



Participant discussions during the workshop

Cairo, 18 September 2022 – The WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and WHO country office in Egypt organized a rapid response team all-hazard training and programme orientation workshop, to build national rapid response teams (RRTs) for the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population.

The workshop, held in Ain Sokhna, was facilitated by WHO in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Global Health Development/Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network and the Ministry of Health and Population.

The training equipped 40 participants from different departments of the Ministry of Health and Population with the necessary knowledge, tools and techniques to improve how they investigate and respond to emerging and re-emerging infections when an outbreak occurs, even when its source is unknown or ill-defined, especially during the initial period of an evolving epidemic.



Hands-on practical training

The training included looking at real situations, including previous experiences from the field, and the challenges and ethical dilemmas RRTs might face during outbreaks and how to overcome them.

Different psychological aid tools were provided to the participants to be able to help the affected population and protect their own well-being during outbreaks.

The workshop included a “skill drill”, in which the teams practiced what to do during an outbreak. They were provided with a real-life scenario that included the challenges and cultural issues they might encounter.



Supplies and training for rapid response teams are essential for building national capacity to respond to disease outbreaks.