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In light of the challenges posed by the Covid-19 Pandemic, MediLabSecure and MediPIET invite you in the:



Kickoff “COVID-19 Actions Taken Review”

Protecting and empowering COVID-19 frontline health workers: how are we doing it?

Virtual Workshop

This online workshop aims at reinforcing the preparedness and response of MediLabSecure and MediPIET Network countries through sharing experiences, challenges and best practices and discussing with leading experts.

Objectives:

1. Share critical aspects of healthcare workers' matters in terms of personal protection, training and support to respond effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic
2. Provide feedback on the distance learning module on “Novel Coronavirus (Sars-CoV-2) health emergency: Preparedness and Response”

The **MediPIET@Home Webinar series** will resume in October as the continuation of this kickoff workshop to share your national responses' experiences and discuss other hot COVID-19 related topics. Stay tuned!

Wednesday, 23 September 2020

12:00 – 2:30 pm (2.5 hours) | Europe Summer Time (Rome, GMT+02:00)





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[Join meeting via Webex](#)

Host: **Organizador Reuniones ENS**

Meeting number (access code): **137 566 5618**

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Target audience:

- MediLabSecure and MediPIET focal points, supervisors, fellows, external participants and interested experts involved in the COVID-19 epidemic management.
- Experts from international and national organizations and institutions are invited to participate in order to provide expert opinion and enrich the discussions.
- **Language:** the language of the meeting will be English.

Recording and sharing

- Please note that this online kick-off meeting will be recorded and shared on the MediLabSecure's and MediPIET's websites. For this reason, we will consider that anyone who will ask any question or comment during the meeting agrees and gives his/her consent to be recorded and the video to be shared on the websites. If any of you want to ask any questions or comment during the presentation without giving the consent to be recorded, please type your questions in the Chat box and the moderators will address the questions/comments to the speakers.





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Agenda

Time (CEST, GMT+02:00)	Title	Speaker/Moderator
12:00-12:10 (10min)	Welcome and introduction to the programme and objectives	MediLabSecure - MediPIET
12:10-12:30 (20min)	Keynote presentation The COVID-19 response Nigeria: putting health security on the agenda, and keeping it there.	Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu Director National Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Nigeria
12:30-12:45 (15min)	Discussion and feedback on the distance learning module on "Novel Coronavirus (Sars-CoV-2) health emergency: Preparedness and Response"	Introduction by ISS and contributions by the participants Moderator: ISS
12:45-12:55 (10min)	Prospective study on COVID-19 evaluation risk among the healthcare workers in charge of the first cases in Africa	Dr Ramatoulaye Hamidou Lazoumar Medical and Health Research Centre, Niger Principal investigator of the Study in Niger
12:55-14:25 (1h30min)	<i>Thematic discussion: "Protecting and empowering COVID-19 frontline health workers: how are we doing it??"</i>	
12:55-13:40 (45min)	Session 1: "National COVID-19 training strategies, challenges and solutions"	Dr Lusine Paronyan, National Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Armenia Dr. Hanaa Abu Elsood Abd Elaziz Ghonim MOHP, Egypt Representatives from Ministry of Health and Institut Pasteur de Dakar, Senegal
	Discussion and contributions from other countries	Moderator: ISS
13:40-14:25 (45min)	Session 2: "Strategies for the protection of healthcare personnel and patients and the role of primary care staff in the prevention and identification of cases during the COVID-19 pandemic, challenges and solutions"	Dr Lusine Paronyan, National Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Armenia Emanuela De Vivo, Medici con l'Africa Cuamm, Mozambique Representatives from Ministry of Health and Institut Pasteur de Dakar, Senegal
	Discussion and contributions from other countries	Moderator: ISS
14:25-14:30 (5 min)	Closing remarks, wrap up	ISS





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Session description

A. Welcome and introduction to the programme and objectives

A brief welcome and introduction to the workshop and its objectives

B. Keynote presentation. The COVID-19 response Nigeria: putting health security on the agenda, and keeping it there.

Nigeria is the largest country by population size in Sub-Saharan Africa. The population density, tropical climate, poor socio-economic indicators and other factors put us at high risk of infectious disease outbreaks.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need to increase investment in health security following years of under-investment. In this presentation, Nigeria response in the last seven months, lessons learned from the pandemic and how they are building back better for stronger health security are discussed. It will also be discussed the critical role that national public health institutes have in contributing to global health security

C. Discussion and feedback on the distance learning module on “Novel Coronavirus (Sars-CoV-2) health emergency: Preparedness and Response”

Following the outbreak of COVID-19 in December 2019 and the further spread worldwide, the Italian National Institute of Health (Istituto Superiore di Sanità, ISS) developed an e-learning course for healthcare professionals titled ‘Novel Coronavirus (Sars-CoV-2) Health Emergency: Preparedness and Response’. This course, originally designed to be used in Italy, was adapted to be used in the context of MediLabSecure and other interested countries. During this session participants will provide feedback and discuss on this training, its utilization and usefulness as well as its strong and weak points.

D. Prospective study on COVID-19 evaluation risk among the healthcare workers in charge of the first cases in Africa

According to the WHO recommendations to establish a cohort study on healthcare workers, MediLabSecure has implemented a multicentric surveillance and impact study in Africa. During this session, the objectives, methodology and the preliminary outcomes on the study will be presented.

E. Session 1: “National COVID-19 training strategies, challenges and solutions”

During an emergency, and especially during this COVID-19 pandemic, many challenges can hamper the training of the staff (i.e. residential training discouraged, very busy staff, continuously and rapidly evolving situation, information and knowledge, etc.). How are we adapting our training strategies and how are we coping with the challenges faced? Some of the questions to be addressed are:

- a) Was COVID-19 training for staff organised, how and on which topics?
- b) Which methods and materials were used (e.g. ECDC, WHO, MLS/ISS, locally developed)?
- c) What have been the main constraints and challenges and what solutions were found?





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F. Session 2: “Strategies for the protection of healthcare personnel and patients and the role of primary care staff in the prevention and identification of cases during the COVID-19 pandemic, challenges and solutions”

The health of healthcare staff and hence their protection is of paramount importance during an outbreak, especially of respiratory nature. In this aspect, the COVID-19 pandemic poses many challenges, stresses the health systems and jeopardises the trust of the community causing direct and indirect consequences to the health of the population. Some of the questions to be discussed are:

- What are the national strategies and procedures for the healthcare personnel protection?
- How many healthcare workers have been infected? Where they mostly in hospital settings? What are the main causes (e.g. lack of PPE, proper training, high turnover and tiring out?)
- Have healthcare worker infections impacted on the user trust in health facilities and operators?
- Are appropriate services for the psychological protection of health workers put in place?
- What are the constraints, challenges and solutions in the effective implementation of a healthcare worker personal protection strategy?

Additionally, necessary measures need to be implemented to protect the health of patients and healthcare workers (e.g. General Practitioners, nurses, ambulance and support staff, etc.) working in medical practices or operating at community level. Community engagement is the first line of defence in the battle against infectious diseases in China. GPs are both gatekeepers and health promoters by empowering the community to build a firewall against the deadly virus. GPs are engaged in all three phases of the response: in phase 1, they help block the viral transmission by monitoring people at designated checkpoints; in phase 2, they slow the increase of cases by treating patients and providing medical surveillance in the community; in phase 3, they take care of the clinical and psychological well-being of patients and extend that to their families, so the whole community can return to normal life, as soon as practical (source: [SKT Li and S Zhu, 2020](#)).

Some of the topics to be discussed on this aspect are:

- How are General Practitioners (GPs) and other community healthcare workers engaged in the COVID-19 response in your country in regards to COVID-19 prevention, identification of cases and monitoring of the situation?
- What are other strategies implemented in your community settings?
- What protection measures have been taken to prevent community healthcare workers from being infected and how effective have they been?

