

**July 2021**

Welcome....

to our July 2021 latest news update. CORDS is a program of Ending Pandemics, comprised of six regional 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.



**APEIR**  
Asia Partnership on Emerging Infectious Disease Research

**Webinar**  
**The Equity of Vaccination in Asia**  
June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Asia Partnership on Emerging Infectious Disease Research**

**CORDS**  **Ending Pandemics** 

**APEIR Webinar: The Equity of Vaccination in Asia**

CORDS member network, The Asia Partnership on Emerging Infectious Disease Research (APEIR), in collaboration with Ending Pandemics and Indonesia One Health University Network (INDOHUN), held a webinar on 'The Equity of Vaccination in Asia' on 17 June 2021. The event was designed to discuss best practice and opportunities to improve the Covid-19 vaccine rollout in the countries of the region. APEIR invited Dr. Asik Surya, Ministry of Health Indonesia; Prof Daniel Cohen from fellow CORDS network the Middle East Consortium for Infectious Diseases Surveillance (MECIDS); Dr. Arturo Pesigan, WHO and Dr. Kaja Abbas from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine to speak, with Prof. Agus Suwandono, the University of Diponegoro and INDOHUN, as moderator.

The webinar was well attended, with participants from both public and private sectors and from countries including Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea, Israel, Albania, the Netherlands, Tanzania, and the United States. The session included discussions about Covid-19 vaccination in Indonesia and Israel and the health, economic & equity impact of immunisation pre- and post-the Covid-19 era. Prof. Agus Suwandono concluded that every country has its own challenges in achieving

vaccination equity, thus support and collaboration between multiple sectors is needed as well as an effective strategy for distribution and provision, a robust monitoring and evaluation system combined with innovative research. To avoid variants undermining progress, equitable Covid-19 vaccination needs to be rolled out as quickly as possible.

To listen to the webinar and view the presentations visit:

<http://apeir.net/apeir-updates/apeir-news/92-webinar-the-equity-of-vaccination-in-asia>



### **MBDS Regional Simulation Exercise and Partner Collaboration Forum**

CORDS member network the Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance Foundation (MBDS) conducted a second regional virtual tabletop and simulation exercise followed by a partner's collaboration forum on the 27 and 28 May 2021, supported by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). The objectives of the meeting were to simulate the current challenges related to Covid-19 by identifying each member country's vaccine rollout plan, sharing outbreak information, coordinating responses, discussing case management, stakeholder collaboration; and to help control the present outbreak and prepare for national and regional resilience.

On 27 May, national and regional health officials in Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam took part in the tabletop and simulation exercise based on the same scenario in parallel and simultaneously. The next day, health officials from those countries met virtually to share the discussion points of each scenario as well as points of entry and exit procedures, Covid-19 testing, quarantine transportation, contact tracing, risk communication, multisectoral collaboration and preparedness for resilience, challenges and recommendations. The meeting was Chaired by Dr. Darika Kingnate, the Office of International Cooperation, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand. Health officials from MBDS member countries and partners also participated.

The MBDS team collaborated with counterparts from Cambodia, Lao P.D.R, and Thailand to conduct the Partner Collaboration Forum online also on 28 May 2021, supported by DTRA. The objective was to identify and strengthen potential multi-sectoral collaboration among development partners to help prepare for public health threats in the Mekong Region. Dr. Babara Knust, US CDC, presented on the CDC Regional Border Health Project and their Covid-19 strategy. Dr. Rattanaxay Phetsouvanh, Ministry of Health, Lao P.D.R (MBDS Board) spoke on the 'Impact of Preparedness in Defying Covid-19'. Dr. Saowapak Hinjoy, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, shared the potential of regional collaborative

activities and the team from Cambodia spoke on Event Based Surveillance Real Time reporting including its integration with the national platform, supported by Canada's Global Partnership Program.

To watch the simulation exercises visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYggz1dBhMQwsqvDYigUs7Q>

---

### MECIDS Covid-19 Expert Meeting

CORDS member network the Middle East Consortium on Infectious Disease Surveillance (MECIDS) held an expert group meeting on 8 July to share an update on the epidemiological situation in the region, to update on the Covid-19 vaccination rollout and to discuss laboratory based Covid-19 surveillance. Colleagues from Jordan, Israel and Palestine met, including those from the Ministry of Health, Jordan, Tel-Aviv University, Israel, the Central Public Health Laboratory, Jerusalem and from Al Quds University, Palestine to discuss the surge in Covid-19 cases in the region.

Dr. Orna Mor, Central Virology Laboratory Public Health Services, Tel-Aviv University, presented on the current situation in Israel including the established use of molecular technologies to diagnose and monitor the infection, new tools in development and the need to monitor the import and selection of viral variants. Prof. Khitam Muhsen, Associate Professor, the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Tel Aviv University, spoke on the evaluation of Covid-19 vaccines including their effectiveness and safety. Dr. Sami Sheikh, Ministry of Health Jordan, presented on the vaccination coverage nationally and Dr. Ruthi Yishai, Director, the Central Public Health Laboratory, Jerusalem, emphasised the importance of swab pooling done at borders and airports. The decision was made to hold a follow up meeting for laboratory experts on laboratory techniques and pooling methods.

For more information on the work of MECIDS visit:

[www.mecidsnetwork.org](http://www.mecidsnetwork.org)



Image: SACIDS ICT Specialist Mr. Mpoki Mwabukusi demonstrating the AfyaData tool to the Minister of Education, Science,

Technology and Vocational Training, Prof. Joyce Ndalichako.

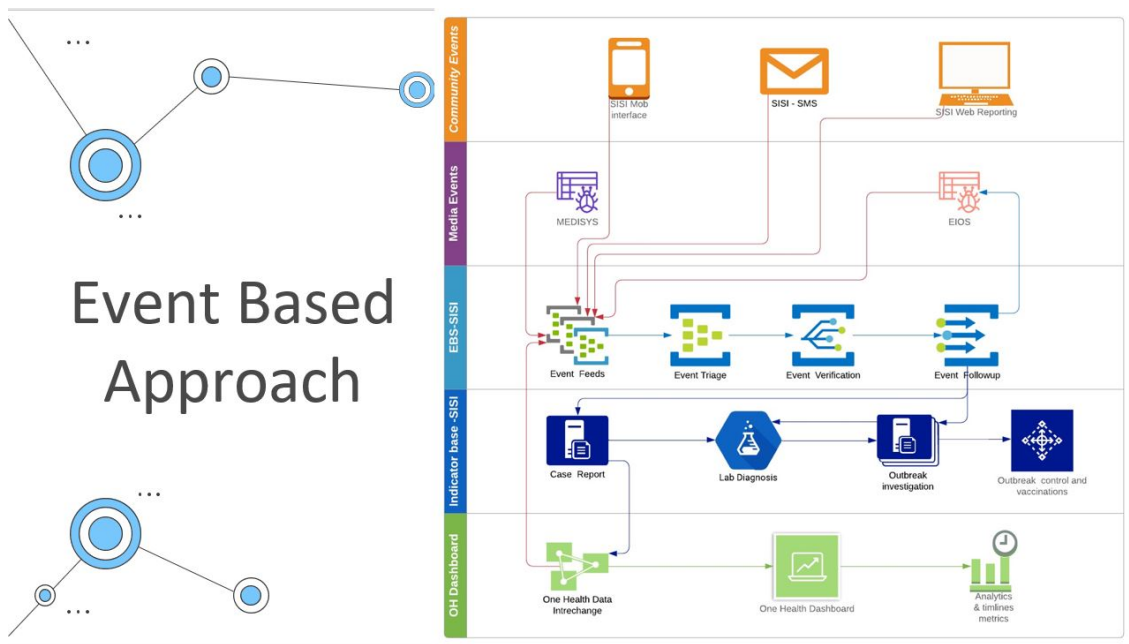
## SACIDS Foundation for One Health participates at the Sokoine Memorial Week Exhibition

CORDS member network SACIDS Foundation for One Health (SACIDS) participated in an exhibition to commemorate the late Hon. Edward Moringe Sokoine, a patron of Sokoine University of Agriculture during Sokoine Memorial Week, 24 to 27 May 2021. SACIDS had an opportunity to showcase its One Health research, scientific training work and projects including their innovative AfyaData system, a digital set of tools with a mobile and web application used for the community-based detection of infectious disease surveillance and the deployment of a mobile genomics laboratory for real-time pathogens.

This year's exhibition theme was 'Agricultural Technologies, Productivity and Market Competitiveness in Tanzania: Towards an Upper-Middle-Income Country'. The SACIDS Foundation booth was visited by dignitaries including the Guest of Honour Hon. Mashimba Ndaki Minister of Livestock and Fisheries and Hon. Prof. Joyce Ndalichako Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Vocational Training.

To find out more about SACIDS visit:

[www.sacids.org](http://www.sacids.org)



## Expanding Epidemic Intelligence for One Health

CORDS member network, The Southeast European Center for Surveillance and Control of Infectious Diseases (SECID), in collaboration with the South Eastern Europe Health Network, held a webinar on 8 July 2021, which explored how we expand epidemic intelligence for One Health. The event was well received by fellow CORDS network colleagues from countries including Indonesia, Israel, Tanzania and Uganda, as well as many from the South East Europe region. Representatives from CDC, the Rockefeller Foundation, Pak One Health and WHO Europe Health also attended.

SECID Chair, Dr Silvia Bino, spoke on 'EpiHack' an enhanced surveillance system started in Albania in 2016, where public health specialists and technology experts were brought together to help build and strengthen the One Health surveillance systems in the region. Jonilda Sulo, Technical Officer, SECID, presented the challenges and opportunities of their digitalized Surveillance Integrated System (SISI) including the improvement of the consistency, communication and effective use of public health data and

its use during the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the issues of visualization of integrated data, reporting and integration with the animal, vaccination and vector system.

Kujtim Mersinaj, SECID, shared their concept, the 'One Health Dashboard' a system under development by SECID and Ending Pandemics that incorporates multiple data streams from human and animal health surveillance and involves seven of the region's countries working together to shorten outbreak response times and increase organisational capacity to respond. Kakada Chheang, from the inSTEDD iLab Southeast Asia, was able to share experiences from another part of the world, the Mekong Basin, where the team in partnership with Ending Pandemics have developed the Cambodia Event Monitoring System. The CamEMS is an easy-to-use flexible pathway that allows the detection, verification, investigation, intervention, and public communication where necessary, of animal and human health outbreak events in a timely and efficient manner.

To listen to the webinar and view the presentations visit:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/mobile/folders/1kDtDaMNK0\\_zsYMf\\_x9BSAbwFNT1odel?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/mobile/folders/1kDtDaMNK0_zsYMf_x9BSAbwFNT1odel?usp=sharing)



Image: Group photo PARSE national meeting, Tanzania, 1 July 2021.

### **The Partnership for AMR Surveillance Excellence: Second Phase**

The Partnership for AMR Surveillance Excellence (PARSE) has moved to the second phase of the Fleming Fund grant, the piloting of two AMR surveillance Protocols created by MECIDS, SACIDS and partner universities. This follows the Mapping and Gap Analysis, which identified strengths and weaknesses of existing AMR surveillance systems in 18 countries in Asia and Africa. Those findings were used to develop universal protocols to help address some of the gaps identified.

The first protocol examines AMR Non-typhoidal salmonella in humans and poultry and Klebsiella pneumoniae infections in humans and is being piloted in Accra and Kumasi, Ghana, by MECIDS, Tel Aviv University and the University of Ghana. The team will be conducting a national meeting with key AMR stakeholders in the near future. The second protocol monitors AMR in urinary tract infections at the community level and is being piloted in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza, Tanzania, by SACIDS in collaboration with partners including the Catholic University for Health and Allied Sciences and Muhimbili University for Health and Allied Sciences. The team has completed a national meeting with key AMR stakeholders and is training laboratory and health facility teams. The two pilots are beginning data collection this month and will conclude in December 2021.

For more information on the project contact:

[kathryn@endingpandemics.org](mailto:kathryn@endingpandemics.org)

## Identifying Participatory Systems in One Health

Ending Pandemics is creating a global repository of One Health participatory systems to share how they are changing the face of public, environmental and animal health. After recording many systems globally, Ending Pandemics is keen to identify other systems to reflect the excellent participatory surveillance happening across the One Health spectrum. Ending Pandemics is asking those who are involved with plant, livestock, companion animal, wildlife, human health, One Health, and environment/ecosystem health systems to complete a short [survey](#). The deadline is **15 August 2021**.

## Participatory Systems Survey

---

[Twitter](#)[Website](#)[Email](#)

---

*Copyright © CORDS 2021, All rights reserved.*

### CORDS

Ending Pandemics  
870 Market Street, Suite 528  
San Francisco, CA, 94102

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)