



# Preventing Diversion of Infectious Biomedical Waste in Recently Liberated Areas of Iraq

## Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Programs
- ◆ Unit: Disease Control and Prevention

## OBJECTIVES

This project aims to enhance facilities' biosecurity in recently liberated areas of Iraq by building capacities in infectious biomedical waste management and laboratory best practices. Hence, contribute to build essential capacities for biological threat reduction.

## REGIONS OF WORK

The project will be implemented in Iraq with focus on newly liberated areas from Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) such as Ninewa, Anbar, and Mosul.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD will build the capacity of Iraq MOH on biomedical waste containment with focus on newly liberated areas. The workforce capacity building will focus on targeted training of Iraqi laboratories staff on treating, securing, and safely disposing biomedical waste, which is an important component to mitigate risks of misuse into Biological Weapons (BW). The capacity building efforts will be guided by first conducting assessment of targeted facilities existing capacities and practices. The assessment findings will inform training development on infectious waste management and best laboratory practices. It will also inform needs of supplying the laboratories with necessary risk mitigation materials that will be provided through limited procurement. The trained participants will be supported to sustain knowledge and experience sharing on infectious waste management issues through communication using epishares.net. Additionally, trainees will be supported to promote awareness and develop handouts on the best laboratory practices for their laboratory reference and use.

## BENEFICIARIES

The project beneficiaries are health and laboratory staff of the Iraqi Ministry of health with focus on staff that work in liberated areas.

## PROJECT PHASES

This project is carried out over a period of one year as follows:

Phase I – Assessment: Assess the existing biomedical waste management capacities and practices at eight facilities.

Phase II – Capacity Building: Develop training curriculum, provide limited procurement, conduct five-day biomedical waste management training and provide follow up support for Iraqi participants.

Phase III – Documentation: Meeting minutes, training materials, curriculum and report, assessment report.



<b>Project Start and End Date</b>	<b>April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021</b>
<b>Funded by</b>	<b>U.S. Department of State (DOS) Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction’s (ISN/CTR) Global Threat Reduction Programs, including the Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP) Biosecurity Engagement Program</b>
<b>Collaborators</b>	<b>Iraq Ministry of Health and medical laboratory facilities in newly liberated areas in Iraq</b>

### Currently...

The untreated and readily accessible biomedical waste pose a risk of diverting the infectious biomedical waste and exploit these materials as raw Biological Weapons (BW) materials.

It was revealed by 90% of the respondents from medical and educational laboratories in Iraqi universities and research centers, that Iraq does not have biomedical waste management and treatment programs in place for biomedical waste of solid, liquid, and gaseous formulations<sup>1</sup>. Addressing this gap and building national capacities will reduce the biological threat and mitigate risks of access and misuse by nefarious actors.

### What’s next...

GHD|EMPHNET in collaboration with the Iraq Ministry of Health (MOH) will enhance biosecurity of selected laboratory facilities with focus on those from liberated areas from ISIS.

The assessment will support identifying the knowledge and skills needed by staff as well as the gaps at facilities to enhance applying biosecurity practices. The capacity building activities and limited scale procurement will result in promoting the practices of staff in safely disposing biomedical waste, waste management and laboratory best practices. Thus, mitigating biological weapons related risks in Iraq.

#### **GHD and EMPHNET: Working together for better health**

Global Health Development (GHD) is a regional initiative created to support countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region strengthen their health systems in response to public health challenges and threats. GHD was initiated to advance the work of the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) by building coordination mechanisms with Ministries of Health, International Organizations, and other institutions to improve population health outcomes. As an implementing arm to EMPHNET, GHD aligns its strategies with national policies and directions, while serving as a collaborative platform dedicated to support national efforts in promoting public health policies, strategic planning, sustainable financing, resource mobilization, public health programs, and other related services.

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<sup>1</sup> Journal of Engineering and Applied Sciences 14 (special Issue 13):10807-10814,2018 ISSN: 1816-949X. Medwell Journals, 2018.