



Training of Trainers to Activate Rapid Response Teams (RRT) to Address Health Security Threats in High-Risk/High-Threat Governorates in Iraq

Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Programs
- ◆ Unit: Public Health Emergency Management Center

OBJECTIVES

This project seeks to help Iraq to effectively respond to potential intentional outbreaks of dangerous infectious diseases, as well as better address destabilizing outbreaks like COVID-19. It will strengthen the ability of the GOI to prevent and respond to biological attacks by promoting awareness of biological threats and the adoption of threat mitigation best practices in governorates at risk of an ISIS resurgence.

REGIONS OF WORK

This project will be implemented in Iraq.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD will implement this project to strengthen the ability of the Government of Iraq (GOI) to prevent and respond to biological attacks by promoting awareness of biological threats and the adoption of threat mitigation best practices in governorates at risk of an ISIS resurgence.

GHD will engage around 40 participants from the Ministry of Health through conducting a refresher training on biological incidents, including a training of trainers (TOT) component. The RRTs will work alongside the Field Epidemiology Program (FETP) graduates to provide the needed support to combat emerging and re-emerging dangerous infectious diseases and reduce the spread and burden of sporadic but recurring outbreaks. The TOT will provide the ministry with a force multiplier effect to be able to sustain the efforts of this activity through empowering the small cadre of experts from the MOH to reach far greater numbers of participants to continue the training later on in remote locations in governorates in Iraq.

BENEFICIARIES

The project beneficiaries are the 40 Iraq MOH health participants, 20 from the national level and, 20 from health districts.

PROJECT PHASES

This project involves three phases:

Phase I – Preparation: Communicate with Iraq stakeholder and MOH and conduct the virtual stakeholders' meeting, develop a concept note and contract Iraqi national expert.

Phase II – Implementation: Develop an emergency response curriculum package for the Rapid Response Teams (RRT) training and conduct two 5-days training workshops including one day in each training for tabletop exercises.

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

Project Start and End Date	February 28, 2022 – December 31, 2023
Partner Organizations	Iraq Ministry of Health
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, national and global safety and security risks to public health posed by terrorist group or misapplied dual use of life science. GHD's Rapid Response Teams (RRT) initiative has implemented several trainings in Iraq since 2012, improving health security and Iraqi ability to respond to high-consequence outbreaks of diseases, whether of natural origin or used in a potential biological weapons attack.

What’s next . . .

This program will help Iraq enhance its core capacities under the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) and the Global Health Security Agenda’s Linking Public Health with Law and Multisectoral Rapid Response Action Package. The multi-sectoral RRTs will be well connected with the national Iraqi response system as well as recognized by the international community. This will help Iraq to effectively respond to potential intentional outbreaks of dangerous infectious diseases, as well as better address destabilizing outbreaks like COVID-19.

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.

- ◆ Abdallah Ben Abbas St, Building No. 42, Amman, Jordan
- ◆ Email: comm@emphnet.net

- ◆ Tel: +962-6-5519962
- ◆ Fax: +962-6-5519963
- ◆ www.emphnet.net