

JULY 2018 | NEWS

Welcome...

to our CORDS July 2018 newsletter. CORDS is a Non-Governmental Organisation comprised of six international networks, working to reduce and prevent the spread of diseases by exchanging information and best practice. Our vision is a world united against infectious diseases. Early detection of outbreaks helps keep disease transmission to its area of origin, which, in our increasingly mobile world, is vital to stopping life threatening diseases such as Zika, Ebola and Yellow Fever. The collective expertise of the CORDS networks and their close relationships with local communities facilitate timely detection and response to outbreaks.

Our next Board Meeting will take place in Atlanta, USA, before the International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases (ICEID), on the 24th and 25th of August 2018.



Emma Orefuwa moves on

Emma Orefuwa, CORDS Programme Manager since April 2015, has moved on. Emma led on network support, internal communications, data capture, analysis and grant management for the six CORDS member Networks. Emma has left to take up an important opportunity with the organisation that she co-founded with African entomologists back in 2009 - the Pan African Mosquito Control Association (PAMCA). PAMCA has made great strides recently, and has been successful in gaining significant funding. CORDS Executive Director, Christophe Longuet expressed his deep appreciation to Emma for her significant contribution to CORDS activities and wished her much success in her new endeavours.



Sixth EMPHNET Regional Conference

The Sixth EMPHNET Regional Conference was held in Amman, Jordan, on March the 27th to 29th 2018 with the theme: 'Innovative approaches: Adapting to the current Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) context'. The conference provided a forum for Field Epidemiology Training Programme residents and graduates as well as public health professionals from across the EMR to share their experience in surveillance and outbreak investigation and provide recommendations to strengthen public health systems and improve health outcomes in their respective countries. Christophe Longuet, CORDS Executive Director, was invited to co-chair a session on 'Innovative Tools in Surveillance' and was greatly impressed by the motivation and dedication of the public health professionals from the region in often challenging contexts. The conference saw the launch of EpiShares, a networking platform developed with the aim to increase opportunities for public health professionals to exchange knowledge. For more information on EpiShares visit www.epishares.net

JEE Alliance Meeting on financing outbreak preparedness

On the 17th of May 2018, in Geneva, Switzerland, CORDS Executive Director, Christophe Longuet, attended a meeting convened by the Global Health Centre of the Graduate Institute and the Co-Chairs of the JEE Alliance represented by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland and the Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia. The JEE Alliance, of which CORDS is a member organisation, is a platform for those building health security across different sectors following a One Health Approach.

The meeting moderated by Ilona Kickbusch, Director, Global Health Centre, the Graduate Institute, Geneva, considered how we can increase, stabilise and strengthen financing for preparedness and the challenges that remain such as the flatlining of development assistance and the complexities of financing outbreaks. Also present were representatives from The United Nations, the Ministries of Health in Tanzania and Germany, WHO and the EcoHealth Alliance. For more information visit www.jeealliance.org



Collaboration between the Praesens Foundation and Institut Pasteur Dakar

The Praesens Foundation aims to promote, provide and implement the use of easy-to-use, yet high quality patient diagnostics in resource-poor settings, including molecular diagnostics capabilities for rapid detection and monitoring of infectious diseases www.praesensfoundation.org. A fully equipped Mobile Lab designed by the Praesens Foundation has been deployed in Senegal in collaboration with Institut Pasteur de Dakar (IPD) www.pasteur.sn. This Mobile Lab, complementing IPD's current ecosystem of fixed labs, field stations and surveillance networks, is dedicated to the detection and identification of infectious diseases in areas that are hard to reach with a very limited or non-existent health infrastructure. It was handed over to IPD on the occasion of the Symposium: 'Community-based Solutions for Better Global Health Security', co organised by the Praesens Foundation and IPD, on the 25th of May 2018. Christophe Longuet, CORDS Executive Director, was invited to the conference to share CORDS's experience on 'How to scale local ownership of potential future outbreak responses'.

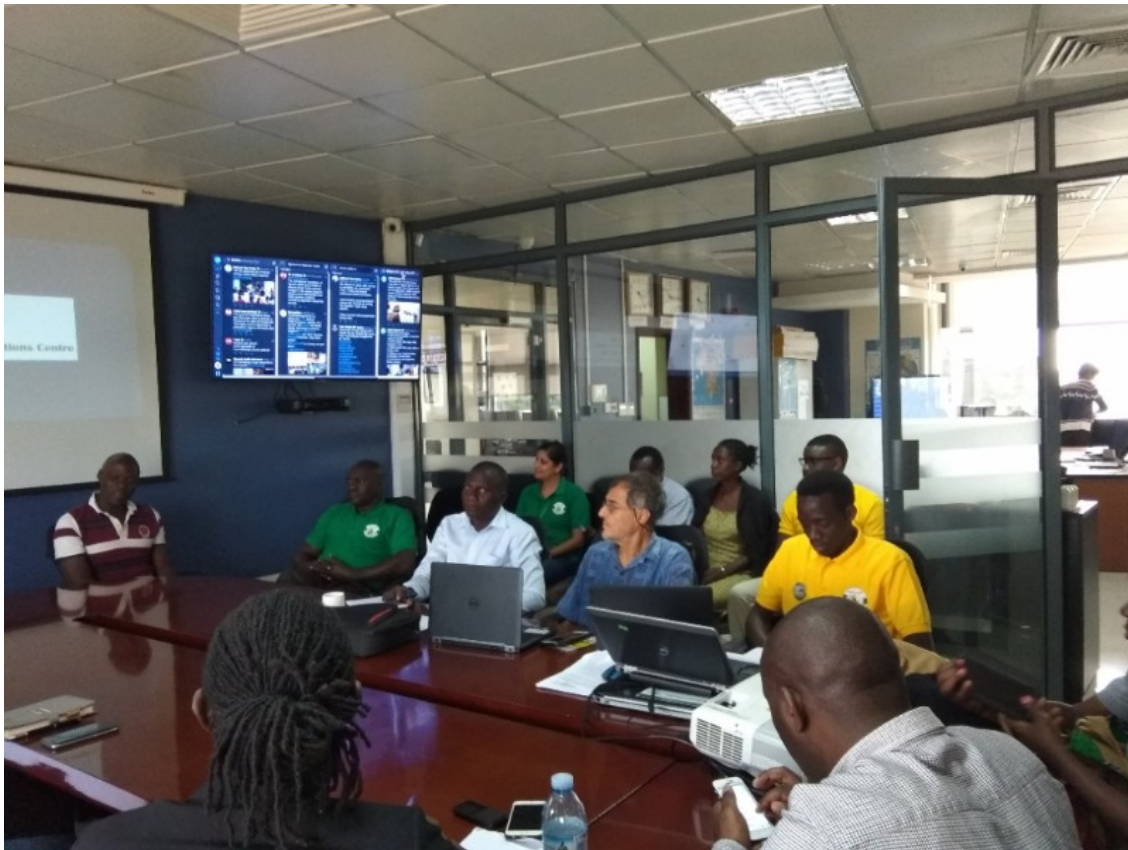




MBDS Workshop on Biosafety

On the 21st and 22nd of February 2018, the Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance Network, MBDS, held a workshop on Biosafety Manuals in Bagan, Myanmar. The meeting was attended by CORDS Executive Director, Christophe Longuet and Sabrina Salem. The morning of the first day saw the launch of the Biosafety Manual for cross-border coordinators and a presentation of biosafety experiences at regional and national levels. In the afternoon attendees undertook a table top exercise on biosafety activities in cross border scenarios. During the morning of 22nd of February the group considered how to strengthen bio-threat surveillance in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, supported by Canada's Global Partnership Programme. Later on participants took part in a brainstorm on developing a biosafety checklist where representatives from each country reflected their own situations.

For more information please visit www.mbdnet.org



EAIDSNet and SACIDS take part in EpiHack Uganda

The EpiHack Uganda organised by the Ministry of Health, InSTEDD Global and Ending Pandemics, took place from the 16th to the 20th of April 2018 in Kampala, Uganda with the theme 'Strengthening Health Systems for Disease Surveillance'. Two CORDS networks, the East African Integrated Disease Surveillance Network (EAIDSNet) and the Southern Africa Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance (SACIDS) took part.

An EpiHack is a collaborative event that brings together technologists, epidemiologists and public health experts for intensive co-creation, networking and prototyping of solutions for improved disease surveillance over a number of days. EpiHacks were developed by the Skoll Global Threats Fund, with the support of InSTEED, iLab Southeast Asia, Open Dream and others. The events fuse elements of hacking (in legal software development terms), marathon-like intensive coding, and development in a short period of time.

Having discussed various challenges, the attendees and facilitators settled on themes including: 'Improving sample tracking and results', 'Contact tracing and monitoring' and 'Outbreak & Event management'. During the week, the technologists and the health specialists worked together to identify solutions that would provide tools to address some of Uganda's main health problems. Presentations were given to demonstrate the use of technology to tackle public health challenges. Eric Beda of SACIDS, showcased how they use Afyadata to alleviate outbreaks in pastoral communities in Tanzania.

Epihack Uganda also included field trips to the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre, Central Public Health Laboratories and the District Office to see first-hand the challenges that locals face during health emergencies. Three prototypes were developed which will soon be tested in the field. They have been designed to improve the sample tracking systems from manual to real-time tracking using a mobile app, improve contact tracing and active monitoring during

outbreaks and to facilitate faster response and efficient outbreak management. To watch a short video of the event click here

<https://youtu.be/ELuSYRdAHMQ>



Pandemic Preparedness Podcast

Below is a link to a podcast on Pandemic Preparedness from the Global Health Policy Center in June 2018, part of their 'Take as Directed' series. It features three leading health security experts with frontline experience: Beth Cameron, of NTI, Amadou Sall, Pasteur Institute Dakar, Senegal and Andrew Kitua from the USAID Preparedness and Response Project. To listen click here www.soundcloud.com/csis-57169780/frontline-perspectives-on-pandemic-preparedness

ICEID, Atlanta, USA, 26th-29th August 2018

The International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases is taking place in Atlanta, USA from the 26th to the 29th of August 2018. Since 1998, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has hosted the conference. Held every two to three years, the event brings together more than 1500 public health professionals from around the world to encourage exchange of the latest information on issues affecting the emergence, spread and control of infectious diseases. Major topics for ICEID 2018 include surveillance and outbreak response, laboratory diagnostics and systems, factors affecting disease emergence and control, and public health preparedness.

There will also be a focus on issues such as antimicrobial resistance, genomic and molecular epidemiology, foodborne and waterborne illnesses, vector-borne and zoonotic diseases, healthcare-associated infections, respiratory infections and global health. CORDS President of the Board, Prof. Amin Soebandrio and CORDS Executive Director, Christophe Longuet, will present on '**Connecting Organizations for Regional Disease Surveillance**' (CORDS): **Building a Safer World for Communities in Underserved Regions**'. To find out more about the conference visit www.iceid.org



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