

DEMOCRACY AND PANDEMIC



13 — 15.11.25

Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venezia




Centre for Infectious Disease
Emergency Response
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine

New Challenges in Pandemic Preparedness

Dale Fisher

Director, Centre for Infectious Disease Emergency Response
National University of Singapore

- 
- The pillars of outbreak preparedness and response
 - The impact of funding reductions
 - Solutions engaging state actors
 - Some of our efforts in Singapore

Uganda Declared Ebola Free Today

27th February, 2001

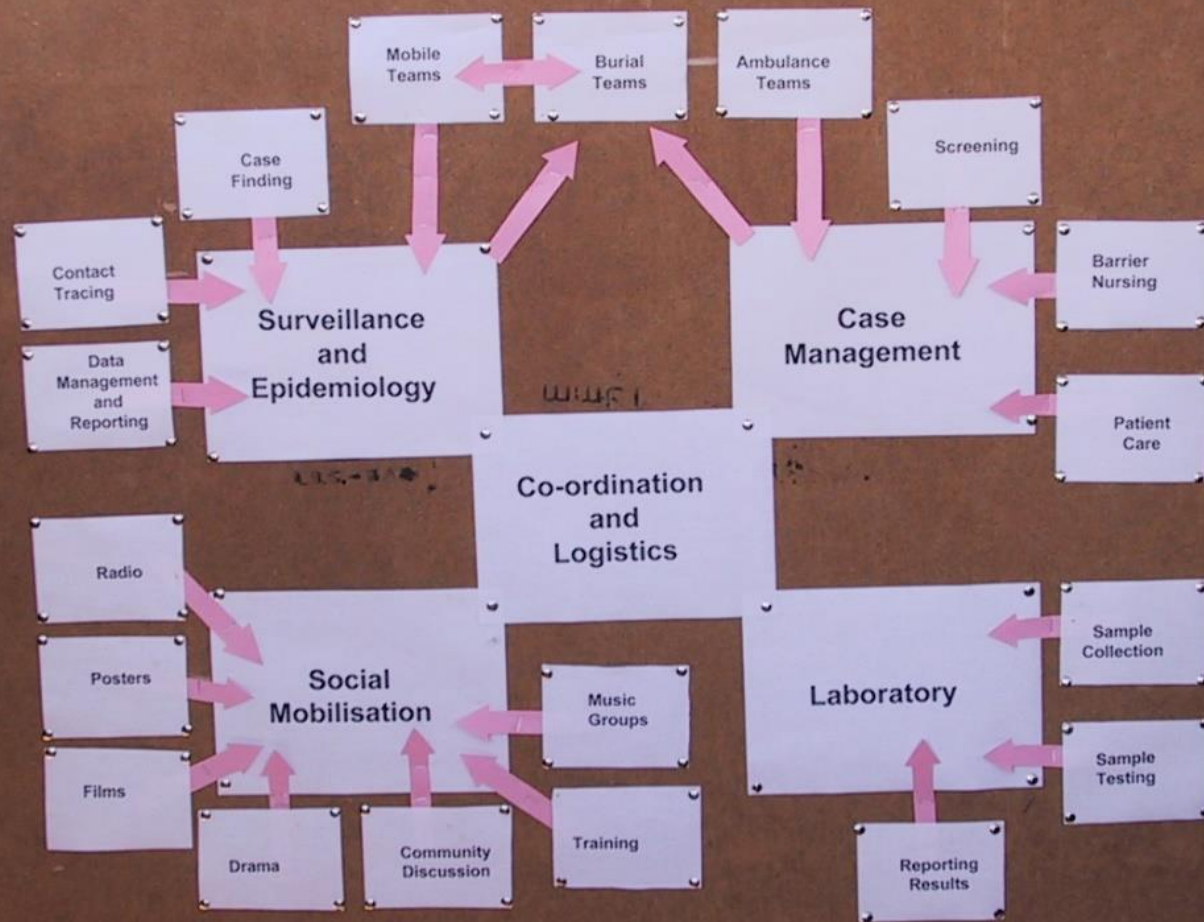
Pece Stadium Gulu



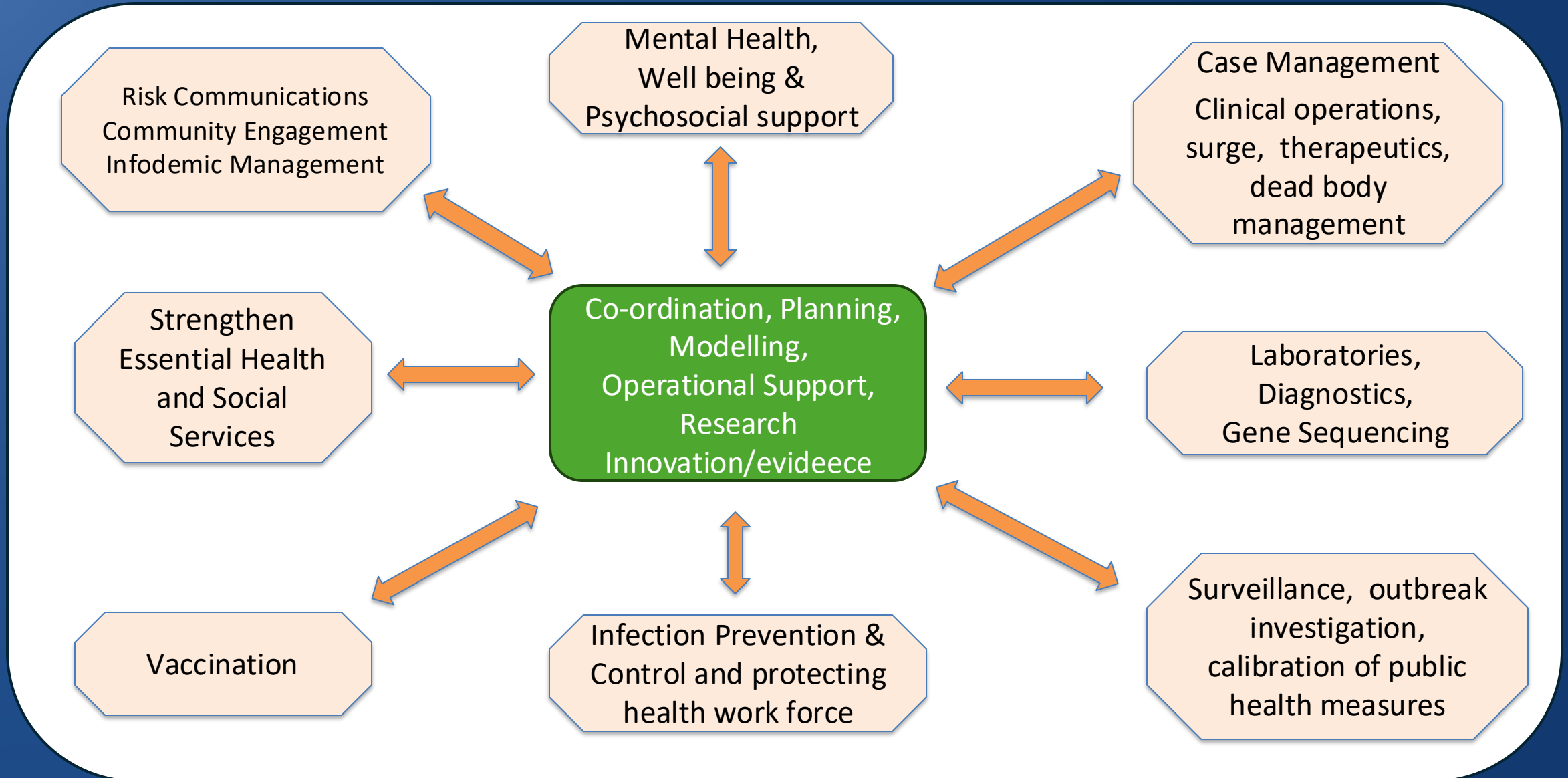
SURVIVANCE DATA
MANAGEMENT SECTION

LOCAL PUBLIC
HEALTH
TEAM
GULU DISTRICT

EBOLA CONTROL STRATEGIES, UGANDA October 2000 - February 2001



The Pillars of Outbreak Response



More than Response....



Traditionally, US a major contributor to funding Global Health

- 12B USD (<1% of national budget)
- Programmes eg PEPFAR, PMI
 - Essentially collapsed
- Agencies eg USAID, CDC, NIH, Dept of Defense
 - Feb 23 almost all USAID staff given termination notices
 - 5000 grants and contracts cancelled
- Direct support to 80 partner countries
- Multilateral support to
 - UNICEF, WHO, PAHO
 - Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria,
 - Gavi
 - Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS),
 - United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA),
 - TB Global Drug Facility
 - Pandemic Fund



- Argentina intends to depart WHO (USD 8M)
- Italian far right party proposing bill to leave WHO
- France and Germany cuts are budgetary
 - Germany; cut humanitarian aid 2.23B Euro to 1.04B in 2025
 - France; 2024-25 35% cut to foreign aid (2B Euro reduction)
- Sweden more ideological
- European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development
- UK diverting funds to defence budget

Switzerland to slash funding for UN agencies

By Michelle Langrand



The Swiss government is pulling the plug on funding for several UN agencies while cutting back on others in 2025, with UNAids and Unesco among the biggest losers. The move comes just days after the US began a 90-day freeze on foreign aid.

Exclusive: WFP to cut up to 30% of staff amid aid shortfall

The World Food Programme plans to cut up to 30% of its global workforce by 2026 as donor funding drops sharply and hunger crises around the world deepen.

Over 1,000 icddr,b employees laid off due to US funding cuts

Following the US government's directive, we have suspended all projects and research activities funded by them until further notice, AKM Tariful Islam Khan, senior manager (communications) at icddr,b, says



China to donate \$500 million to WHO, stepping into gap left by U.S.

Beijing will replace the United States as the organization's top state donor, expanding its influence as the U.S. retreats from international cooperation.

May 21, 2025

Mobilizing national and regional assets and non-state actors for pandemic preparedness

- Regional Health Agencies inc European and African CDC, ASEAN
- Community inc surveillance
- LMIC led research
- Academic centres
- Civil society organisations
- Private sector, national governments, philanthropy
- Grass roots organisations

Mobilizing National and Regional Assets and Non-state Actors for Pandemic Preparedness

*Louisa Sun, Duncan Selbie, Ali S Khan, Salim S Abdool Karim, Helena Legido-Quigley, Folasade T Ogunisola, Gwendolen Eamer, Malebona Precious Matsoso, Daniel G Bausch, *Dale Fisher*

Published Online April 3, 2025 [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(25\)00630-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(25)00630-0)

Panel: Pillars of PPPR with suggestions for enhanced roles of national assets and non-state actors

Surveillance

- Enhanced contribution from regional health agencies, NPHIs, academic institutions, communities, and civil society
- Build integrated surveillance systems linking emergency response with long-term strengthening
- Strengthen community-led data collection and co-produce outbreak responses

Health systems capacity building

- Enhanced contribution from all national assets and non-state stakeholders
- Establish regional capacity training and education hubs with sustained funding
- Reform research collaborations to include leadership from LMICs
- Provide sustainable funding for locally-driven solutions

Policy development

- Enhanced contribution from regional health organisations, NPHIs, and civil society
- Secure formal representation in global health governance structures
- Support communities and civil society organisations in driving policy changes

Financing

- Enhanced contribution from the private sector, philanthropy, and national governments
- Align funding with national and local health priorities
- Increase investments in foundational health infrastructure
- Implement accountability frameworks for long-term system resilience

- Focus on horizontally integrated programming that addresses multiple health needs

Research and development for biomedical countermeasures

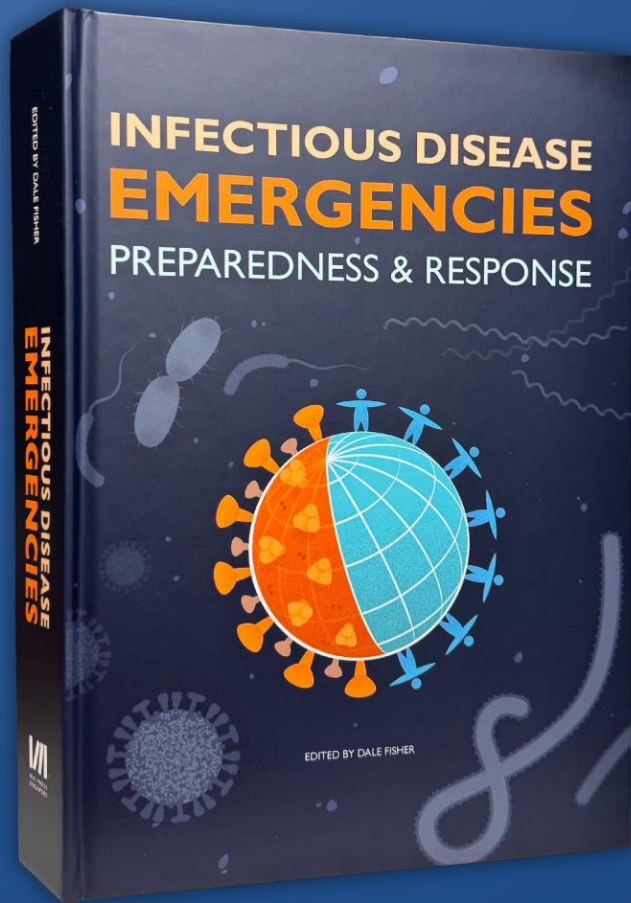
- Enhanced contribution from academic institutions, private sector (pharmaceutical and biotechnology), and philanthropy
- Implement binding technology transfer agreements
- Develop local workforce training programmes in manufacturing
- Support pandemic treaty provisions to suspend intellectual property protections during emergencies

Risk communication and community engagement

- Enhanced contribution from civil society and grassroots organisations
- Strengthen community health worker networks and engagement of volunteer networks
- Invest in community education and risk communication
- Combat misinformation through localised engagement

Regional coordination

- Enhanced contribution from regional health organisations and NPHIs
- Develop technical collaboration platforms for knowledge exchange
- Create regional talent-exchange programmes
- Bypass intermediaries by establishing direct funding channels
- Facilitate flexible leadership structures to enable the best placed organisations to lead different areas of the response

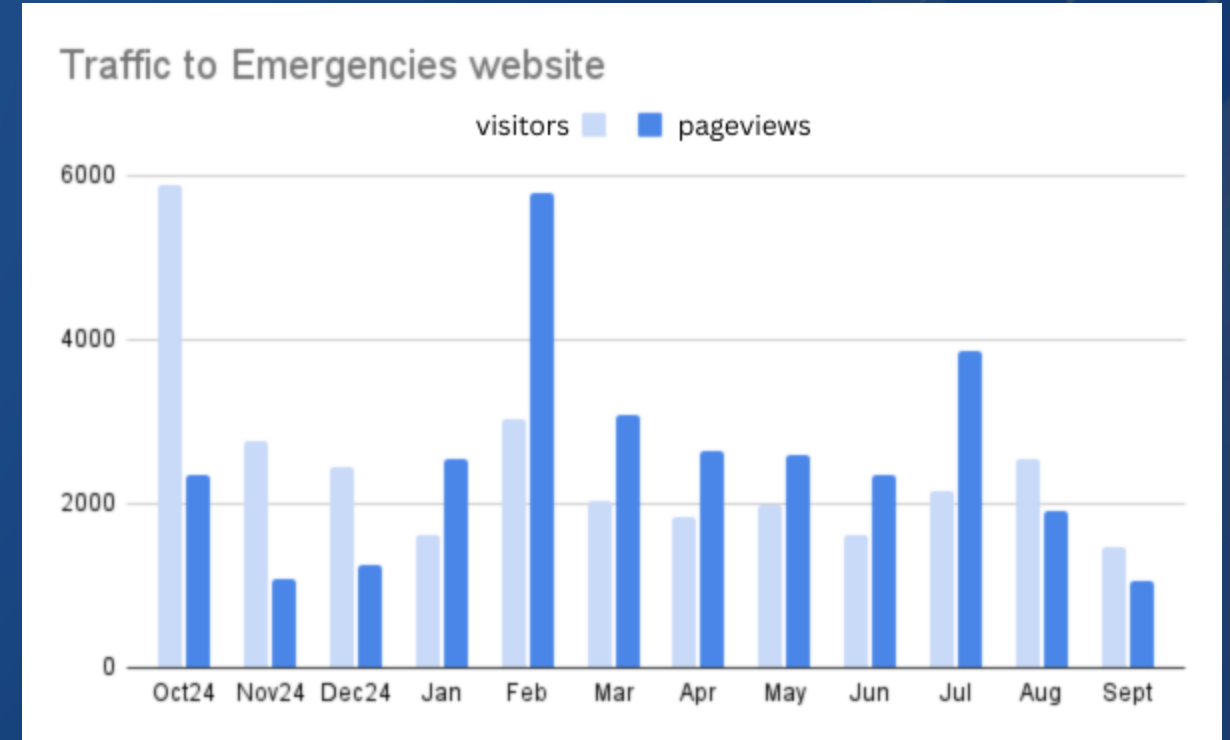
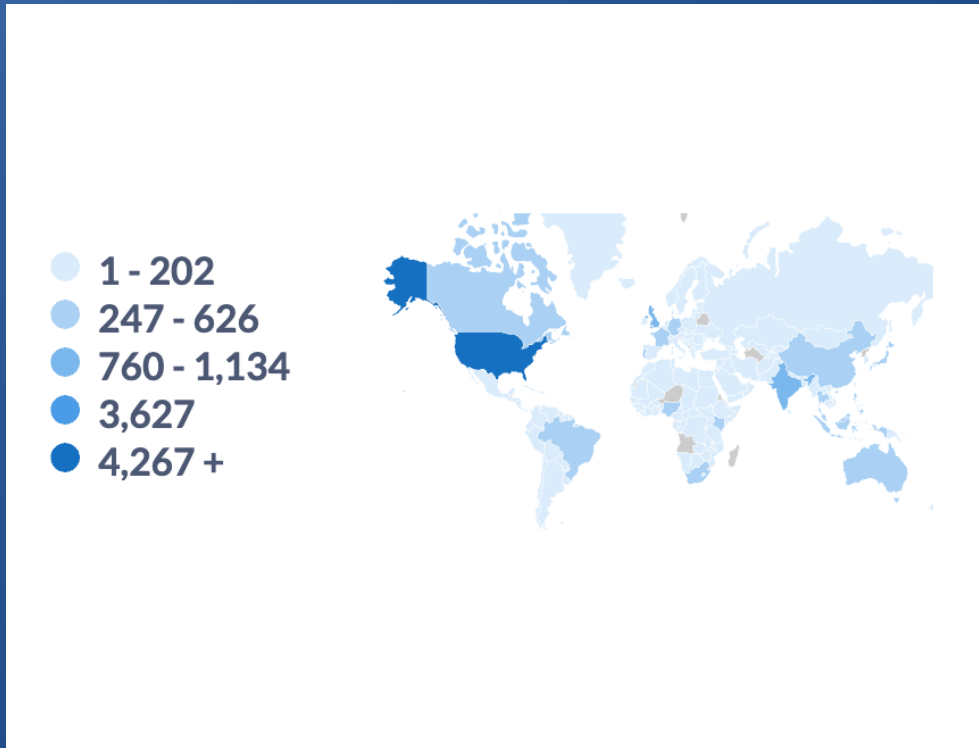


- Over 100 top public health leaders and experts
 - Health ministries and Centres for Disease Control and National Public Health Institutions around the world
 - International Organizations like the WHO, MSF, IFRC and UNICEF
 - Research Institutions and various NGOs from dozens of countries, adding to the diversity and richness of the descriptions
- 39 Chapters
- More than COVID Infectious Disease Emergencies: Preparedness and Response
- Hard copy or open online access
- Fully supported by NUS to date

“...I can see Infectious Disease Emergencies: Preparedness and Response becoming the backbone for courses and training”

- Prof Devi Sridhar Lancet review Jan 31 2025

Broad geographical uptake and around 2000 unique viewers/ month for open access



Top countries;

- US, SG, India, GB, CN
- Aus, Brazil, Nigeria, Sth Africa, Canada

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN

INFECTIOUS DISEASE EMERGENCIES (MSc IDE)

The MSc IDE will provide learners with advanced knowledge and skills relating to preparation for and response to infectious disease crises. Our curriculum combines rigorous academic study with practical, real-world applications across all aspects of outbreak management. The qualification will enable careers in health ministries and international, national and subnational public health organisations.

Number	Course
IDE5001	Leadership and Coordination
IDE5002	Surveillance and Epidemiology
IDE5003	Communications and Engagement in a Crisis
IDE5004	Clinical Management, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), and Facility Infrastructure
IDE5005	Interventions for Outbreak Control
IDE5006	Research in a Pandemic
IDE5007	Mental Health and Support for the Vulnerable
IDE5008	Laboratory
IDE5009	Training for Outbreak Response
IDE5010	Outbreak Prone Pathogens
IDE5011	Infectious Disease Emergency Response Modelling
Crosscutting threads	Ethics, legal frameworks, technology and the future, police, military and defence

Faculty...and counting



Prof Dale Fisher



Dr Louisa Sun



Dr Claire Canning



Dr Dariusz
Olszyna



Dr Sean Wu



A/Prof David
Allen



A/Prof Sophia
Archuleta



Dr Shalini D/O
Arulanandam



Prof David Bishai



A/Prof Ayelet
Berman



Ms Meenu
Batolar



Dr Juliet Bedford



Prof Daniel
Bausch



Chan Chi Ling



Dr Maleena
Suppiah Cavert



Prof Alex Cook



Prof Ben Cowling



Prof Bart Currie



Ms Simone
Carter



Dr Robert de
Souza



Dr Sophie Dennis



Ms Gwen Eamer



Dr Victor Gan



Dr Gao Qi



Prof David
Heymann



A/Prof Marc Ho



Ms Rachel James



Dr Tessy Joseph



Dr Ali Khan



Dr Andrew Letizia



Ms Elyssa Liu



A/Prof Tamra
Lysaght



Dr Tippi Mak



Dr Sebastian
Maurer-Stroh



Mr Marako
Marcus



Dr Sandy Mak



Prof Brian
McCloskey



Dr Analisa
McMillan



Prof Suerie Moon



Dr Mok Yee Ming



Dr Mo Yin



Dr Swapnil
Mishra



Dr Kathryn
Muyskens



Prof Benjamin
Ong



A/Prof Steven
Ooi



Prof Ooi Eng
Eong



Prof David
Paterson



Mr Jordi
Sacristan



Dr Zubaidah Said



Prof Julian
Savulescu



Dr Lubaba
Shahrin



Dr Helen
Smith



Dr Jaishree
Tripathi



Prof Paul
Tambyah



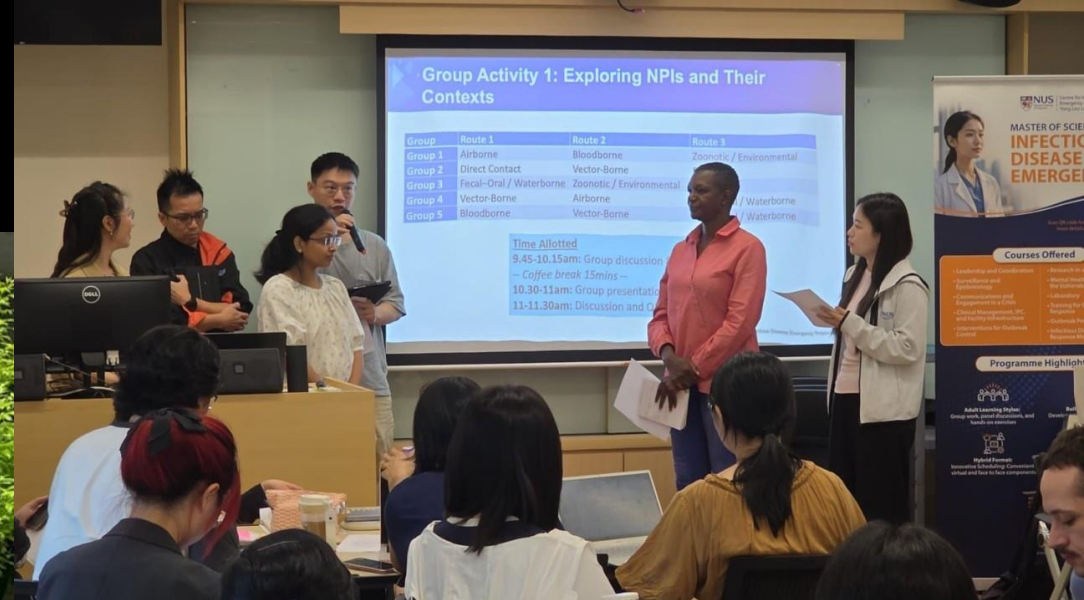
Dr Shawn Vasoo



Pro Ivo Vlaev

Dr Wilson Tan
Dr Olivier le Polain
Prof Leo Yee Sin
Prof Edward Holmes
iccdbr
Tan Chuan Jin

Our first cohort AY 25/26.....



- 37 learners
- At least 14 countries represented
- Age range 20-55yrs
- Plans for more Scholarships

AY 2025/6

Global and Diverse Cohort

Rich Mix of Disciplines

- Paramedics
- Junior Doctors
- Specialist Nurses
- Researchers
- Microbiologists
- Lab Technologists
- Dentists
- Book Editors
- University Lecturers
- Global Health Volunteers

Countries Represented

- Singapore
- China
- Australia
- Botswana
- India
- Israel
- Malaysia
- New Zealand
- Philippines
- Russia
- Saudi Arabia
- UK
- US
- Zimbabwe

Each with a mentor and many with extra (research) project

“I have amazing groupmates, from diff background, age groups, lots of new things to learn”



Executive and Graduate Certificates – Launching AY26/27

10 Executive Certificates:

Each course from IDE5001 – IDE5010 will be offered as individual courses

4 Graduate Certificates:

- GC1: Research and Laboratory
- GC2: Clinical Management, and Outbreak Interventions
- GC3: Leadership and Communications
- GC3: Communications and Training

Graduate Diploma

- IDE5001 Leadership and Coordination
- IDE5002 Surveillance and Epidemiology
- IDE5003 Communications and Engagement in a Crisis
- IDE5005 Interventions for Outbreak Control
- IDE5006 Research in a Pandemic
- IDE5008 Laboratory



In Conclusion

- Plenty of opportunities for improvements can be made at global, regional and national levels.....across all pillars in all phases
- These improvements need to be less reliant on traditional suppliers and donors and more on national and regional assets and non-state actors
- We need to create and have recognized more experts in Outbreak Preparedness and Response



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THANK YOU

<https://medicine.nus.edu.sg/cider>