

GHSA Legal Preparedness Action Package

Promoting legal preparedness as a critical capacity for global health security

July – September 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to the very first issue of the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) Legal Preparedness Action Package's quarterly Newsletter. Over the past few months, the Leadership Team and Executive Secretariat have been busy reflecting and strategizing on Action Package's work thus far and our future work, especially since it has been one year since the Action Package was established and as we gear up for the last half of 2022. During this time, we have also solidified membership of organizations interested in joining the Action Package.

In addition to the development of this first newsletter, which will be led by the Outreach and Advocacy Sub-Working Group going forward, there are a number of other activities and upcoming events and opportunities to highlight in this inaugural issue.

We welcome contributions to the Newsletter from all members. Please use this [link](#) to submit your entries.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Webinar Series: Strengthening Legal Preparedness & Promoting Equitable Access to Medical Countermeasures through Liability Risk Management: Mapping Challenges and Solutions (register [here](#) for October 5 and [here](#) for October 12)
 - [Part 1](#): 5 October, 7:00 – 9:30 A.M. ET
 - [Part 2](#): 12 October, 7:00 – 9:00 A.M. ET
- GHSA Ministerial, Seoul, Republic of Korea (28-30 November; side events to be held on 28 November)
- [7th One Health Conference](#) (7-11 November)

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Assistance with Legal Mapping

For the next phase of the legal mapping project, we are looking for additional groups (e.g., students, research assistants) who can assist. Please let us know if you would like to participate by emailing Secretariat (ghsalpap@georgetown.edu).

New Regulatory Sub-Working Group

Given the various regulatory hurdles during health emergency response and need to identify and frame the issues and developing guidance to address them from a legal preparedness perspective, colleagues Emanuele Cesta and Elizabeth (Liz) Sadove have agreed to lead a Regulatory Sub-Working Group. If you are interested in contributing to the establishment and work of this group, please email the Secretariat (ghsalpap@georgetown.edu).

***New* Capacity Building Sub-Working Group**

We will be establishing a Sub-Working Group to advance our strategy and work for capacity building on legal preparedness. If you are interested in contributing to this group, please email the Secretariat (ghsalpap@georgetown.edu).

One Health Conference Abstract Submission

Working Group members collaborated to submit abstract submissions to the World One Health Conference. We are hoping to use this conference as a starting point to build up a One Health Sub-Working Group. Please let us know if you are interested in joining the delegation by emailing the Secretariat (ghsalpap@georgetown.edu)

NEW MEMBERS

A big welcome to our new members! We are delighted to integrate you into this network and look forward to working with you and your contributions.

- Africa CDC
- West African Health Organization (WAHO)
- Yonsei University

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA (GHSA) MINISTERIAL

The next GHSA Ministerial is scheduled for 28-30 November 2022. Side events will be held on 28 November. The Leadership Team is in the process of developing a proposal for a side event focused on legal mapping and has also been invited to provide a brief presentation on the Action Package during the Ministerial on 30 November. More details are forthcoming.

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY CONFERENCE

A number of our members attended the Global Health Security Conference 2022 in Singapore from 28 June–1 July. As the GHSA Legal Preparedness Action Package, we hosted two successful workshops, one focused on legal mapping and the other on liability and equitable access to medical countermeasures (MCMs). We also presented a poster on the Action Package. We received positive feedback from many of the participants, confirming the importance of our mission. We were able to connect with countries and organizations interested in joining the working groups as well as support one another during our independent sessions.

Our members promoted our “legal preparedness” definition as part of their independent sessions and term was also used by others who attended the workshops. Members at home supported by promoting the sessions via Twitter and LinkedIn, confirming the value of developing an advocacy strategy for such public and well-attended events.

Global Health Security Conference Legal Mapping Workshop

The legal mapping workshop hosted a panel discussion. Panelists included:

- **Dr. Simon Agolory**, Acting Director, Division of Global Health Protection, Center for Global Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, United States

- **Cédric Apercé**, Legal Advisor, Resolve to Save Lives (RTSL)
- **Dr. Soawapak Hinjoy**, Director, Office of International Cooperation, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
- **Dr. Wilmot James**, Former Member of Parliament (South Africa), Senior Consultant at the Nuclear Threat Initiative, Consultant to the Africa CDC, and Senior Research Scholar at Columbia University's Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy
- **Ludy Prapancha Suryantoro**, Unit Head, Multisectoral Engagement for Health Security, World Health Organization (WHO)
- **Dr. Debra Yeskey**, Head of Regulatory Policy and Intelligence, Global Regulatory Affairs, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)

The objectives of the workshop included:

- Share lessons learned on how countries can address the wide range of legal challenges countries face from infectious disease threats and public health emergencies.
- Discuss the important role legal mapping plays as part of the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) to support data driven approaches.
- Highlight tools and methodologies developed through the GHSA Legal Preparedness Action Package that can support country led initiatives to strengthen national legal frameworks and achieve greater health security preparedness and overall compliance with IHR.

In addition to the panel, we hosted breakout groups that allowed participants to review a high-level overview of the draft areas of focus for the Legal Preparedness Legal Framework Guide and provide input prompted with a series of discussion questions. We hosted a legal mapping tabletop simulation exercise where participants completed a functional tabletop simulation exercise to review potential legal barriers in response to an outbreak scenario.

Global Health Security Conference Liability Workshop

The workshop focused on strengthening legal preparedness and promoting equity in vaccine access through liability risk management and building on COVID-19 lessons learned. We opened with an introduction to the Action Package and an overview of liability risk management challenges during public health emergencies, followed by a roundtable discussion featuring the following panelists:

- **Ana Ayala**, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, United States (moderator)
- **Sam Halabi**, Georgetown O'Neill Institute for National & Global Health Law – No Fault Compensation Systems Established for COVID-19
- **Shirmila Ramasamy**, Senior Counsel, World Bank – The World Bank's Perspective on Client Governments Liability Challenges
- **Elizabeth Sadove**, Director, MCM Regulatory Policy, Office of Counterterrorism and Emerging Threats, U.S. Food & Drug Administration – Regulatory Factors in Liability Risk Management

Participants were then divided into breakout groups and presented with examples of vaccine procurement contract clauses to analyze and discuss based on whether and to what extent they balanced liability risk management and equity to maximize equitable global access to MCMs in the future.

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY UPDATE

The Outreach and Advocacy Sub-Working Group is working to develop a communication strategy and an outreach strategy. Based on the Public Launch and the Global Health Security Conference, we will be incorporate lessons learned on social media and other online mediums to further promote the work, including website development and a resource library for promoting the Action Package and its members' independent work on legal preparedness.

LEGAL MAPPING

Legal Mapping Pilot Project

We have been working with students at University of North Carolina to work on our pilot legal mapping project. This has included working on 5 different countries and answering questions related to 8 benchmarks. Students are wrapping up their projects and will be presenting to the legal mapping Sub-Working Group this fall.

We are wrapping up this first legal mapping pilot project and are working to incorporate feedback and expand it to additional countries and questions.

We will be following up with country participants on potential involvement with the Action Package and/or conducting virtual legal mapping workshops. We will be following up with country participants on potential involvement with the Action Package and/or conducting virtual legal mapping workshops.

LIABILITY

Webinar Series on Liability and Equitable Access to MCMs

Based on the workshop held at the Global Health Security Conference, the Liability Sub-Working Group is working to host a webinar series on 5 and 12 October that discusses challenges to managing liability risk during and promoting equitable access to MCMs during health emergencies. More details and planning status to be shared during the LPWG monthly meeting.

Promotional materials are in development, and we will be seeking your assistance in helping us promote this event as soon as they are ready. Many thanks in advance!

Blog Post on Harvard Law School's "Bill of Health"

Members of the Liability Sub-Working Group are working to put together a blog post for the Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics at Harvard Law School. The blog will be part of a symposium on the "Bill of Health" and focused on digital symposium on COVID-19 and tort liability. We are looking forward to sharing the blog post with the Legal Preparedness Working Group as soon as it is published.