# CONCEPT NOTE
# EARLY-STAGE OUTBREAK ANALYTICS WORKSHOP: PREDICTABLE DATA AND PREDICTABLE QUESTIONS
# 19 TO 21 SEPTEMBER 2023, BERLIN, GERMANY

## MEETING BACKGROUND

This workshop aims to advance the World Health Organization's (WHO) work in responding to health emergencies and contributes to WHO's General Programme of Work outcome 2.2 Epidemics and pandemics prevented. It builds upon the insights gained from previous technical activities which identified various challenges and opportunities related to consistent, reliable, and timely outbreak analytics.

To address these challenges, this workshop will be jointly organized by WHO and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) through the Epiverse-TRACE team. To further enhance outbreak response capabilities, the workshop will focus on the development of reusable analytical pipelines in R, specifically designed for predictable tasks and data structures involved in responding to infectious disease outbreaks. The workshop will address common questions and tasks that hold crucial importance in the early stages of an outbreak, such as estimating severity, transmissibility, and comparing control options for known pathogens. Ultimately, the workshop will involve focused efforts to refine existing R packages and integrate available analytical tools into standardized pipelines for early outbreak analysis.

This engagement will provide technical input for WHO's consideration in the development of robust and consistent analytical frameworks, enabling WHO to respond more effectively to health emergencies. By consolidating efforts, sharing technical expertise, and leveraging state-of-the-art tools, this workshop will significantly contribute to WHO's ongoing work in emergency response and outbreak management.

## OBJECTIVES

1) To generate and disseminate knowledge on the development of analytical pipeline linking predictable data structures to outputs that address common tasks required for early outbreak analysis
2) To share views on strengthening collaborative development of pipelines across teams
3) To support future reuse and standardization efforts as and when appropriate