



Building Multisectoral and Cross-border Networks for the Surveillance, Detection and Response of Potentially Weaponizable Pathogens in Libya and Tunisia

Project Information

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

SCOPE OF WORK

This project aims at improving multisectoral coordination for the surveillance, detection, and response to priority transboundary diseases and Especially Dangerous Pathogens (EDP) which will contribute to strengthening the global health security. The project will be implemented over a period of around 12 months.

BENEFICIARIES

This project intends to strengthen the capacity of public health officials in the engaged countries

REGIONS OF WORK

The project will be implemented in Libya and Tunisia.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Global Health Development (GHD), in collaboration with Georgetown University's Center for Global Health Science and Security (CGHSS), is currently implementing a project titled "**Building Multisectoral and Cross-border Networks for the Surveillance, Detection and Response of Potentially Weaponizable Pathogens in Libya and Tunisia**". This project is being implemented to improve accountability and security of pathogens containing, specially weaponizable pathogens, by developing and implementing scalable and sustainable systems for sample inventory and security for high-risk laboratories in the involved countries. Under this project, the collaborators will develop a systems-map defining nodes of communication and coordination between Libyan and Tunisian stakeholders for at least five priority transboundary diseases, develop a methodology using tools and frameworks to improve communication and effective engagement for cross-border surveillance and outbreak investigation, and finally, evaluate the developed methodology to achieve its goal.

Project Start and End Date	January 1, 2021- June 30, 2023
Partner Organizations	Libyan National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), National Centre for Animal Health (NCAH), the Tunisian General Directorate of Public Health, Ministry of Health in Libya and Tunisia, and Veterinary Services
Funded by	The United States Department of State Biosecurity Engagement Program - Counterterrorism (BEP-C)
Collaborators	Georgetown University's Center for Global Health Science and Security (CGHSS),

PROJECT PHASES

The project involves the following phases:

Phase I – Preparation: Communicate with targeted countries, conduct consultation meetings for representatives from Libya and Tunisia to support project implementation and map priority transboundary diseases. training curriculums, and develop System map for 5 transboundary diseases

Phase II – Implementation: implement One Health Systems Assessments for Priority Zoonoses (a tool for cross-sectoral prioritization of zoonotic diseases, and mapping of systems for One Health coordination), Conduct Four-day workshop to pilot and evaluate the Mapping tool, and conduct two webinars to support tool use and implementation

Phase III – Documentation: Meeting minutes, Training workshop reports, and Webinar report.

Currently . . .

The Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) continues to be challenged by political instability, growing populations, non-state actors, national and global safety and security risks to public health posed by terrorist group or misapplied dual use of life science. As the Libya and Tunisia are neighboring countries, and their shared border are quite busy with a huge number of people are crossing back and forth into both countries, building multisectoral and Cross-border Networks for the Surveillance, Detection and Response of Potentially Weaponizable Pathogens is crucial to public health in both countries and for the region.

What's next . . .

Under this project, GHD will strengthen the capacity of public health officials in relevant countries and strengthen regional and national capacities to improve prevention and management of public health threats. This project will contribute to the development of more effective public health systems and biosafety/ biosecurity measures in EMR countries. It will also improve capacities for surveillance through the development of guidelines and policies to enhancing global health security

By Numbers

5

Number of diseases that will be mapped out under this project

17,000 - 20,000

People cross the border both ways during weekdays, and during weekends and holidays the number of passengers reach 25,000.

GHD|EMPHNET Information: Global Health Development (GHD) and 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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