

International Cooperation and International Health

10.1 INTRODUCTION

Various International Organizations and United Nations Agencies continue to provide technical support for many Health and Family Welfare programmes in the country. The status of support from various International agencies is discussed in this chapter.

10.2 WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

World Health Organization (WHO) is one of the main UN agencies collaborating in the Health Sector, with the Ministry of Health and Family

Welfare, Government of India and providing technical support. Activities under WHO are funded through two sources :- The Country Budget which comes out of contributions made by member countries and Extra Budgetary Resources which come from (a) donations from various sources for general or specific aspects of health; (b) funds routed through the WHO to countries by other member countries or institutes / agencies. India is the largest beneficiary of the country budget within the South East Asia Region. The budget is operated on a biennium basis, calendar year wise.



Signing of MoU Secretary-HFW, RD-WHO (SEARO) & MD-NBCC

10.2.1 Functions of WHO

(i) **Sessions of the Executive Board of WHO:**

The Executive Board is composed of 34 Member States elected by the World Health Assembly. Member States are elected for three year term. The main functions of the Executive Board are to give effect to the decisions and policies of the Health Assembly, to advise it and generally to facilitate its work. The Board meets at least twice a year; the main meeting is normally held in January with a second shorter meeting in May, immediately after the Health Assembly. India is, at present, not a member of the Executive Board.

The 144th Session of the Executive Board of WHO was held during 24th January to 01st February, 2019 in Geneva. Additional Secretary (Health), Joint Secretary (IH) and Director (IH) attended the session. They were assisted by officials from the Permanent Mission of India to UN agencies at Geneva.

During the EB Session, discussions were held on many important agenda items. India actively participated in the discussions and strongly raised its views / concerns on the agenda items i.e. Access to medicine, Substandard – falsified medicine, Communicable Diseases, Non-communicable Diseases etc.

The 143rd Session of Executive Board of WHO was held during 28-29 May, 2018 at Geneva and was attended by the officials from the Permanent Mission of India to UN agencies at Geneva.

(ii) **World Health Assembly:** The World Health Assembly (WHA) is the most important annual event of the World Health Organization. The WHA is held once every year and deliberates various draft

resolutions/ decisions that are put up for its approval by the Executive Board of WHO. It is the highest policy making body of World Health Organization where all member countries are represented by high-level delegations.

The 71st session of the WHA, which is the highest policy making body of the WHO, took place in Geneva during 20-26 May, 2018.

The business sessions of the Assembly were conducted in two Committees, Committee-A and Committee-B. India, in close coordination with the Permanent Mission of India to the UN agencies at Geneva, actively participated in discussions and made focussed interventions on the important agenda items both before Committee-A and Committee-B, highlighting the country positions as well as its concerns and suggestions for a constructive way forward.

During the 71st WHA, discussions were held on many important agenda items. India actively participated in the discussions and strongly raised its views / concerns on the agenda items having greater significance for India.

Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Secretary (Health), DGHS, Additional Secretary (Health), three Joint Secretaries of the relevant programmes, Principal Secretary (Health) - Government of Andhra Pradesh, MD(NHM) - Government of Chhattisgarh, Under Secretary (IH) and Section Officer (IH) attended the session. They were assisted by officials from the Permanent Mission of India to UN agencies at Geneva.

(iii) **Meeting of Regional Committee of WHO for South East Asia Region (SEAR):** The

Regional Committee (RC) of WHO-SEAR countries meets annually. The Committee is a forum to review progress made on health issues in the region and to lay down the roadmap for future action.

The 71st Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia was held in New Delhi during 3-7 September 2018. It was attended by representatives of all 11 Member States of the Region, United Nations and other agencies, NGOs having official relations with WHO, and observers. Hon'ble HFM, Secretary (Health), four Additional Secretaries of the relevant programme, six Joint Secretaries of the relevant programme and Economic Advisor attended the session. Some of the important agenda items discussed

during this Session were – Malaria : from Declaration to action, intensifying dengue vector control, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Programme Budget 2018-19 : Implementation, Programme Budget 2020-21, Strengthening SEA Region EMTs for health emergency response, Regional progress in survival of newborns, children and mothers : Moving towards Global Strategy targets, Promoting physical activity in the South-East Asia Region, Governing Body matters, Management and Governance matters, etc. In addition to the aforementioned, this year a Ministerial Roundtable was hosted by India on the theme “Improving access to essential medicines in the Region and Beyond”.





In addition to aforesaid, during the said meeting, Ms. Poonam Khetrपाल Singh was re-elected as the Regional Director of the WHO-South East Asia Region for 2nd consecutive term.

(iv) Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting (CHMM)

The Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting (CHMM) is the annual meeting of health ministers from across the Commonwealth countries. The meeting reviews activity and events from the previous year and provides a platform for countries to bring issues of health relevance to the attention of their Commonwealth partners and peers. Each CHMM provides a ministerial statement summarising the discussion and priorities for the coming year including setting the theme for the

next meeting. CHMM is supported by the Commonwealth Advisory Council on Health (CACH) which meets twice a year.

The Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting was held on 20th May, 2018 at Geneva. Hon'ble HFM attended the meeting.

10.2.2 Contribution to WHO

As a member country of WHO, India makes regular contribution to WHO for each biennium. A WHO biennium commences in January of the first year of the biennium and ends in December second year of the biennium.

The Assessed Contribution payable by Government of India to WHO is decided on the basis of UN Scale of Assessment. India's Assessed Contribution for the year 2018 stands at USD 17,63,035 + CHF 17,55,983 and Voluntary Contribution of USD 55,000 and USD 35,000 towards the WHO

/ UNICEF / UNDP / World Bank's Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases Research (TDR) and UNDP / UNFPO / WHO / World Bank's Special Programme of Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) respectively.

India remitted Euro 7,42,441 towards membership fee to International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Lyon, France for the year 2018.

10.2.3 BRICS Meetings and workshops

BRICS is an association of the five fastest emerging economies of the world, namely, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. BRICS association comprises of 43% of the World Population and 30% of the World GDP.

8th Health Ministers Meeting

The BRICS countries, represented by the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, People's Republic of China and Republic of South Africa, met in Durban, South Africa during 18-20 July, 2018.

Hon'ble HFM. and Additional Secretary (Health) attended the meeting.

The Health Ministers Meeting was preceded by the meeting of senior health officials on 18th July, 2018, which discussed action plans on Ending TB in BRICS countries and preparations for the High-Level Meeting of the UNGA on ending TB, update on BRICS TB Research Networks initiative, UHC in BRICS countries, Access to medicines and vaccines : drug discovery and development of new drugs, Implementation of International Health Regulations (2005), Post 2015 Development Goals, Non-communicable Diseases : Treatment of cancers.

The BRICS Health Ministers acknowledged the renewed commitment to health by the BRICS leaders as expressed in the Goa Declaration of October 2016. The meeting discussed BRICS collaborative projects on various pressing health

issues such as prevention and control of infectious diseases, Non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health, neglected tropical diseases, strengthening of health systems and health related SDGs.

The Ministers thanked South Africa for successfully hosting the 8th BRICS Health Ministers meeting.

10.3 AIRPORT / PORT HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS AND AIRPORT AND BORDER QUARANTINE CENTER

Introduction:

Airport Health Organization, Port Health Organizations and Airport and Border Quarantine Center (APHOs/ PHOs/ ABQC) are subordinate offices of the Directorate General of Health Services. At present, there are 11 PHOs and 11 APHOs, established at all major International Airports and Ports and 3 Border Quarantine Centres.

LIST OF EXISTING POEs (APHOs/PHOs/BORDER CROSSING HEALTH UNIT)

Name of APHO	Name of PHO	Name of Land Border Crossing
1. Chennai	1. Mumbai	1. Attari Amritsar
2. Tiruchirapalli	2. Kolkata	2. Agartala
3. Bangalore	3. Chennai	3. Petrapole
4. Hyderabad	4. Kandla	
5. Cochin	5. JNPT, Sheva	
6. Ahmedabad	6. Cochin	
7. Trivandrum	7. Vishakhapatnam	
8. Delhi	8. Marmagoa	
9. Kolkata	9. Tuticorin	
10. Mumbai	10. New Mangalore Port	
11. Calicut	11. Paradip	

These are statutory organizations and are discharging their regulatory functions, as delineated under the Indian Aircraft (Public Health) Rules, 1954 and Port Health Rules, 1955, respectively. Apart from this India is also signatory to the International Health Regulations, framed by WHO and therefore it is obligatory on our part to implement these regulations. Accordingly, both Indian Aircraft Public Health Rules as well as Indian Port Health Rules have been framed in agreement with the International Health Regulations.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS, PORTS AND LAND BORDERS UNDER PROCESS

Name of Airport	Name of Land Border Crossing
1. Amritsar	1. Raxaul (Bihar)
2. Lucknow	2. Jogbani (Bihar)
3. Coimbatore	3. Dawki (Meghalaya)
4. Varanasi	4. Moreh (Manipur)
5. Goa	
6. Jaipur	
7. Nagpur	
8. Pune	
9. Srinagar	
10. Gaya	
11. Port Blair	
12. Guwahati	
13. Bagdogra	
14. Patna	
15. Mangalore	
16. Imphal	
17. Bhubaneshwar	
18. Tirupati	

Objectives:

Main objective of the APHO/PHOs is to prevent the spread of infectious diseases of epidemic proportions from one country to another, with minimum interference to the world traffic. Some of the important functions of these organizations are – Health Screening of International Passengers, Quarantine, Clearance of Dead Bodies, Supervision of Airport Sanitation, Vaccination to International Passengers, Vector Control, etc. Apart from this, issuance of Ship Sanitation Certificate is another major responsibility at International Ports.

WHO has notified a list of Yellow Fever Endemic Countries, under IHR and any person coming to India from these notified endemic countries is required to possess valid Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate, failing which, such passengers are quarantined for a maximum period of six days. In the light of changing global health scenario, existing IHR have been revised by WHO (IHR 2005) and these new IHR have come into effect from June, 2007. In order to revise our own rules, in tune with IHR, a number of workshops have been organized by Directorate General of Health Services and finally, the amended draft Rules is under final stage of approval from Law Ministry.

For development of core capacities at all the Points Of Entry (POEs) for dealing with Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), task force meeting of all the stakeholders from the all the disciplines including Radio nuclear, Chemical, Atomic and Zoonosis have been held and the process of development of Contingency Plans and Capacity Building at all the POEs has been initiated. Contingency Plans of POEs have been shared with the stakeholders. After implementation of FSS Act, the VIP Food related function have been authorized and are being performed by POEs. Designation of APHOs/PHOs/ABQC as Designated Officers is under consideration of FSSAI.

Achievements

- Website for PH (IH) Division has been

developed and is now fully operational, with information regarding International Travel and Health at <http://www.ihrpoe.co.in>.

- Coordinated and Facilitated Training for Operationalization of 5 New Yellow Fever vaccination centres.
- 5 New Yellow Fever vaccinations centres have been designated and process for operationalization initiated – Vadodara Municipal Corporation; AIIMS Rishikesh; KEM Hospitals & Seth G. S. Medical College, Mumbai; Wenlock District Hospital, Mangalore; and District Hospital, Dharwad. Now there are total 48 Yellow Fever vaccination centres in the country.
- Approximately 100 International Conferences have been granted permissions.
- Coordinated and facilitated ENC for applicants wishing to pursue higher studies in USA.
- Officers of this Division participated in the Following International Events:
 - o DDG (MH & IH) participated in the WHO Orientation Workshop on National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) for SEAR, at Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 17 – 19 July, 2018.
 - o DDG (MH & IH) and DADG (IH) participated in the WHO Regional Workshop of IHR National Focal Points, from 25th – 29th March, 2019.
- Following Guidelines/Advisory/SOPs have been developed:
 - o Guidelines and Advisory for Zika Virus Outbreak were revisited and were put in place at Jaipur International Airport in response to the Zika Virus Outbreak in Jaipur.
- Following Trainings/ Meetings have been coordinated and facilitated for POE Staff:
 - o Medical officers from various POEs and DADG (IH) participated in the Training Workshop on Planning, Preparedness and Response to Radiation Emergencies for Medical Officers, from 13th – 16th November, 2018.
 - o Bi-Annual Review Meeting conducted for all Point of Entries (POEs) in Goa, from 25 – 26 June, 2018.
 - o APHO Delhi facilitated the First Aid Training of Delhi Airport Staff, in coordination with Trauma and Burns Division of Dte. GHS.
 - o Officials of Dte. GHS and APHOs/PHOs/LBQCs have been involved in miscellaneous Public Health Capacity Building Activities of various stakeholders.
- Additional Responsibilities handled by this Division:
 - o Rare Diseases - Officials of the division played a vital role in formulation of the National Policy on Treatment of Rare Diseases and are continuously involved in the implementation of Policy.

10.4 AGREEMENTS / MOUs (1st April, 2018 – 31st March, 2019)

- (1) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Health & Family Welfare under the Government of India and the Government of Timor-Leste on cooperation in the field of Healthcare and Public Health was signed on 07th April, 2018.
- (2) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Health & Family Welfare under the Government of India



and the Government of Swaziland on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine was signed on 09th April, 2018.

- (3) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Health of the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain on cooperation in the field of Healthcare was signed on 15th July, 2018.
- (4) An Agreement between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan on cooperation in health and medical science was signed on 01st October, 2018.
- (5) A Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia on Health Cooperation was signed on 09th October, 2018.
- (6) A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between Ministry of Health & Family Welfare under the Government of India and

the Government of Japan on cooperation in the field of Healthcare and Wellness was signed on 29th October, 2018.

10.5 MEETINGS / CONFERENCES (1st April, 2018 – 31st March, 2019)

- (1) A meeting between H.E. Mr. Nils Ragnar Kamsvag, Ambassador of Norway and Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to discuss and update on the Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI-III) was held in New Delhi on 19 April, 2018;
- (2) A meeting between Dr. Krish Valabjee, Chief Director, Policy and Strategy, Western Cape Government, South Africa and Shri Arun Singhal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, to discuss various health issues was held in New Delhi on 26 April, 2018;
- (3) An Inter-ministerial meeting between Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Ministry External Affairs, chaired by Shri Arun Singhal, Additional Secretary, MoHFW to discuss pending

proposals from partner countries for training and deputation of experts under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme in the field of healthcare was held in New Delhi on 08 June, 2018;

- (4) A meeting between H.E. Mr. Makur Matur Kariom, Under Secretary, Ministry of Health, South Sudan and Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, to discuss bilateral health issues, was held in New Delhi on 15 June, 2018;
- (5) A meeting between Dr. Preetha Rajaraman, HHS Health Attache, Embassy of USA in New Delhi and Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, to discuss the next Indo-US Health Dialogue, was held in New Delhi on 22 June, 2018;
- (6) A meeting between H.E. Shri Ashok Das, Ambassador of India to Brazil and Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, was held in New Delhi on 03 July, 2018;
- (7) A meeting between H.E. Shri Sujan R. Chinoy, Ambassador of India to Japan and Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare was held in New Delhi on 03 July, 2018;
- (8) A meeting between H.E. Shri Vishwas Sapka, High Commissioner of India to Fiji and Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, was held in New Delhi on 03 July, 2018;
- (9) A meeting between Hon. Ambassador of India to Peru and Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, was held in New Delhi on 04 July, 2018;
- (10) A meeting between Dr. Silva Lutucuta, Hon'ble Health Minister of Angola and Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral health issues was held in New Delhi on 05 July, 2018;
- (11) A meeting between Mr. Kabi Nkaku, Hon'ble Health Minister of Lesotho and Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral health issues was held in New Delhi on 05 July, 2018;



Meeting of Hon'ble Union Health Minister with Hon'ble Health Minister of Angola



Meeting of Hon'ble Union Health Minister with Hon'ble Health Minister of Lesotho

- (12) A meeting between Mr. Kenneth I. Juster, Hon'ble US Ambassador to India and Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral health issues was held in New Delhi on 12 July, 2018;
- (13) The 1st Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting between India and Morocco on cooperation in the field of Health was held at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi on 19 July, 2018;
- (14) A meeting between Shri Oscar Kerketta, Hon'ble High Commissioner Designate of India to Rawanda and Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, was held in New Delhi on 08 August, 2018;
- (15) A meeting between H.E. Mr. Klas Molin, Ambassador of Sweden to India and Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, was held in New Delhi on 13 August, 2018;
- (16) The 1st Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting between India and Malawi on cooperation in the field of Health was held at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi on 21 August, 2018;
- (17) A meeting between H.E. Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India and Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral health issues was held in New Delhi on 30 August, 2018;
- (18) A meeting between Hon'ble Mr. Bradley Ronald Hazzard, Minister of Health & Medical Research, New South Wales, Australia and Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare was held in New Delhi on 13 September, 2018;
- (19) The 1st Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting between India and Germany on health cooperation was held through Video Conferencing at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi on 17 September, 2018;

- (20) A meeting between Dr. Hiroto Izumi, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan and Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare was held in New Delhi on 17 September, 2018;
- (21) A meeting between Dr. Isatou Touray, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Social Welfare, Gambia and Shri J. P. Nadda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral health issues was held in New Delhi on 01 October, 2018;
- (22) The 10th Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting between India and Sweden on health cooperation was held at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi on 12 October, 2018;
- (23) A meeting between H.E. Ms. Harindar Sidhu, High Commissioner of Australia to India and Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, was held in New Delhi on 26 October, 2018;
- (24) A meeting between H.E. Mr. Kosmosbek Cholponboev, Health Minister of Kyrgyz Republic and Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, was held in New Delhi on 15 November, 2018;
- (25) A meeting between Dr Natalia Kanem, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNFPA and Shri J. P. Nadda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare was held in New Delhi on 11 December, 2018;
- (26) On the sidelines of the 2018 Partners' Forum meeting of PMNCH held during 12-13 December 2018 in New Delhi, Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare held the following bilateral meetings with:
- a. H.E. Mr. Anass Doukkali, Hon'ble Minister of Health of Morocco,
 - b. H.E. Mr. Hasan Ghazi Zadeh Hashemi, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Medical Education of Iran,
 - c. H.E. Mr. Upendra Yadav, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Health & Population of Nepal,
 - d. H.E. Dr. Abdulla Mohammed Dahan Al-Jabri, Vice Minister of Public Health and Population of Yemen,
 - e. H.E. Mr. Abdulla Ameen, Hon'ble Minister of Health of Maldives,
 - f. H.E. Mr. Molwin Morgorson Joseph, Hon'ble Minister of Health, Wellness & the Environment of Antigua & Barbuda,
 - g. Mr. Omar Abdi, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, and
 - h. Mr. Adnene Ben Haj Aissa, Executive Director of Partners in Population & Development.
- (27) A meeting between Shri Sanjay Kumar Verma, Additional Secretary (AD), Ministry of External Affairs (appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Japan) and Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, was held in New Delhi on 20 December, 2018;
- (28) A meeting between H.E. Ms. Agnes Buzyn, Minister for Solidarity and Health of France and Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare was held on 08th February, 2019 in New Delhi.



(29) On the sidelines of the 4th Summit Global Digital Health Partnership held during 25-27 February, 2019, the following bilateral meetings were held:



- i. A meeting between H.E. Ms. Ms. Lena Hallengren, Minister for Health and Social Affairs of Sweden and Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare was held in New Delhi on 25th February, 2019.



- ii. A meeting between H.E. Ms. Ulana N. Suprun, M.D., Acting Minister of Health of Ukraine and Shri J.P. Nanda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare was held in New Delhi on 25th February, 2019.



- iii. A meeting between H.E. Dr. Shah Mahir, State Minister of Health of Maldives and Shri J.P. Nanda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare was held in New Delhi on 25th February, 2019.



- iv. A meeting between Mr. Erik Gerritsen, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport of the Netherlands and Secretary-HFW, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India was held in New Delhi on 25th February, 2019.

10.6 PERMISSION FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

In the year 2018-19, 205 applications were processed for grant of permissions to Organizations/ Institutions for holding health related International Conferences in India.

10.7 ISSUE OF STATEMENT OF NEED (SON) CERTIFICATE AND EXCEPTIONAL NEED CERTIFICATE (ENC)

In the year 2018-19, 1261 applications for issuance of Statement of Need (SON) Certificate and 27 applications for issuance of Exceptional Need Certificate (ENC) were processed for undergoing

higher studies/training in the USA on J-1 visa in medical specialities /super-specialities.

10.8 VISIT ON FELLOWSHIP / CONFERENCE ABROAD

During 2018-19, 165 medical personnel were permitted to participate in International conference/ symposia etc. abroad, including 10 medical personnel from CHS cadre who were granted financial assistance subject to a maximum of Rs. One (1) lakh each under CHS Assistance Scheme to attend seminars / conferences abroad in order to acquaint themselves with the latest developments in the field of medicine and surgery in other countries and to exchange views with their counterparts.