

# BORDER HEALTH AND MASS GATHERINGS

Strengthening country capacities to effectively detect, assess, prevent and mitigate health risks related to mass gatherings and cross-border international movement



## PROMOTING HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

- Promote a risk-based approach to manage public health threats and enable health security at mass gatherings (mass gatherings) and for international travel and cross border movement, including at airports, ports and ground crossings (points of entry)
- Support countries with expert advice, tools, technical guidance, training, information and advocacy materials



## BUILDING WORKFORCE SKILLS

- Build capacities of health officials at points of entry and mass gatherings through online and face-to-face courses on inspection of conveyances, ship sanitation, event management in aviation and at maritime and land borders, planning, monitoring and evaluation of mass gatherings and mass gatherings and legacy



## DEVELOPING COLLABORATIVE TOOLS AND NETWORKS

- Collaborate and coordinate with international agencies (ICAO, IATA, IOM, IMO, ILO, CDC) on public health security for cross border movement
- Engage stakeholders in decision making for mass gatherings
- Facilitate multi-sectoral collaboration and platforms to disseminate public health guidance for mass gatherings and cross-border movement



WHO office in Lyon, France, hosts the **BORDER HEALTH AND MASS GATHERINGS UNIT** that has leading expertise in strengthening health security at points of entry and mass gatherings.

## MASS GATHERINGS - RISK-BASED APPROACH AND LEGACY

Mass gatherings of any type (sports, religious, cultural) and size can lead to an increased risk of spreading a disease outbreak, especially if they are poorly managed or left unmanaged. However, with rigorous risk-based planning, they also present opportunities for building long-lasting and positive public health legacy in host countries. We help countries to build sustainable improvements in health infrastructure, skills and behaviours and strengthen country capacities to plan, organize, implement, monitor and evaluate safe mass gatherings.

## VECTOR SURVEILLANCE LEARNING AND IDENTIFICATION

Vector surveillance and integrated vector management (IVM) at points of entry is critical to mitigate the spread of new pathogens and vectors and safeguard the health of travellers. However, entomologists are rarely present at such sites to rapidly identify disease vectors, track basic changes in local vector populations and inform control efforts to stop the spread of vector-borne disease. We attempt to fill this gap by developing training-of-trainers guidance on integrated vector management at points of entry and through the creation of a vector-identification platform to help gather region-based historical data on vector agents.



## Training and equipping health authorities managing mass gatherings, points of entry and international travel to evaluate, mitigate and communicate public health threats



FLAGSHIP  
ACTIVITIES

### GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORK - PORTS, AIRPORTS AND GROUND CROSSING NETWORK (PAGNet)

A web-based knowledge network to share information on public health activities at ports, airports and ground crossings including on emergency preparedness and response. It brings together public health officials, key partners in international travel and transport and WHO collaborating centres for points of entry.

### PUBLIC HEALTH EVENT MANAGEMENT IN AIR TRANSPORT AND SHIPS - GUIDANCE AND TRAINING

WHO guidance handbooks developed to strengthen preparedness and response to public health events impacting international air travel and transport and onboard ships. Online courses focusing on multi-hazard and multi-sectoral approaches developed with partners such as International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) targeting points of entry health professionals working on the ground.

### MASS GATHERINGS - GLOBAL NETWORK OF COLLABORATING CENTERS AND GUIDANCE TOOLS

A network of WHO collaborating centers to build health security capacity within countries on mass gatherings and share best practices and knowledge on mass gatherings legacy. In collaboration with Public Health England (PHE), an online training tool (Public Health Preparedness for mass gatherings, 2019) was developed to support countries in planning for and delivering safe and successful mass gatherings.

### PUBLIC HEALTH CAPACITY BUILDING AT GROUND CROSSINGS AND CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION

A handbook and a strategic risk assessment tool to provide operational guidance to countries for building requisite public health capacities at ground crossings and for cross-border collaboration, including between neighbouring countries. A collaborative effort with US CDC and IOM, it addresses the movement of travelers, conveyances and interaction with adjacent border communities.