

**International  
Co-operation &  
International Health**

**Chapter**

**10**

## 10.1 INTRODUCTION

Various International Organizations and United Nations Agencies continued 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 (WHO)

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.

### 10.2.1 Functions of WHO

**(i) Sessions of the Executive Board of WHO:** The Executive Board (EB) 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 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 138<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Board of WHO was held during 25-30 January 2016 in Geneva. Joint Secretary (IH) attended the session. He was 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 having greater significance for India, such as SSSFC Medical Products, Health and the Environment – addressing the health impact of air pollution, global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property, follow-up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Health Research and Development: Financing and Coordination.

The 139<sup>th</sup> Session of Executive Board of WHO was held in May, 2016 at Geneva and was attended by Additional Secretary (Health).

**(ii) Consultative Expert Working Group (CEWG) on Research and Development:** The Consultative Expert Working Group is an important mechanism instituted by the WHO which focuses on R&D and investments in Drugs / Pharmaceuticals with an emphasis on neglected diseases which may not have a large global market but have a high incidence in developed countries. Issues such as affordability, access, linkages of R&D costs to pricing, alternative mechanism of R&D financing for drugs etc. are some of the issues being discussed under CEWG. India has been a leader in this process both in South East Asia Region and at the Global level. In the year 2015-16, India voluntarily contributed US\$ 1 million for demonstration projects under CEWG.

The Open Ended meeting of Member States to assess progress and continue discussions on the remaining issues in relation to monitoring, coordination and financing for health research and development was held during 02-04 May 2016 in Geneva. A delegation from India, led by Secretary attended the session. The delegation was assisted by officials from the Permanent Mission of India to UN Agencies at Geneva.

India actively participated in the discussions and strongly raised its views / concerns on the agenda items having greater significance for India, such as WHO framework for engagement with non-state actors, the Innovative Medicines Initiatives, Global Health Technology Fund, Coordination for Health R&D, Financing of health R&D progress, current commitments and future scope and priorities on –

study by TDR, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on financing for R&D, Vaccine Development Fund/The Foundation for Vaccine Research, Financing mechanism for Global Health R&D etc.

**(iii) 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 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the WHA took place in Geneva from May 23-28, 2016. India actively participated in the discussions and strongly raised its views/concerns on the agenda items having greater significance for India, such as Non Communicable Diseases – Maternal, infant and young child nutrition, Promoting the Health through Life Course – Monitoring of the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals / Multi-sectoral action for a life course approach to healthy ageing, Air pollution, Preparedness, surveillance & response, poliomyelitis, Substandard/spurious/falsely-labelled/falsified / counterfeit medical products and follow up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development : Financing and coordination – report of the open ended meeting of Member States.

**(iv) 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 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 5-9 September 2016. It was attended by representatives of all 11 Member States of the Region, United Nations and other agencies, non-governmental organizations having official relations with WHO, and observers. A delegation from India led by Minister of Health & Family Welfare (HFM) attended the Session. Some of the important agenda items discussed during this Session were Non-

communicable Diseases, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Programme Budget 2016-2017 : Implementation, Programme Budget Performance Assessment : 2014-2015, Proposed Programme Budget 2018-19, Overview of WHO Reform, Antimicrobial resistance, International Health Regulation post-2016, Ending preventable maternal and child mortality, Time bound elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), The Decade for Health Workforce Strengthening in the SEA Region, Regional Strategic Plan to address double burden of malnutrition in South-East Asia region, Migration and Health and Progress reports on selected Regional Committee resolutions. HFM participated in two ministerial round table discussions on (i) Strengthening health systems response to address NCDs at the primary health care level and (ii) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC). HFM also led a physical activity session on Yoga. India was awarded a Certificate of recognition for public Health Achievements in the Region on attainment of the Yaws-free status.

### 10.2.2 Government of India 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. For the biennium 2016-17, the scale of assessment for India is 0.666. India's Assessed Contribution for the biennium 2016-17 stands at USD 30,93,570 + CHF 29,32,704 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 has remitted Euro 7,35,086 towards membership fee to International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Lyon, France for the year 2016.



### 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.

#### During the year 2016, following BRICS Workshops were held in India:

- Workshop on Strengthening Health Surveillance : System and Best Practices (during 1-2 August 2016 at Bengaluru, Karnataka).
- Workshop on TB / AIDS (during 15-16 November 2016 at Ahmedabad, Gujarat).
- Workshop on Drugs and Medical Devices (during 17-18 November 2016 at Goa).

#### 6<sup>th</sup> 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 New Delhi on 16 December 2016 at the Sixth BRICS Health Ministers Meeting.

The Health Ministers Meeting was preceded by the meeting of senior health officials on 15 December 2016, which discussed action plans on Strengthening surveillance systems, Antimicrobial Resistance, Non-Communicable Diseases, Regulatory collaboration, Drug Discovery & Development, Research collaboration for TB, HIV and Malaria and Information and Communications Technology in healthcare.



*Sixth BRICS Health Ministers Meeting and Meeting of Senior Health Officials during 15 - 16 December, 2016*

A high level meeting on traditional medicinal knowledge was also held on 16 December 2016. This meeting discussed the way forward for bilateral and multi-lateral collaboration on Protection of Genetic Resources/Traditional Knowledge/Traditional Cultural Expressions at International Forum, mutual recognition of Pharmacopeia, practice and practitioners and import/export of traditional/alternative medicines etc.

The BRICS Health Ministers acknowledged the renewed commitment to health by the BRICS leaders as expressed in the Goa Declaration of October, 2016 and noted the progress made since the first BRICS Summit and resolved to continue cooperation in the sphere of health through the Technical Working Groups and the "BRICS Framework for Collaboration on Strategic Projects in Health".

#### Some of the significant outcomes of the 6<sup>th</sup> Health Ministers Meeting

- The action plans on Strengthening surveillance systems, AMR, NCDs, Regulatory collaboration, Drug Discovery & Development, Research collaboration for TB, HIV and Malaria and Information and Communications Technology in healthcare adopted.
- The recommendations made in the BRICS workshop on drugs and medical devices in Goa, India in November 2016, including the need for concluding a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on regulatory collaboration with a view to improve the regulatory standards, certification and systems for medical products were welcomed.
- Agreed to constitute a working group, to work on strengthening regulatory systems, sharing of information, appropriate regulatory approaches in case of international and national health emergencies and provide recommendations for the promotion of research and development of innovative medical products (drugs, vaccines and medical technologies).
- The BRICS TB Cooperation Plan adopted and also agreed to set up a BRICS network on TB Research and creation of a research and development consortium on TB, HIV and Malaria.

- Acknowledged that Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) is a serious global public health issue and emphasized the need to implement the WHO's Global Action Plan on AMR and National Plans in this regard.
- Acknowledged the value and importance of traditional and alternative systems of medicine as a means of achieving holistic healthcare and the need of experience and knowledge-sharing for securing public health needs.
- The Ministers welcomed the report of the UN High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines to review and assess proposals and recommended solutions for remedying the policy incoherence between the justifiable rights of inventors, international human rights law, trade rules and public health in the context of health technologies, while looking forward to discussions and follow-up of the Panel's report through WHO and other relevant UN agencies and international organizations. The Ministers reiterated their resolutions to promote access to medicines including through the full use of TRIPS flexibilities and to promote these in the bilateral and regional trade agreements in order to protect public health interest.
- Adopted a Delhi Communique which re-iterated its collective commitment to the BRICS II health cooperation and captured the way forward to strengthen such cooperation in the identified areas.
- Agreed to convene 7<sup>th</sup> BRICS Health Ministers meeting and Meeting of Senior Health Officials in China in 2017.

### 10.3 AIRPORT/PORT HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS AND AIRPORT AND BORDER QUARANTINE CENTRE

#### 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 10 APHOs and 11 PHOs, established at all major International

Airports and Ports and one Border Quarantine Centre at Attari Border, Amritsar. The details are given in Table below:

LIST OF EXISTING 22 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	
3. Bangalore	3. Chennai	
4. Hyderabad	4. Kandla	
5. Cochin	5. JNPT, Sheva	
6. Ahmedabad	6. Cochin	
7. Trivandrum	7. Vishakhapatnam	
8. Delhi	8. Mandapam Camp	
9. Kolkata	9. Marmagoa	
10. Mumbai	10. Tuticorin	
	11. Mangalore	

#### Objectives:

The 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 the notified endemic countries is required to possess valid Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate, failing which, such person is quarantined for a maximum period of six days.

For development of core capacities at all the Points Of Entry (POEs) for dealing with Public Health

Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), task force meetings of all the stakeholders from all the disciplines including Radio nuclear, Chemical, Atomic and Zoonosis were held. 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 Food Safety & Standards Act 2006, the VIP Food related functions have been assigned to and are being performed by POEs.



*Field Worker trainings conducted at APHO Kolkata*

### Achievements

- 5 Batches of Field Worker Trainings Conducted at APHO Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi and PHO Kandla. Total 77 Field Workers Trained.
- Coordinated and Facilitated Training for Operationalization of 17 New Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres.
- 7 new Yellow Fever Vaccinations centres have been established, namely - Family Welfare Regional Training Centre, Mumbai; AIIMS Raipur; AIIMS Bhubaneswar; AIIMS Bhopal; AIIMS Patna; District Hospital Raipur, and BJMC Pune. Now there are total 40 Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres in the country.
- Sensitization of Immigration Officers done at Airports for MERS-CoV, Ebola, Zika etc.
- Sensitization of Medical Officers accompanying Haj Pilgrims, for MERS-CoV.
- Field Worker Manual developed.
- Public Health Measures for All Hazards Approach Under International Health Regulation (IHR) for Global Health Security (GHS) manual developed.
- Legislative Rules for APHO/PHO drafted and processed for notification.
- General Contingency Plan has been developed for Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) like Ebola, Zika, MERS-CoV, etc. for APHO, PHO and Land Borders
- SSSC/SSCEC/Fumigation Charges for Woollen Clothes have been revised.
- Internal Assessment Checklist to assess Core Capacities at POEs has been developed and tested at all POEs.
- Bi-Annual Review Meeting conducted for all Point of Entry (POEs) in Mumbai and Bhopal respectively.



*Haj Pilgrims*



- Approximately 338 International Conferences have been granted permissions.
- Coordinated and facilitated SON/ENC for approximately, 20 individuals, who want to study abroad.
- National Consultation on Strengthening Inter-Sectoral Coordination for IHR (2005) Workshop conducted in November, 2015 at Goa.

**Following Guidelines/Advisory/SOPs have been developed:**

- o SOP for Mechanism of International Communication during PHEIC.
- o Advisory of MERS-CoV and Ebola for Travellers, Immigration Officers and POE Officers.
- o Ebola film.
- o Guidelines for Dead Body Clearance.
- o Financial Guidelines for Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres managed by State Governments.
- o Guidelines prepared for Referral Hospitals for Medical Emergencies at POEs.
- o A document on roles and responsibility of various Stakeholders for the compliance of IHR (2005) has been drafted.
- o Advisory for Zika Virus has been prepared for Travellers, Airlines and Immigration Officers.
- o Medical Tourism SOP and concept note has been prepared.

**Following trainings have been coordinated and facilitated for POE Staff:**

- o Training of 17 APHOs/PHOs in Food Safety, in coordination with FSSAI.
- o Training Workshop on Planning, Preparedness & Response to Radiation in June- July, 2016.

- o Training of Finance and Hospital Procurement at National Institute of Financial Management, Faridabad in January 2016; April, 2016 and November, 2016.
- o Training on SSC/SSEC for 104 Medical and Para-medical Staff of APHOs/PHOs at Mumbai, Cochin, Hyderabad and Kolkata.
- o Training Workshop of IHR on Ship Sanitation Certificate for 40 Officers at Vizag.

**10.4 CUSTOM DUTY EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE**

During 2016-17 (upto 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2016), Ministry has issued one time Customs Duty Exemption Certificates in favour of ESIC Model Hospital & PGIMS, Basaidarapur (New Delhi), under the control of the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India.

**10.5 VISIT ON FELLOWSHIP/CONFERENCE ABROAD**

During 2016-17 (upto 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2016), 120 medical personnel were permitted to participate in International conference / symposia etc. abroad, including 20 medical personnel from CHS cadre who were granted financial assistance subject to a maximum of Rs. One 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.

**10.6 AGREEMENTS/MoUs (Upto 31<sup>st</sup>December 2016)**

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Health & Family Welfare under the Government of India and the Government of Papua New Guinea on cooperation in the field of Healthcare and Medical Science was signed on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India and the Government of Qatar

on cooperation in the field of Health was signed on 05<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India and the Government of Vietnam on Health cooperation was signed on 03<sup>rd</sup> September, 2016.
- An Arrangement between Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India and the Ministry of Primary Industries, Government of New Zealand on cooperation in Food Safety was signed on 26 October, 2016.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS, New Delhi) under the Government of India and the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) of the Government of Japan on the Demonstration Project for ICT based Green Hospital at AIIMS, New Delhi was signed on 29 November, 2016.

#### 10.7 MEETING /CONFERENCES (Upto 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2016)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG), constituted under the MoU signed between India and United Kingdom on cooperation in the field of Health, was held in London, United Kingdom on 14-15 January, 2016;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG), constituted under the MoU signed between India and Philippines on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine, was held in New Delhi on 11 February, 2016;
- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) constituted under the MoU signed between India and Maldives on cooperation in the field of Health was held in New Delhi on 25 February, 2016;
- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) constituted under the MoU signed between India and USA on cooperation in Cancer Research, Prevention, Control and Management was held in New Delhi on 02 March, 2016;
- 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) constituted under the MoU signed between India and Sweden on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine was held in New Delhi on 03 March, 2016;
- A meeting between H.E. Hernani Coelho da Silva, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor Leste and Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral health issues was held in New Delhi on 28 March, 2016;
- A call on meeting between H.E. Mr. Mohammed Nasim, Minister of Health & Family Welfare of Bangladesh and Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare was held in New Delhi on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2016;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) constituted under the MoU signed between India and Bangladesh on cooperation in the field of Health was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 27-28 April, 2016;
- A meeting between H.E. Yasuhisa Shiozaki, Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan and Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral health issues was held in New Delhi on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2016;
- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Task Force in connection with setting up of eleven (11) Indo-UK Institute of Health across India by UK-India Healthcare Collaboration (UKIHCC) and similar proposed investment in healthcare under private sector in collaboration with various State Governments was held in New Delhi on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2016;
- The Government of India (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare) has committed to donate Medicines and expendables equivalent of US\$ 1 million to Cuba during the visit of a delegation led by Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare to Havana, Cuba on 23 – 26 October, 2016;



- A meeting between H.E. Dr. Ferozuddin Feroz, Public Health Minister of Afghanistan and Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral health issues was held in New Delhi on 09<sup>th</sup> November, 2016;
- A delegation led by Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the International Congress on "Controlling Diabetes and its More Severe Complications" in Varadero, Cuba during 05-09 December, 2016;
- A call on meeting between H.E. Mr. Mentor Villagomez, Ambassador of Ecuador at New Delhi and Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary (Health) was held in New Delhi on 05<sup>th</sup> December, 2016;
- A meeting between H.E. Mr. Roberto Sarmiento de Oliveira Soars, Vice Foreign Minister of Timor-Leste and Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to discuss bilateral health issues was held in New Delhi on 06<sup>th</sup> December, 2016; and

- A meeting between H.E. Mr. Chris Elstoft, Australian Deputy High Commissioner at New Delhi and Shri C.K. Mishra, Secretary (Health & Family Welfare) to discuss bilateral health issues was held in New Delhi on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2016.

### 10.8 PERMISSION FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

In the year 2016-17 (upto 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2016), permissions were granted to 176 Organizations/Institutions for holding health related International Conferences in India.

### 10.9 ISSUE OF STATEMENT OF NEED (SON) CERTIFICATE AND EXCEPTIONAL NEED CERTIFICATE (ENC)

In the year 2016-17 (upto 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2016), 889 applicants were issued Statement of Need (SON) Certificate and 18 applicants were issued Exceptional Need Certificate (ENC) for undergoing higher studies/training in the USA on J-1 visa in medical specialities/super-specialities.