



# Global Emergency Response and Recovery Partner Engagement: Expanding Efforts and Strategies to Improve Rapid Response to Public Health Emergencies Globally 2021-2022

## Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Programs
- ◆ Unit: Public Health Emergency Management Center

## SCOPE OF WORK

The project's main goal is to target public health priorities in the involved countries as a strategy to control disease outbreaks especially during humanitarian crises and emergencies to strengthen public health capacities and system performance.

## BENEFICIARIES

This project intends to reach Public Health Professionals and surveillance systems of Ministry of Health in the engaged countries.

## GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

The project will be implemented in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) high priority countries, such as Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Lebanon, Libya, and Oman.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Through the last four years, GHD, in collaboration with the CDC, has provided support to EMR countries to increase their rapid response capacities and strengthen public health emergency efforts in the region. This year marks the last year of the 5 years Cooperative Agreement where GHD will capitalize and implement activities that will build on previous efforts and existing country capacities to enhance national public health authorities' resilience and responsiveness. During the fifth year, GHD proposes to support prioritized countries in the region to target public health priorities based on the countries needs as a strategy to control disease outbreaks focusing on COVID-19 pandemic especially in countries that are suffering from crises or post crisis due to conflict and other emergencies. The specific goal of this project will be achieved through implementing a set of activities that seek to strengthen public health capacities and system performance including:

- Rapid response to disease outbreaks
- Documentation and Data for Action
- Logistical support for the American University of Beirut (AUB)
- Strengthening event-based surveillance (EBS) system

<b>Project Start and End Date</b>	<b>June 15, 2021- June 14, 2023</b>
<b>Partner Organizations</b>	<b>Ministry of Health in the EMR region and National Stakeholders.</b>
<b>Funded by</b>	<b>Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</b>

## PROJECT PHASES

The project involves three phases:

Phase I – Preparation: development and piloting the Rapid Response Teams Capacity Assessment tool, development of all hazards training curriculum, signing agreement/contract with AUB, Terms of Reference and Scope of Work for the EBS consultants.

Phase II – Implementation: Conduct Virtual Rapid Response Teams Capacity Assessment for EMR Region, conduct TOT all hazard training workshop, provide the logistical support to AUB, and contracting EBS focal points and implementing EBS at targeted countries

Phase III – Documentation: Training, meeting, quarterly progress and a cumulative final reports.

### Currently . . .

The observations collected during COVID-19 response efforts in the region along with information collected from the International Health Regulation (IHR) annual reports and experts' missions, highlight the gap in IHR capacities and lack of readiness to detect and response to public health emergencies in an adequate way. The recent COVID-19 pandemic regional experience and the effects of conflict and political instability in the region, has highlighted important gaps related to countries strategic preparedness and response.

### What's next . . .

Implementing the activities of this project will result in building capacity, support rapid response efforts, and improve the ability to rapidly share information during emergencies to mitigate the adverse public health effects of infectious disease outbreaks, humanitarian crises, and other Public Health Emergencies of International Concern (PHEICs). Thus, improving preparedness and rapid response with a greater emphasis on sustainability. The abovementioned will contribute to the overall goal that seeks the strengthening of the EMR countries to expand their capacities in combatting public health threats and reducing public health impact of disasters and humanitarian emergencies.

## By Numbers

9

Countries will benefit from this project including Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Lebanon, Libya, and Oman.

20

20 rapid responders working on RRT management will build their capacity the 4-day workshop

**GHD|EMPHNET Information:** Global Health Development (GHD) Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) works at achieving its mission by responding to public health needs with deliberate efforts that allow for health promotion and disease prevention.

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