

Current major event

Rapid Response Teams trainings in Pakistan

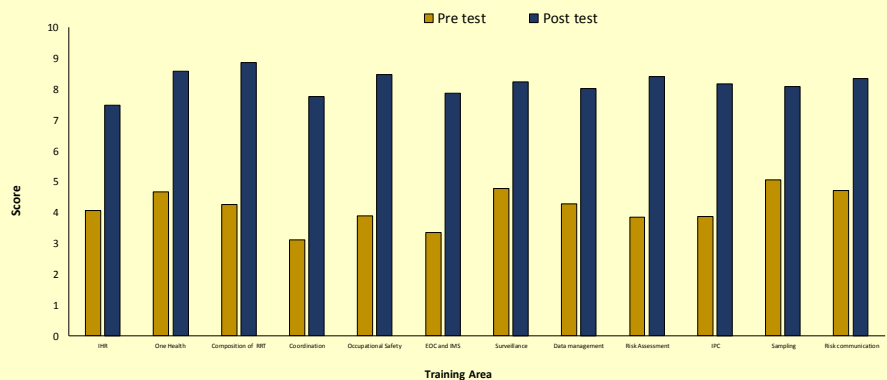
Rapid Response Team (RRT) is a technical, multi-disciplinary team that is readily available for quick mobilization and deployment in case of emergencies. The RRTs are at the frontline of the global health security and it is vital to reinforce their capacity and skills.

Editorial note

In the Eastern Mediterranean Region, two-thirds of the countries are affected, whether directly or indirectly, by the ongoing conflicts, protracted emergencies and the resulting migrations and displaced populations. These fragile conditions are the breeding grounds for increased outbreaks and pose a danger to public health security in the region and globally. This context emphasizes the need to build the capacities to verify and respond timely for emerging and re-emerging infectious threats at national and subnational. Pakistan as the biggest country in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, remains vulnerable to a number of potential health threats and outbreaks from emerging infectious disease. The country have experienced frequent and recurring outbreaks in recent years affecting thousands of people in different provinces.

The Infectious Hazard Management (IHM) unit of the World Health Organization's Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (WHO/EMRO) supported the Field and Laboratory Epidemiology Training Program (FELTP) in Pakistan to build the capacities to detect and respond to different public health hazards at national and subnational levels. FELTP Pakistan adopted the WHO's all-hazard training package for Rapid Response Teams (RRT) Training to train multidisciplinary Rapid Response Teams in Pakistan. A total of 109 professionals completed the RRT training through one national and 4 provincial rounds of trainings. The participants of the training were from different disciplines to make sure that multidisciplinary

Comparison of average confidence level of participants pre and post, RRT training, Pakistan



RRT training sessions in Pakistan

Date (2018)	Targeted province	No of Participants
26 -30 Nov	TOT for RRT training, Islamabad	25
17 -21 Dec	Peshawar	19
17 -21 Dec	Karachi	22
24 -28 Dec	Quetta (Balochistan)	20
24 -28 Dec	Lahore	23
Total		109

nary Rapid Response Teams are available in each of the targeted four provinces to be mobilized whenever needed. (see table)

Rapid Response Team Training self-assessment questionnaire was used to assess the pre and post training confidence level of the participants of the TOT for RRT training. The evaluation revealed a significant improvement of the knowledge, skills and confidence level among participants regarding the content and methodology of the training. (See graph)

Continue refresher trainings and proper monitoring are recommended to ensure the sustainability of timely outbreak investigation and response capacities. The global RRT Knowledge Network, supported by WHO, can play an important role in sharing experiences and continued education for the RRT members all over the world.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

MERS in Saudi Arabia; **MERS** in Oman; **cholera** in Somalia; **cholera** in Yemen; **Multidrug-resistant typhoid fever** in Pakistan.

Current public health events of concern

[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

Avian influenza: 2006-2017

Egypt (A/H5N1) [359 (122), 33.98%]

Egypt (A/H9N2) [4 (0)]

Ebola virus disease (EVD): 2018-2019

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) [1 146 (721), 62.91%]

Cholera: 2017-2019

Somalia [7 005 (46), 0.65%]

Yemen [1 588 357 (3 49), 0.19%]

Diphtheria: 2018-2019

Yemen [3 392 (194), 5.71%]

Bangladesh [8 545 (45), 0.52%]

MERS: 2012-2019

Saudi Arabia [2 028(754), 37.17%]

Oman [24 (7), 29.16%]

Multidrug-resistant typhoid fever: 2016-2019

Pakistan [6 780 (0)]