Regional Dialogue on Global Health Reform

Project Information

- **Department: Research and Policy**
- **Unit: CEAE**

OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of this project was to reimagine and strengthen the global health architecture through a regional lens, by generating Middle East and Central Asia (MECA) perspectives and actionable recommendations to inform the future of global health governance and financing.

REGIONS OF WORK

This project was implemented across the Middle East and Central Asia (MECA).

BENEFICIARIES

The project benefits governments, international organizations, donors, academia, civil society, and public health networks across the Middle East and Central Asia, strengthening regional ownership in global health reform.

PROJECT PHASES

The project involved three phases:

Phase I – Inception and planning: finalizing the methodology, stakeholder mapping, engagement strategy, and workplan with consortium partners and Wellcome Trust.
Phase II – Consultation: key informant interviews in the Middle East (16) and Central Asia (12), plus multilingual online surveys, generating regional findings.
Phase III – Regional convening: a two-day hybrid dialogue in Amman, Jordan with 40 regional leaders, producing five prioritized reforms.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The 'Regional Dialogue on Global Health Reform' was a Middle East & Central Asia (MECA) initiative implemented between August and November 2025 under the Wellcome Trust Global Health Reform Program. Led by the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) in consortium with the Middle East Council on Global Affairs and Nazarbayev University School of Medicine, it aimed to reimagine and strengthen the global health architecture through a regional lens, responding to reductions in development financing, evolving geopolitical dynamics, and persistent inequities in global health governance and resource allocation. The consultation phase combined 16 key informant interviews in the Middle East and 12 in Central Asia with multilingual online surveys, supported in English, Arabic, and Russian. A two-day regional convening in Amman, Jordan brought together 40 leaders and stakeholders from governments, international organizations, donors, academia, and civil society, and built consensus around five priority reforms. The resulting recommendations contributed to the global synthesis process led by Wellcome Trust.

Project Start and End Date	**August 2025 to November 2025**
Funded by	**Wellcome Trust (Global Health Reform Program)**
Collaborators	**Middle East Council on Global Affairs and Nazarbayev University School of Medicine (consortium led by EMPHNET)**

Currently . . .

Global health governance and financing are under strain. Reductions in development financing, evolving geopolitical dynamics, and persistent inequities in governance and resource allocation have prompted calls to reimagine the global health architecture. The consultations found that the current system remains heavily donor-driven and fragmented, with countries in the Middle East and Central Asia underrepresented in decision-making.

Stakeholders also pointed to fragmented vertical programs that weaken primary health care, chronic shortages of financial and human resources, and pressures from conflict and climate-related health threats. Participants reached strong consensus that reform must embed equity, innovation, and regional empowerment at every level.

What's next . . .

Participants prioritized five reforms: aligning global support with national priorities; shifting governance from global to regional levels; creating regional platforms for collaboration and knowledge exchange; building robust digital and data systems; and developing integrated, PHC-centered health systems. The regional recommendations fed into the global synthesis led by Wellcome Trust, and participants committed to sustaining dialogue and collaboration beyond the project lifecycle.

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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