

Call for papers

Special issue of EMHJ on the contribution of national public health institutes to emergency preparedness and response

The Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) has experienced a series of natural and humanitarian emergencies that have elevated the importance of health system and multisectoral preparedness to respond to emergencies. Available literature indicates the need for functioning and resilient health systems that can deliver emergency services to affected populations as needed.

National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) provide public health services, surveillance and research and evidence for proactive interventions at all levels. They invest in advanced diagnostic tools and infrastructure that will ensure quick and accurate detection of public health threats. Most NPHIs in the EMR operate robust surveillance systems that enable real-time detection and response, and some of them

have coordination hubs to streamline emergency response. Publishing the research outputs of NPHIs is essential and will make them available for use by relevant stakeholders.

To facilitate the publication of such research work, the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean is calling for papers for a special issue of the Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal (EMHJ) on the **contribution of national public health institutes to emergency preparedness and response**. This special issue aims to document the contributions of, and support advocacy efforts by, NPHIs to strengthening health systems in the EMR for better response to health emergencies and to provide more evidence for policymaking.

Types of manuscripts expected

Manuscripts for this special issue can be submitted as commentary, letter to the editor, original research article, short research communication, review, report, and policy brief on any of the following priority areas:

- Health systems preparedness and resilience, including surveillance and early warning systems, emergency planning, policy development, capacity building, workforce training, laboratory preparedness and biosafety, hazard identification and risk assessment, and environmental and climate-related health risk analysis.
- Emergency medical and public health response, including mass casualty management, incident management, logistics and supply chain management, infection prevention and control, emergency financing and resource mobilization, and digital health.
- Community preparedness, including risk communication and mental health and psychosocial support.
- Humanitarian response and relief operations, including post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation.
- Health information systems and data management.
- International Health Regulations implementation.

Manuscript submission information

- Interested authors should submit their manuscripts through the EMHJ platform on Editorial Manager (<https://www2.cloud.editorialmanager.com/emhj/>) on or before **31 May 2026**.
- Manuscripts must comply with the “Information for authors” available at: <https://www.emro.who.int/emh-journal/authors/>
- Please indicate in your submission that the manuscript is for consideration for the special issue on the **contribution of national public health institutes to emergency preparedness and response**.