focused on Covid-19 once cases were reported by WHO. These include creating new taught courses leading to certificates, diplomas, or master's degrees. We also worked on enhancing postgraduate medical training through structured programmes based on competencies. Some of these courses were listed and described inother parts of this report.

15 July 2019

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Healthcare Leadership Academy

Discussions were held with the Business School at Imperial College on the project and the role of WHOCC. The Leadership Academy in Saudi Arabia is proposing to work with the business school on developing a practical clinical leadership and health managment training course. The School is keen that the project is delivered jointly with WHO CC with their track record in health leadership training over many years. Professor Rawaf is the Clinical Director of the Project. In February 2020, The WHO CC Director visted the Academy in Riyadh and specific action points were agreed to enhance the role of the Academy and give opportunities, through the WHO CC, for trainees to have the opportunity of exploring the leadership role in highly performing systems such as the UK.

10 Oct 2019

Draft framework for WHO Human Resources for Health (HRH) course and sample modules

WHO CC is contributing to the development HRH course (both short and MSc). This is a major collaborative work across the globe lead by WHO Geneva. It is envisaged that these courses will either commissioned by WHO, adopted by universities or both.

14-17 Oct 2019

WHO 66th Regional Committee – Tehran, Iran

At the invitation of WHO EMRO, the Director of the WHO CC attended and participated in the 66th Regional Committee meeting of WHO EMRO in Tehran, Iran. He also visited the Ministry of Health and gave a talk on the future of health service attended by the Deputy Minister, Deputies, and other senior managers. The visit provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen collaboration with colleagues and institutions in Iran.

22 Jan 2020

Review of Proposed Community Engagement Survey, MoPH – Doha, Qatar

Qualitative date review of a major survey based on interviews, focus groups, questionnaires for the three segments of the Qatari population: Qatari; non-Qatari long-term residents and non-Qatari short-term manual workers. The results f the survey will shape the best approaches from Minstry of Public Health to enagage with the various elements of the Qatari's population.

22 Jan 2020

Medical Practioners Annual Appraisal System and Statutory Regulation of Medical Practioners Iraq

At the request of His Excellency (HE) Dr Jaffar Allawi, Iraqi Minister of Health and Environment, and in conjunction with the Iraqi WHO Office Representative (WR) Dr Adham Ismail, a proposal was commissioned for ICL WHO CC to review and address two interlinked topics:

- 1. An annual appraisal system to ensure the highest standards of practice and probity for registered medical practitioners (all grades); and
- 2. Further to necessary legislations set out Iraqi General Medical Council (IGMC) statutory guidelines to protect patients and regulate doctors.

The frst step in this project was to contact the relevant rofessional bodies, written concepts papers and reviewed the experience of other countries. These were shared with Minister both in writing and through virual meetings. The project is on hold at present time due to changes in priorities, where most the focus now is on Covid-19 Pandemic.

05 Feb 2020

Collaboation with the Government of Maritius

The WHO CChas a well-established link with Maritius in supporting the development of the MPH Programme, traiing of family physicians and other acrivities. The WHO CC received Anil Gayan QC in London. He is an eminent lawyer and politician from Mauritius for over 30 years. He has been Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Health and most recently Minister for Tourism. Various issues were discussed with a focus on supporting the development of Medica Tourism Centre in Maritius. The aim of the centre is to support the country in strengthening medical tourism through research and development and generate the evidence for olicy makers.

08 Feb 2020

The Development of the Public Health Academy: Saudi

Following Professor Rawaf visit to Riyadh, the WHO CC was commissioned by the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to develop a new Public Health Academy. The role of this institution will take a full role in public health transformation in the Kingdom. Its aim will be to raise the standards of practice among public health practitioners and wider public health workforce (below specialists' level).

This one-year project will benchmark through review of five countries approaches to develop public health workforce; setting the competencies level needed for each level of practitioners and the wider public health workforce; assess the current needs for training in the Kingdom; reach and interview to all stakeholders include public health service providers (many ministries), academic institutions, health council, health commission, and potential trainees. The work will include the development of the strategic directions, the financial plan, the marketing plan, the training strategy, governance, and operational plan among may

other work to ensure a sustainable development of the new academy. This is a pioneering work in the Region, and it will have great impact on the development and transformation of public health professionals in the Kingdom

04 May 2020

Brazilian webinar - Resources and infrastructure for managing Covid-19

The Webinar meeting we held discussed the situation in Brazil and looked at the best approach to deal with the worsening situation in the country. This was an excellent opportunity to obtain a first-hand knowledge of the magnitude of the problem and the challenges public health officials are facing. Some possible ways to handle the Pandemic were shared and discussed. It was reiterated that this is a new virus and new dynamic effecting every one and hence solution should be collective.

06 June 2020

WHO consultation: the future of learning for public health

The WHO CC is involved in this one of a series of meetings organised by Human Resource Development Department at WHO Geneva. Part of the work is to develop a WHO Global Learning Strategy. This will align with the WHO's Constitution, its values, and the organization's that implements the collective vision for global public health in all 194 Member States. The WHO CC has many innovative approaches to learning and skill development in public health to a wide spectrum of public health professionals to addres current gaps and emerging issues.

22-26 June 2020

Global Public Health Panel on OHL – invited panellist

Primary Care recovery post pandemic

Since the start of the Pandemic the WHO CC approach to Covid was to deal with the immediate impact as well as project how the future will look linke post Covid-19 Pandemic. We have had the chance to discuss and hold meetings with WHO EMRO, WONCO Europe and Academia on the shape of primary care. We have published a paper on the topic. (OHL) that will provide free CME access to our global community of 5 million healthcare professionals worldwide.

One session focused on key and pressing issues around Public Health and COVID-19. Professor Rawaf gave a talk on Primary Care recovery post pandemic and what is next, by Informa Markets, who hosted a mega virtual healthcare event titled Omnia Health Live. The presentation was an interview style led by Dr Atiya Mosam from South Africa.

https://live.omnia-health.com/en/home.html

Activity 4

To support institutions in public health and primary care practice, research, innovation, and eLearning

Description: Public health and primary care research is an important element in providing evidence for education, training, and practice. The WHO CC aims to enhance academic exchange in an effort to broaden and strengthen public health and primary care skills, knowledge and leadership. Upon the request of WHO, the WHO CC will:

- 1. Facilitate staff exchange from Ministries of Health to spend time in the WHO CC;
- 2. Conduct training course and fellowship programs for Academic institutions in Member States.

General

The WHO CC members provide world-class educational and training programme in public health and primary care. They are leading on innovative approaches and creativity in these courses. Due to the Pandemic many of the courses are moved to virtual learning. In doing so the WHO CC team invented many techniques to ensure that participants are fully engaged and play their roles in learning process. Creating small grups discussion virtually, inceasing the number of exercises, spreading the training / learning programme over several weeks (one day every week) and adding homework.

11 July 2019

School of Public Health Imperial (SPH) collaboration with WHO Geneva

In discussions with Professors Paul Aylin and Helen Ward the WHO CC explored the possible collboartion with the SPH and WHO Geneva. The SPH is keen to work closely with WHO. We discussed one of the projects (health emergencies training programme) that WHO could work closely with us to develop online programme taking into account our experience in Global MPH Project. This will one of new WHO Acdemy. Subsequent meetings were hled on 6th Auguts and November 2019.

14 Nov 2019

Skype with Teri and Agenes, WHO Geneva on Clinical Governance

The WHO is leading on development and training in health governance in collaboration with WHO Geneva, WHO EMRO, WHO EUROPE and Royal College of Physician Edinburgh. Part of the outcome of this is:

- The creation of Quality Governance jointly with the Royal College of dinburgh
- The start of developing a new MSC Degree at Imperial on Health Governance
- Established of a research programme to explore best preactices in health governance

This meeting was fellowed-up from the WHO meeting in Cairo on health Governance (28th Oct-2nd Nov Cairo).

12 March 2020 Students Educational Visit

Healthcare Management Students from Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, Feldkirchen, Austria visited the WHO CC and the Department of Primary Care and Public Health. Academic objectives were delivered at this study tour, supported by the WHO CC Team.

30 March 2020 COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The director of the WHO CC was invited by WHO EMRO to join the membership of Technical Advisory Committee for Covid-19. There are 11 other additional members from and outside the Region. The first meeting was held on 30 March 2020. The TAC received a report on the global and regional situation of COVID-19. An overview of the containment and mitigation methods being used in the region and identified the special considerations and constraints in fragile, conflict and vulnerable settings. EMRO adapted the global response plan to the region and is working with countries to develop country specific costed plans based on these plans. Given the evolving situation, this plan is currently being revised. The extensive support WHO has provided to countries (40+ technical documents), on-line training, missions and virtual technical advice and guidance, is more than welocmed. The communication team is monitoring rumours and misinformation and adapting messages accordingly. We also informed about the extensive efforts being done by the Dubai Hub that has shipped supplies to the region and beyond; and reported that WHO is working on ways to address market failures in PPEs. The TAC Members discussed the details of these and what is projected in the Region and how address some of the associated issues such provided services for non-Covid patinets, imposing stronger measures to prevent transmission, looking at the social impacts, and protect the economy.

02 May 2020 COVID-19 Research - Dr Sami Sahni Medical City Baghdad

A draft of the research programme on the long term of Covid-19 in collaboration with Iraq (Prof Sami Sahni), Saudi Arabia (Dr Salih), Chelsea and Westmister (Dr Michael Pelly) NHS Trust and Central Middlesex Hospital (Dr Majeed Salmasi) was developed. At this stage we are not sure if Covid patients will recover fully or left with a longer-term residedual effect. We hope that his collaborative research led by WHO CC will carify these points.

31 May – 3 June 2020 <u>ASPHER Deans and Directors Retreat</u> – Sofia, Bulgaria

This year's meeting was organised virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The meeting was hosted by Prof. Tzekomir Vodenicharov (Bulgaria) and addressed wide range of issues. Covid-19 was a main item, and the WHO CC did a presentation of its work and its involvement with Public Health Association.

04 JUN 2020

Imperial College President's Awards for Outstanding Assistant Supervisor (recognition)

WHO CC member Dr Elizabeth Dubois was proudly recognised by ICL for the President's Award for Outstanding Assistant Supervisor for providing world-class education and pastoral care for an ICL student.

04 June 2020

FAMILY PHYSICIANS AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: THE WAY FORWARD

Joint WHO Europe and WONCA Europe meeting. The virtual meeting covered the key areas of managing primary care during the Covid-19 Pandemic. While many countries decided to exclude covid patients and focus on routine / essential services through virtual and telephone consultation other accepted these patients without taking the proper measures to protect staff and other patients. The discussions were vital to have clarity on the way forward and set up the right guidelines.

12-14 of June 2019 Educational Trip (MPH, MSc, Fellows)

This is an important educational activity in the Faculty of Medicine calendar for our MPH, MSc Students and WHO Fellows. The aim of the education trip is to give the students, PH trainees and Fellows an insight to the work of international organizations. It will also give them the opportunity to explore job opportunities and shape their career if they are interested in international work. This is a very popular activity and most loved by our students.

- World Health Organization (WHO HQ)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (HQ)
- International Museum of Red Cross and Red Crescent
- United Nations Palais des Nations (The Assembly Hall, Council Chamber)
- Médecins sans Frontières International (MSF); (Doctors without Borders)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and
- GAVI The Vaccine Alliance

Students experienced informative and engaging talks by experts in the field of public health including immunizations 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. Students were also given insight into employment, international job profiles and the internship process, particularly popular regarding the WHO. A guided tour of The Palais des Nations highlighted the origin of the League of Nations at the end of the First World War and today, the scope and remit of human rights and international law.

Activity 5

Development of national capacity for health research training and development

Description: Upon the request of WHO, support member states in developing national capabilities and strategies for health research with particular emphasis on universal health coverage (World Health Report 2013), disease prevention, person centred care and

continuity of care; through supporting countries to identify national research priorities and deliver health research training courses.

General

The WHO CC members undertake wide range of research activities in many areas of public health, primary care, health policy, health management, medical education, and clinical effectiveness. Members published many papers (see the list at the end of the report) during the reporting year and presenting in many international conferences their original research findings, its impact on health systems and practice, and shaping health policy.

12 June 2019

WHO Geneva: Meeting WHE (WHO Health Emergencies) Learning and Capacity Development

Discussion was focused on how to enhance the role of the WHE team's work and use some of the advanced learning methods incldung eLearning. This collaboration with WHO HQs was progressed through agreement to dveleop a joint online / virtual training programme on 'Acute Events" Subsequently several meeting bewteen WHO HQs colleagues and WHO CC staff were held in London and Geneva.

3 July 2019

Research Fellowship: WHO Fellow Dr Gunyoung Lee

Gunyoung Lee is a senior scientist within the Korean Ministry of Food and Drug Safety. She joined Who CC on a postgarduae Felllowship to expnd her experience and knowledge of Chamical hazards. Her Fellowship is expected to be conlucted with some research papers in the topic area.

12 Aug 2019

KSA Healthcare Leadership Academy, Initial Design Meeting continue with the previous meeting on the 15 of July

The Healthcare Leadership Academy was established in 2017 to support the transformation of the Saudi Healthcare system as well as the Saudi 2030 Vision. A one-year Fellowship in alliance with Imperial College Business School would be fully blended with a mix of face-to-face teaching, e-learning, coaching, projects, and all this would happen whilst the participants undergo different work rotations across the Saudi Healthcare system. The topics and themes are diverse with a mix of leadership related topics like leading high-performance teams but also a range of healthcare themes like population health, improvement science, healthcare economics and more. The WHO CC will support the project in implementation but most importantly in conducting research review of leadership stsyle in health and how leadership (which is at present predominantly medical) could be enhanced.

June 2019- June 2020

The WHO team supervise several PhDs with wide range of research topics in public health. This year five candidates completed their PhDs suucessfully. Topics covered include:

- 1. The UK NHS Health Check
- 2. Health System Performance
- 3. Women Health
- 4. The Care of Elderly Population
- 5. The Quality of University Hosptals.

Two PhD candidates joined the WHO CC early in 2020 and it is expected that a third one will join late in 2020.

06-12 Oct 2019

Public Health Law Training Course:

This one-week course hosted by Austrian American Foundation and Open Medical Institute, Salzburg Austria. It was by the Centre for Public Health Law Research, Temple Law School, USA: Maastricht University and WHO CC Imperial. The one-week course with 32 participants from across Europe was aim at learning the Five Essential Public Health Law Services (5 EPHLS) framework and to apply it to a particular topic in public health law by building a problem set they used throughout a multi-week instructional module (course) in public health law and policy. The WHO contributed three half days sessions based on the accumulative reseravh findings and the experience in reviewing and re-writing public health laws in many countries.

06 May 2020

Postgraduate Medical Research Fellowship Programme in Public Health

WHO Collaborating Centre Postgraduate Medical Research Training Programme is aimed at public health and family medicine specialists or other qualified healthcare professionals. It is an online programme allowing remote access to high calibre research training, and research resources. The training comprises of remote live training sessions on research skills, mentoring sessions tracking progress in research project and guidance in the research project aimed at publication. The training is also enriched with access to carefully tailored sessions on British NHS and how it encourages

16 June 2020

Call Dr Maryam Matar Ref Genetic Training Course

The virtual meeting was about the exploring the ability of the 22 WHO EMRO countries in carrying out WGS (Whole Geneome Sequencing) research to detect new Variants of SARS-Cov-2 virus. It seems that only country with a capcity for such research is the UAE within the private sector. This led to project to support the development of such sevices with advice from Virology colleague at UCL.

Collaboration with WHO regarding the activities of the WHO Collaborating Centre during the past 12 months (e.g., means of communication, frequency of contact, visits to or from WHO).

This year we have strengthen further our collaboration with WHO HQs Geneva, WHO EURO and WHO EMRO. We attended many of their meetings (all listed under the activities), we held many virtual and telephone meetings and conferences; worked closely with colleagues on projects; commissioned by WHO to do a specific piece of work; appointed adviser(s) to two advisory groups (on primary care with EURO and EMRO); and we were asked to review documents produced by WHO Expert groups. We did not encounter any difficulties and we are more than grateful for the support given to us by WHO. Since March 2020, Covid 19 took the lion share of our work: Member: WHO Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19 (WHO EMRO); Member: Supreme Advisory Committee on Covod -19 – Iraq (the committee was created by an order by the Prime Minister); Member: Specialist Technical Advisory Group of Experts (STAGE) on Covid-19.

Other Covid-19 Related Activties:

- 1. Published many papers on Covid-19 (see publications)
- 2. Covid-19 Webinars: The WHOCC in collaboration with the Arab Public Health Association and WHO EMRO organsied 25 global Webinars on Covid-19 topical issues including the virus, public health measures, clinical aspects, tretamnet, long term, vaccination, social impacts, mental health, workforce etc. These proved to be extremely successful Webinars and attended regularly by wide range of professionals CPD certificate is awarded for each attendance. Different dates, ongoing
- 3. The WHO CC members were invited to present in many seminars ad international conferences ranging from public health measures to health service responses at all settings. We also contributed to many non-Covid related international conferences.
- 4. Members of the WHO CC were invited on regular basis on TV and Radio programs (news, dedicated programs etc) on many channels around the world
- 5. The WHO CC website is updated with the latest news and important collaborative works on Covid-19.
- 6. Supported countries in their efforts in development and implementation of Covd-19 plan (public health measures); developed treatment and managemet gidelines; and supporting countries in their efforts t obtain vaccines

Interactions or collaborations with other WHO collaborating centres in the context of the implementation of the above activities (if any).

- 1. Collaboration with WHO CC on Primary Care Toronto
- 2. Collaboration with WHO CC on Primary care in Gent
- 3. Worked closely with many WHO CC in EMR of the WHO and advised other on the application for designation

Technical, programmatic, advisory or other support received from WHO during the past 12 months for the implementation of the agreed activities listed above.

- 1. Over the last 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 HQs Geneva for the project we are undertaking (Quality Governance; Integration of public health and primary care; public health professionals training, etc). We met with DG on two occasions, and we are grtafeul for his kind support and advice.
- 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.
- 3. The WHO CC received generous support from WHO on serving at various advisory groups and Committees

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