



Transport and shipment of potentially infectious substances represents a significant challenge to many countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR), due to several reasons such as limited numbers of trained and certified laboratory professionals, few certified instructors, shortage in shipment containers, logistics to obtain the required permits, and other reasons.

To address this gap, the WHO EMRO worked on preparing regional certified instructors, in collaboration with the International Air Transport Association (IATA), to be able to provide adapted training to the national context on the IATA regulations on the shipping of infectious substances by air; a regional expert attended a train of trainer workshop in December 2022, to prepare certified trainers on shipment of Dangerous Goods (DG) and was awarded a certification as a recognized instructor

In Yemen, the Infectious Hazard Prevention and Preparedness (IHP) unit of the WHO EMRO carried out a laboratory-focused mission to Aden, Yemen in May 2023, to provide bacterial metagenomics training for High-Threat Pathogens (HTP), and to develop a national work plan for Arboviral, Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF), and Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) diseases (LINK HERE:

<https://www.emro.who.int/pandemic-epidemic-diseases/news/who-builds-surveillance-and-laboratory-capacity-on-high-threat-pathogens-and-genomic-sequencing-in-yemen.html> ).

Joint discussions with Ministry of Health officials, Central Public Health (CPHL), Aden, and the laboratory team of the WHO Country Office in Yemen resulted in holding two training workshops on the shipping of infectious substances in line with international regulations, the first in Aden between 9 to 13 July 2023, and the second in Sanaa from 27 – 31 August 2023.

WHO organized the two trainings at the CPHL facilities in both Aden and Sanaa, for eighteen national laboratory professionals (eight females and ten males) and fifteen national laboratory professionals (nine females, and six males), respectively.

The 5-day training covered both theoretical and practical components; Hands-on practical training on the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR) manual which helps participants to correctly identify, classify, pack, label, and document infectious substances, and prepare them to transport by air in compliance with the applicable regulations.

