

Summary report on the

Second meeting of the regional Network of Institutions for Evidence and Data to Policy (NEDtP) to enhance national institutional capacity for evidence-informed policy- making in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Virtual Meeting
8 May 2022



**World Health
Organization**

Eastern Mediterranean Region

Summary report on the

**Second meeting of the regional
Network of Institutions for Evidence
and Data to Policy (NEDtP) to
enhance national institutional
capacity for evidence-informed
policy-making in the Eastern
Mediterranean Region**

Virtual meeting
18 May 2022



Eastern Mediterranean Region

© World Health Organization 2024

Some rights reserved. This work is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo>).

Under the terms of this licence, you may copy, redistribute and adapt the work for non-commercial purposes, provided the work is appropriately cited. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that WHO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the WHO logo is not permitted. If you adapt the work, then you must license your work under the same or equivalent Creative Commons licence. If you create a translation of this work, you should add the following disclaimer along with the suggested citation: “This translation was not created by the World Health Organization (WHO). WHO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original English edition shall be the binding and authentic edition”.

Any mediation relating to disputes arising under the licence shall be conducted in accordance with the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Suggested citation. Summary report on the second meeting of the regional Network of Institutions for Evidence and Data to Policy (NEDtP) to enhance national institutional capacity for evidence-informed policy-making in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Cairo: WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean; 2024. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

Sales, rights and licensing. To purchase WHO publications, see <http://apps.who.int/bookorders>. To submit requests for commercial use and queries on rights and licensing, see <http://www.who.int/about/licensing>.

Third-party materials. If you wish to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, it is your responsibility to determine whether permission is needed for that reuse and to obtain permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

General disclaimers. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers’ products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by the World Health Organization in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by the World Health Organization to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall the World Health Organization be liable for damages arising from its use.

Contents

1.	Introduction.....	1
2.	Summary of discussions	2
3.	Conclusions.....	4

1. Introduction

Evidence-informed policy-making is essential for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and universal health coverage. Over the years, WHO has undertaken substantial efforts to enhance evidence-based policy-making in countries within the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region. In 2019, a significant milestone was reached with the publication of a technical paper focused on institutionalizing the use of evidence to inform policy-making. This achievement was followed in the same year by a landmark resolution of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, EM/RC66/R.5¹, which called upon WHO to provide support in establishing national mechanisms and building capacity to institutionalize the generation and use of data to inform policy-making processes for health in the Region. The resolution endorsed a comprehensive framework for action,² and a regional action plan to implement it was subsequently published.³

One of the strategies outlined in resolution EM/RC66/R.5 mandates WHO to establish a regional network to support WHO and Member States in implementing the framework for action. A regional [Network of Institutions for Evidence and Data to Policy \(NEDtP\)](#) was therefore established, with the aim of supporting the national institutionalization of evidence informed policy-making across the Region.

¹ WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean resolution EM/RC66/R.5 on developing national institutional capacity for evidence-informed policy-making for health. Cairo: WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean; 2019.

² Framework for action to improve national institutional capacity for the use of evidence in health policy-making in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Cairo: WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean; 2019.

³ Regional action plan for the implementation of the framework for action to improve national institutional capacity for the use of evidence in health policy-making in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (2020–2024). Cairo: WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean; 2021.

The main activities of the NEDtP consist of generating high-quality knowledge products, providing capacity-building support and establishing collaboration with ministries of health and other relevant stakeholders.

Members of the Network include academic institutions, research centres and the relevant departments in ministries of health. A series of supporting institutions also contributes to the work of the Network, by providing technical and material support.¹

Following the establishment of the Network in 2020, a first virtual meeting was held on 30 March 2021, with the aim of identifying different paths for the efficient functioning of the NEDtP, sharing insights and experiences, and creating a consensus on priority evidence-informed policy-making needs in the Region.²

A second virtual meeting of the NEDtP was held on 18 May 2022.

The objectives of this meeting were to:

- discuss WHO's performance in evidence-informed policy-making;
- share experiences among member institutions; and
- reinforce collaboration with Member States through the development of joint work.

Participants included policy-makers and researchers from different member and supporting institutions, as well as colleagues from WHO. Summary of discussions.

¹ For more on the Network, see [Regional Network of Institutions for Evidence and Data to Policy \(NEDtP\)](#) (YouTube video).

² Summary report on the first formal meeting of the regional Network of Institutions for Evidence and Data to Policy (NEDtP) to enhance national capacity for evidence-informed policy-making. Cairo: WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean; 2022.

Dr Arash Rashidian, Director of the Division of Science, Information and Dissemination, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, delivered opening remarks and provided an update on progress on implementation of the regional action plan for the implementation of the framework for action to improve national institutional capacity for the use of evidence in health policy-making in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (2020–2024). He described the main activities conducted, such as the development of 15 case studies during the COVID-19 pandemic from 13 countries and territories of the Region, namely Afghanistan, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory, Oman, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, representing a variety of income and emergency levels. He noted that several capacity-building programmes had also been undertaken, including a capacity-building workshop on general principles for the development of policy briefs¹ and advocacy initiatives, during 2021–2022.

This case studies initiative in the 13 countries had highlighted a series of common challenges and lessons learnt. The similarities included limited availability of local data, as well as challenges in balancing public health measures with the socioeconomic needs of the population. Additionally, challenges arose from the shortage of technical expertise and widespread misinformation among researchers, decision-makers and the general population. Many case studies also revealed common lessons learnt around the key success factors. These included the critical role of community and stakeholder engagement, the adoption of a multisectoral approach by the government and adapting interventions to local contexts.

Several presentations by the member institutions, through which they showcased their work on the case studies and their accomplishments in

¹ [Summary report on the workshop for capacity-building for the development of policy briefs: general principles for NEDtP members](#). Cairo: WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean; 2022.


the field of evidence-informed policy-making in their country, as well as the activities and initiatives that have been done at country level. The Institute for Futures Studies in Health in the Islamic Republic of Iran described its advocacy and promotion of the activities of the NEDtP to facilitate cooperation and build partnerships among the different health institutions in the country. The Health Services Academy at Khyber Medical University in Pakistan shared their work on capacity-building activities related to data collection and use.

After highlighting the considerable and rapid progress made by NEDtP member institutions, members of the supporting institutions provided comments and suggestions on the way forward. A strong emphasis was placed on the need to monitor the impact of the different activities. Recognizing the diverse country contexts and institutions within the Region, engaging in systematic learning from one another was also suggested as a valuable addition to the ongoing activities.

2. Conclusions

The significance of two key points was emphasized during the meeting: the need to expand the Network by publicizing its role and the importance of fostering collaboration within and between countries that could mutually benefit from sharing best practices. Recognizing the importance of networks such as the NEDtP, the participants reaffirmed their commitment to evidence-informed policy-making and made specific requests for support from WHO.

In particular, further capacity-building initiatives and tailored country-specific programmes were mentioned. A suggestion was made to facilitate the creation of joint programmes of work between countries facing comparable challenges. A recommendation was also made for the development of policy briefs in collaboration with NEDtP members, to address high-priority health issues in the Region.



World Health Organization
Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
Monazamet El Seha El Alamia Street,
Extension of Abdel Razak El Sanhoury Street
P.O. Box 7608, Nasr City
Cairo 11371, Egypt
www.emro.who.int