

icddr,b hosts international working group meeting on cholera case management

Dhaka, 16 March. icddr,b hosted an international working group meeting on cholera case management in Dhaka on 15 and 16 March, inviting scientists and doctors from around the world to provide recommendations related to care of patients during cholera epidemics.

The meeting was the first of the Case Management Working Group of the Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC), which was revitalised 2 years ago, following the recommendation of the 2011 World Health Assembly to strengthen the World Health Organization's (WHO) work in this area, including improved collaboration and coordination among relevant stakeholders.

The GTFCC is a collaborative mechanism between international partners involved in cholera control. Its secretariat is based at WHO Department of Pandemic and Epidemic Diseases in Geneva. GTFCC members share a vision that collective action can stop cholera transmission and end cholera deaths. The objectives include supporting global strategies and strengthening countries' capacity to prevent and control cholera.

icddr,b consultant and former chief physician of icddr,b's Dhaka Hospital, Dr Pradip Kumar Bardhan said, "We are a key member of the GTFCC and the choice of icddr,b to host this first meeting was made based on our expertise in the area of cholera control."

Dr Dominique Legros, Medical Officer and Cholera Focal Point at WHO Headquarters in Geneva and one of the meeting participants, added, "The GTFCC working groups help partners involved in cholera control to identify priority areas for guidance and research. The purpose of this meeting was to review practices in the domain of antibiotic use for cholera patients, infection control and organisation of patients care".

The meeting was attended by representatives of organisations including WHO, UNICEF, Médecins Sans Frontières, MEDAIR, International Rescue Committee, Partners in Health, Uganda Ministry of Health, Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control & Research Bangladesh, and icddr,b.

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Notes to editors

About icddr,b: icddr,b is an international public health research institution based in Bangladesh. Established in 1960, icddr,b has been at the forefront of discovering low cost solutions to key health challenges facing people living in poverty and provides robust evidence of their effectiveness at a large scale. Dedicated to saving lives through research and treatment, icddr,b addresses some of the most critical health concerns facing the world today.