Participants during the workshop. Photo credit: WHO/Health Emergency Information and Risk Assessment Unit

Cairo, 19 October 2023 – The WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean ran a workshop in Alexandria governorate, Egypt, in September 2023 to review implementation of a project, Improving monitoring capacity in humanitarian and fragile settings in the Eastern Mediterranean Region of WHO. The 3-day workshop on this capacity-building project involved WHO office staff and ministry of health focal points from 4 countries and territories. Various WHO headquarters and Regional Office personnel also attended.

The occupied Palestinian territory, Somalia, Syria and Yemen were selected to take part in the project's pilot phase, owing to the unique challenges they face in response monitoring. These include the fragmented nature of data collection efforts, which has in the past led to inconsistencies in methodologies and indicators. This has made it difficult to compare and analyse data across response efforts and countries/territories, and potentially hinders overall data quality.

The workshop served as a critical review of the project, which was initiated in 2022 to tackle and address the challenges in response monitoring in humanitarian and fragile settings specifically, and strengthen response monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. The project will also provide decision-makers with reliable information to steer efficient and effective response measures.

Representatives of other countries, including from outside the Region, also took part in the workshop to explore the project's potential replication. South Sudan and Ukraine were among those represented.