

## Next Steps

In 2016 EMPHNET will start a new phase of the RRT Initiative and will continue to focus on



-  Building the capacity of the ministries of health in countries most in need of RRTs in the region
-  Collaborating with other partners to reinforce capacities of epidemiologists in EMR and contribute to IHR implementation
-  Responding to global health threats outside the region (West Africa and Ukraine)



**EMPHNET**

The Eastern Mediterranean  
Public Health Network

# RAPID RESPONSE TEAMS

EMPHNET has a roster of experts from different parts of the region. To join the roster, please submit an application by visiting the "Experts Roster" under "Contact Us" on EMPHNET's website

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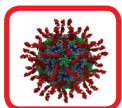
“ EMPHNET's dedication to capacity building and training will ensure the public health systems of the EMR region are strengthened and ready to respond effectively to any disease outbreak or health concerns whether it is at the district level or international level. ”

## Threats

The Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) has been prone to health threats such as natural disasters, civil unrest and disease outbreaks.



In 2014, the world experienced its largest outbreak of Ebola. With a total of 28,634 cases and 15,246 deaths (WHO, 2015), the outbreak has sparked world-wide efforts to increase global health security.



Polio is still endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In 2015 alone, a total of 56 cases were reported (GPEI,2015). As long as Polio exists in any country, it remains a health threat to children around the world.



There are currently 4,289,792 Syrian refugees registered, living in Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey and Northern Africa (UNHCR,2015). The refugee crisis poses a burden to the health system of the host countries.



Biological terrorism is a very probable threat. A pandemic can be brought on by an intentional biological attack or from dual-use research.

## Responding to a Need

EMPHNET aims to improve the capacity of the region to implement IHR core capacities in detecting, assessing and responding to these threats, in collaboration with countries and other stakeholders. Through our training programs, we aim to contribute to the forming of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) that are competent and readily deployable for surveillance and outbreak investigation.

In the past, EMPHNET's Initiative supported the following activities:

- 2012** Identifying need, establishing framework , and conducting the first regional RRT training
- 2013** Improving RRTs trainings and Training of Trainers methodology, and conducting the first IHR for epidemiologists training
- 2014** Administering Incident Command System trainings and contributing to the activation of the Standard Operating Procedures
- 2015** Enhancing preparedness, increasing linkages, and supporting IHR implementation
- 2016** Conducting national RRT trainings and simulation exercises.

## Progress to Date

**400** Public health professionals trained in Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, Ukraine, & Yemen.

**300** enlisted individuals in EMPHNET's roster of experts.

**Tens** of personnel deployed on field to respond to health threats regionally and internationally.



**Rapid response teams** were able to contribute to disease outbreak investigation and response

- In Syrian refugee camps
- In the Philippines after Typhoon Yolanda
- In the Middle East to MERS-CoV
- In West Africa to respond to Ebola outbreaks
- In Angola to respond to Yellow Fever.