MINISTRY OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, LABOUR, HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF GEORGIA

დაავადებათა კონტროლისა და საზოგადოებრივი ჯანმრთელობის ეროვნული ცენტრი
NCDC
GEORGIAN NATIONAL CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PUBLIC HEALTH
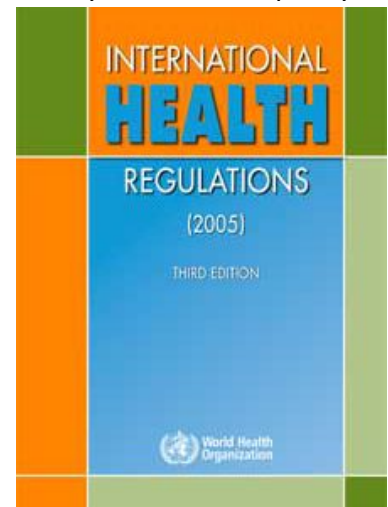
GEORGIA *Brief 2020*

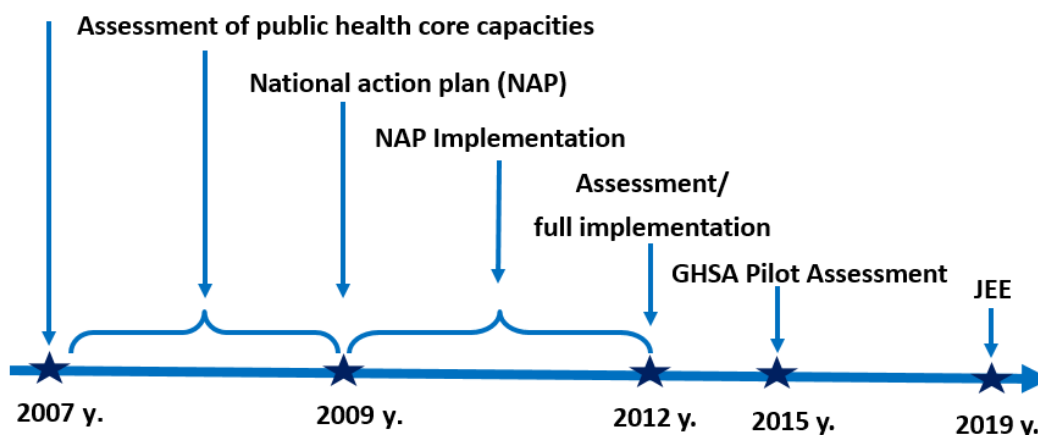# International Health Regulations and Global Health Security Agenda

The International Health Regulations (IHR) are the foundation of the Global Health Security as they provide the framework to address public health threats that have the potential to spread internationally. The successful implementation of the IHR requires a national public health system with capacity to respond to public health emergencies of national and/or international concern. Georgia reached the full compliance with the core IHR requirements by the June 2012 deadline set by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Georgia is actively implementing the IHR into the existing national system. The National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) is designated as the National Focal Point (NFP). NCDC is accessible at all times for communications with the WHO IHR Contact Point, has a 24/7 duty officer system, is able to receive notifications from national surveillance system and from other stakeholders, conduct risk assessment and notify WHO contact point of IHR within 24 hours.

In 2019 by the coordination of National Center for Disease Control and Public Health and World Health Organization, Georgia had an honor to host the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) mission with the aim to evaluate core capacities (19 technical areas) in the frames of International Health Regulations (IHR 2005). Invited experts of World Health Organization developed recommendations which will contribute to implement non existing mechanisms, to eliminate the gaps and strengthen already existed capacities.
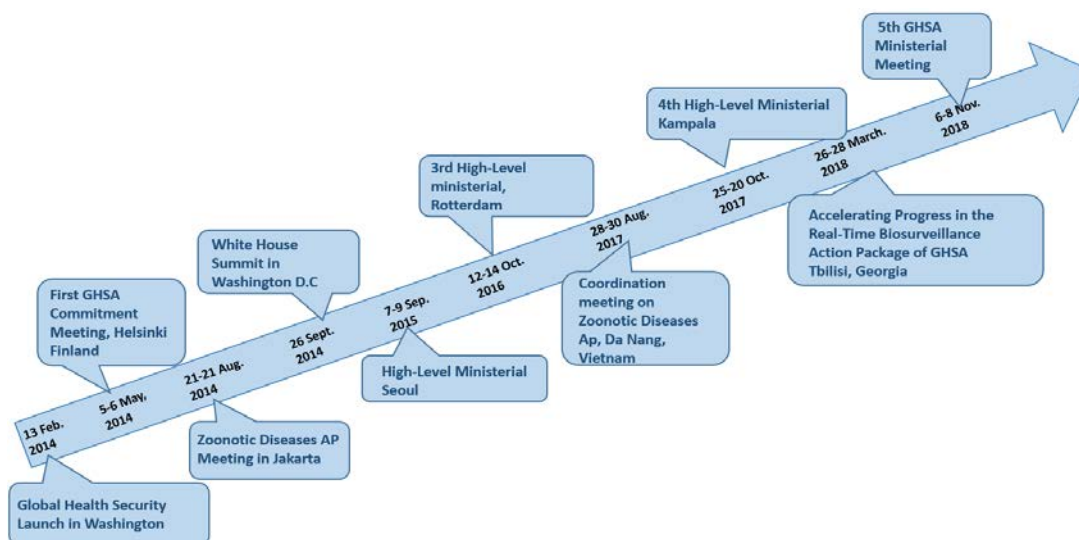

The Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) was launched in February 2014 to advance a world safe and secure from infectious disease threats, to bring together nations from all over the world to make new, concrete commitments, and to elevate global health security as a national leaders-level priority. GHSA has become a new vision for Georgia since it's launch, when first external assessment of baseline GHSA capabilities was conducted and since Georgia took a path to contribute to **Zoonotic Disease and National Laboratory System Action Packages and lead an Action Package of Real-Time Surveillance.**

On 26-28 March 2018, the first meeting of the Global Health Security Agenda Action Package for Real Time Biosurveillance, entitled "Accelerating progress in the Real-Time Biosurveillance Action Package of GHSA", was held in Tbilisi, Georgia. Led by the Georgian National Centre for Disease Control, together with the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, over 70 participants from GHSA partner countries, contributing countries of Real-Time Surveillance Action Package, and international partner organizations met in order to support the strengthening of capacities to detect infectious disease threats.

Georgian delegation had the honor to participate in significant meetings in the frames of Global Health Security Agenda.
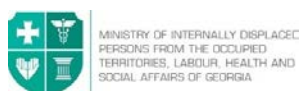

Information exchange for GHSA is considered to be the proxy indicator for controlling and managing communicable diseases. In this regard, **Bio-surveillance Network of the Silk Road (BNSR)** as a regional partnership, works to create sustainable, integrated disease surveillance network, thereby contributing to One Health perspective and supporting the implementation of global health security agenda within the region.

On 15-17 November 2019, an assessment of communicable diseases in the frame of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement (AA) of 16 June 2014, which entered into force on 1 July 2016 - chapter 15 on health, articles 355-356 was conducted. The goals of assessment was to support Georgia to identify achievements and possible gaps of their current communicable disease surveillance, prevention and control system and to stimulate development of a more sustainable system (e.g. diseases reporting); to contribute to the potential development and implementation of national action plans addressing the above-mentioned needs; to support the implementation of the public health provisions of the existing Association Agreements.

Challenges and Further Activities

In order to be prepared and be able to respond to the Public Health Emergencies effectively, it is vital to strengthen Public Health Emergency Operations Center (EOC), in accordance with GHSA and IHR core capacities. For successful implementation of IHR (2005) multisectoral collaboration is a key. Raising awareness among non-health sectors regarding the IHR and what is stand for, is defined as one of the priorities. Implementing recommendations developed post JEE and ECDC assessment.

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