Learning in Emergencies
The latest from the Learning and Capacity Development Unit

HIGHLIGHTS

Join OpenWHO's online exhibition and experience-sharing event on 12-13 July (p.1)

Learning for Marburg virus disease translated into local languages to fight outbreaks (p.2)

66 emergency leaders trained at workshops in the African and European regions (p.2)

Spotlight on training collaboration for peace operations personnel and new learning channels (p.3)

You're invited: Join OpenWHO's virtual global event

OpenWHO is hosting an online exhibition and experience-sharing event showcasing how learners have used WHO's free learning platform to protect public health in their communities.

Two daily sessions will be held on 12 and 13 July at 9:00-11:30 CEST and 15:00-17:30 CEST, which will be hosted on Zoom and live streamed on YouTube. Visit our event page to register and browse the session topics.

The event – #LearningSavesLives: OpenWHO stories from across the globe – is the product of a Call for Abstracts issued in February. OpenWHO reviewed 420 submissions from across the world and 40 finalists have been selected to present posters about their work at the virtual exhibition.

These case studies describe OpenWHO use on the ground by health professionals and communities, providing examples beyond what can be captured on the platform and contributing to the body of knowledge on the multiplier effect of open online learning.

NEW ONLINE COURSES

Guidance on Operational Microplanning for COVID-19 Vaccination

Environment, climate change and health for practitioners and actors guiding policy change

WHO Mobile Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) installation

"This course should be applied as learning content at every hospital."
- OpenWHO learner, health-care associated infection course
Translating for impact: Localizing knowledge for Marburg virus disease

In the first half of 2023, OpenWHO launched its free course on Marburg virus disease (MVD) in four new languages to expand access to critical knowledge amidst outbreaks in Equatorial Guinea and the United Republic of Tanzania. Both outbreaks were declared over this month.

The four languages – Dholuo, Kirundi, Spanish and Swahili – were prioritized based on a scoping of the languages spoken in affected areas. The online course was already offered in English and French.

In addition, the Makerere University-Yale University Collaboration, the Makerere University Centre for Language and Communication Services, the Ministry of Health of Uganda, the Yale Institute of Global Health and WHO released a Kiswahili translation of a WHO fact sheet on MVD in the OpenWHO course. The fact sheet is pivotal as it enables communities to understand the disease and make informed decisions.

In total, 71 languages are available on OpenWHO to support the learning response to health emergencies, including 30 courses in Ukrainian produced in collaboration with the WHO Country Office in Ukraine. OpenWHO also launched a new Infodemic Management learning channel in May which will continue to add new courses and translations.

A total of 17 million words have been translated for OpenWHO courses. In addition, an automated transcription and translation tool has been implemented to further scale up multilingualism, as described in a new paper.

African and European regions host Leadership in Emergencies workshops

For the past four years, WHO has been spearheading the Leadership in Emergencies programme: a multidisciplinary learning programme aimed at building leadership skills for health emergency responders within WHO and ministries of health.

This learning programme forms part of a larger WHO effort to increase the number of professionals able to efficiently lead emergency responses across the globe and ultimately, to contribute to more efficient management of health crises.

The programme has continued to grow in 2023, most recently conducting two specialized Phase 2 workshops for nominated individuals: In May, the WHO African Region and the WHO Emergency Hub in Nairobi hosted a workshop in Kenya with 37 participants mainly from the African Region. In June, the WHO European Region convened a workshop in Denmark with 29 participants.

In total, 371 people have been trained through the Leadership programme since it was launched in 2019. Two additional face-to-face workshops are planned for 2023, in addition to three online Phase 1 courses.
Training collaboration spotlight: Health of Peace Operations Personnel

A Peace Operations Training Institute course on the Health of Peace Operations Personnel was published on 11 May after more than a year of collaboration.

The WHO Health Emergencies Programme's Learning and Capacity Development Unit coordinated the scientific contributions of 16 WHO technical teams to support development of the course, which is based on existing OpenWHO courses. It is intended to provide essential information on the unique health challenges facing peace operations personnel who are not working as health-care workers or in a public health capacity.

Learn more here.

New topical learning channel: Infodemic management

New country learning channel: Bangladesh