



Safeguarding Biosecurity and Biosafety: Creating a Consortium of public and private laboratories in Tunisia, Libya, and Morocco

Project Information

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

OBJECTIVES

This project seeks to achieve long-term and sustainable results by building a regional consortium and improving sustainability measures by providing regional support and expertise from Morocco, Libya, and Tunisia to high consequence pathogens. This will contribute to building risk awareness and risk mitigation techniques in North Africa related to bioscience-related partnerships with malign actors, including receiving laboratory infrastructure and other forms of biological capacity building assistance.

REGIONS OF WORK

This project will be implemented across key laboratory facilities in Morocco, Tunisia, and Libya.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD, in partnership with CGHSS, will engage at least six laboratories in Morocco, Tunisia, and Libya (three public and three private) to build risk awareness and risk mitigation techniques in North Africa related to bioscience-related partnerships with malign actors, including laboratory infrastructure and other forms of biological capacity building assistance in Libya, Tunisia, and Morocco. This project will involve:

- 1) Mapping and assessment of diagnostic, biosafety, and biosecurity capacities in the 18 newly engaged laboratories.
- 2) Identification and participation of key laboratories to act as consortium lead across the three countries.
- 3) A three-day in-person training for at least 36 people to develop and establish common protocols across partner countries linking guidelines and capacities to international standards and frameworks, including the development of Terms of Reference.
- 4) A web portal for the consortium to share documents, templates, and tools and to support live chats and interactive remote/virtual meetings.

BENEFICIARIES

The project will be implemented across at least six laboratories in Morocco, Tunisia, and Libya (three public and three private).

PROJECT PHASES

This project involves three phases:

Phase I – Preparation: Communicate with targeted countries and conduct a stakeholders’ meeting with the countries’ representatives, develop mapping and assessment report of diagnostic, biosafety, and biosecurity capacities, identified and selected 18 key public and private facilities in countries, and contract three in-country consultants.

Phase II – Implementation: Conduct two training workshops, three days each, in Tunisia, for at least 36 participants (at least two from each facility) and developing a new web portal for the consortium.

Phase III – Documentation: Training and meeting reports, review challenges and opportunities.

Project Start and End Date	February 28, 2022 – December 31, 2023
Partner Organizations	The Center for Global Health Science and Security (CGHSS), Libyan National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the Tunisian General Directorate of Public Health and Veterinary Services, and the Moroccan MOH
Funded by	U.S. Department of State (DOS), Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction's (ISN/CTR), including the Biosecurity Engagement Program Non-State (BEP-NS) and Iraq Program (Iraq)

Currently . . .

The Eastern Mediterranean Region EMR continues to be challenged by political instability, growing populations, non-state actors, and national and global safety and security risks to public health posed by a terrorist group or misapplied dual use of life science. Through this project, GHD will continue building on efforts of contributing to global health security, as well as, strengthening the capacity of public health officials in relevant countries and strengthening the regional and national capacities to improve the prevention and management of public health threats in the EMR region.

What's next . . .

Under this project, through its different phases, the pilot consortium result for the three target countries will be the potential to expand network membership to other countries in the North African region in the future. This project will build upon prior projects in connecting Libyan laboratories with neighboring Moroccan and Tunisian laboratories. This will build a regional consortium and improve sustainability measures by providing regional support and expertise from Morocco and Tunisia to Libya.

GHD|EMPHNET Information: Global Health Development (GHD) 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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