



Formalizing Biohazardous Waste Management at Key Health Facilities in Libya

Project Information

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

OBJECTIVES

The project aims at reducing biological threats by establishing and strengthening the overarching policies and support adherence to operational guidance and protocols of biohazardous waste management at the public health facility level. Formalize biohazardous waste management at key health facilities in Libya will contribute to prevent being acquired and/or introduced as biological weapons.

REGIONS OF WORK

This project will be implemented across key laboratory facilities in Libya.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD and the Georgetown University for Global Health Science and Security (CGHSS) will collaborate with the Libyan National Committee on Biosafety and Biosecurity and the National Center for Disease Control. This collaboration will be geared towards creating waste management Technical Working Group (TWG), develop guidelines for biological waste management, train the established waste management teams to conduct intervention at five key facilities. Follow up virtual meetings will be conducted as needed to provide technical support to the TWG and waste management teams to ensure that guidelines are being enforced and protocols are being implemented. GHD and CGHSS will also provide recommendations for further institutionalization of biosafety and biosecurity best practices in Libya.

BENEFICIARIES

The main beneficiaries of this project are 5 key laboratory facilities identified through laboratory risk assessment conducted in 2017-2018.

PROJECT PHASES

The project will be implemented over one year as follows:

Phase I – Establishment of Waste Management Technical Working Group (TWG), develop guidelines and protocols for the biological waste management, establishment of waste management teams and identify 5 key laboratory facilities to be targeted for additional assessment and interventions

Phase II – Capacity building workshop for 12 Libyan partners, targeted interventions at key health facilities and follow up visits to ensure that guidelines and protocols are enforced and implemented.

Phase III – Documentation: training and meeting reports, assessment report and recommendations for best practices.



Project Start and End Date	04/01/2020 – 12/31/2021
Partner Organizations	The Georgetown University for Global health Science and Security (CGHSS)
Funded by	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
Collaborators	Libyan National Committee on Biosafety and Biosecurity and the National Centre for Disease Control.

Currently . . .

The minimal capacities for surveillance and management of especially dangerous diseases and proper treatment and disposal of biological hazards, biological waste or materials from facilities presents an opportunity for terrorist organizations to acquire and/or introduce disease threats. Findings of a case study revealed that 8% of hospital workers can identify types of medical waste, while 17% hospitals workers considered it necessary to sort medical waste and only 9% of those workers understand the reasons behind sorting medical waste¹. These findings and follow up assessment indicate there is a high need of formalizing waste management guidelines and protocols and to further raise awareness of the hospital and medical facilities workers on the importance of managing the biohazardous waste.

What is next...

This project will provide access to detailed, expertly derived data to enable targeted engagement with facilities, institutions, and government sectors that may house dangerous pathogens or could be exploited by terrorist organizations to strengthen the biological waste management.

Key ministries, stakeholders and laboratory leadership will be engaged to review and strengthen overarching policies and establish operational guidance at the facility level. The adherence to the operational guidance and protocols of waste management at the facility level will be supported through targeted intervention and follow up visits and technical support.

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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