

CLIMADE AFRICA WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES – WEEK 20

Host: Centre for Epidemic Response and Innovation (CERI)

Date: August 29, 2023

Time: 12:00 – 13:00 p.m. (SAST)

Facilitators: Prof Tulio de Oliveira, Houriiyah Tegally and Dr Monika Moir

Attendance/ No. of Participants: 60

Start time: 12:02p.m. (SAST)

Purpose of the meeting

Climade Africa- Third Quarter feedback

Agenda Items

1. Welcome
2. Presentation and discussion led by Prof Tulio de Oliveira.
3. Discussion feed back

Discussion points and questions

- Prof Tulio de Oliveira presented on the third quarter successes and challenges of the CLIMADE Africa initiative. The presentation highlighted:
- A Recap on
 - Vector Borne Diseases
 - Pathogens amplified by climate change
 - Carbon emissions, the countries producing the least amount of carbon emissions are the most effected by climate change.
 - CLIMADE vision
 - Activities
 - Training
 - Shipping of reagents for rapid response
 - Support from Africa CDC and WHO-AFRO for sequencing of climate amplified pathogens.

- Training capacity: VEME 2023 Workshop had participants from 18 different countries with scholarships awarded to 58 participants.
- Lucious Chabuka was invited to touch on the sequencing of Cholera in Malawi and discussed:
 - The events that occurred and the rapid response to sequencing the Cholera outbreak in early 2023.
 - The procurement and shipping of reagents from South Africa to Malawi.
 - the training at CERI
 - the steps from sample processing to sequencing of the bacteria.
- Cholera pipeline
- The Introduction of cholera from Pakistan with most introductions to Africa from the Asian continent.
- The disease was amplified in Pakistan during the rainy seasons.
- Outbreak grew slowly in Malawi due to the dry season but had been amplified by the floods and rain.
- Challenges and successes of the Malawi cholera sequencing.
- The biggest challenges faced by the team was both data sharing in real time and ethics approval from Malawi Government.
- Sharing and approval of protocols
- Request for Cholera and Dengue sequencing and genomic support.
- Abdou Padane discussed the sequencing of Dengue Virus in Senegal.
- He touched on:
 - The training and sequencing of dengue at the CERI Tygerberg laboratory
 - Screening of samples using RT-PCR
 - Assistance and help from the CERI and KRISP team regarding trouble-shooting of the sequencing protocol.
- Dr Jennifer Giandhari the Platform Manager at KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform (KRISP) advised on methods involved in trouble shooting sequencing protocols and tips on collaboration and support.
- Dr John Juma discussed sequencing of Archived Chikungunya virus (CHIKV) samples from the 2018 outbreak in Kenya.
- CHIKV sequencing method and protocol used at the laboratory.
- Assembly and classification methods using Genome Detective
- Dr John Juma had briefly discussed the Nextflow pipeline for assembly of the CHIKV genomes.
- CLIMADE Africa Dashboard
- The success of the CHIKV sequencing in Kenya to help close blind spots.
- The CERI team offered help and assistance with the sequencing of historic sample.

Adjournment and Closing points.

1. Dr Monika Moir adjourned the meeting at 13:11 p.m. (SAST).

Next Meeting

To be confirmed by email.

Submitted by: Yajna Ramphal

Approved By: Monika Moir