

Asia Pacific Regional Public Health in Emergencies Training, Level B

25-29 May

Hong Kong

Terms of Reference

Rationale

The Asia Pacific Region houses multiple crisis caused by disasters, conflicts, and disease outbreaks. The region currently faces several complex humanitarian crises, all of which are in countries that have either fragile or fully dysfunctional health systems. Moreover, climate change is impacting health in a myriad of ways, including by leading to death and illness from increasingly frequent extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, storms and floods, the disruption of food, health, and water systems, increases in zoonoses and food-, water- and vector-borne diseases, and mental health issues, to name a few. As auxiliaries to their respective governments, National Societies have the responsibility to fill in gaps support response activities and supplement the Government's efforts towards the health emergency response. Since the National Societies are among the key frontline responders for any emergency, it is inevitable that local preparedness and response capacities for public health emergencies are built and sustained to act immediately, minimize risks, and avert loss of human lives.

Objectives

- Enhance technical knowledge and skills of National Societies with a focus on national-level emergency health response and regional surge deployments.
- Increase participants' technical skills and knowledge on existing health response tools aligned global health response procedure.
- Build a pool of future health responders for future collaborative response mechanisms.
- Ensure all participants are familiar with the available coordination mechanisms and assessment tools for health emergency response.
- Ensure all participants are able to identify public health issues in different crisis contexts (complex humanitarian crisis, pandemic & epidemic, fragile states) and distinguish the roles, responsibilities, and agendas of key actors in the health sector.
- Introduce the systematic integration of health system strengthening, health security, IHR, health emergency management, and disaster risk reduction as part of health systems into the response phase while setting the foundation for long-term recovery and development.

Agenda

The five-day agenda has been developed following several discussions, learnings from previous such trainings and aligned with the Public Health in Emergencies Manual. The topics incorporated are relevant to most contexts, however a standard case will be the basis of the training through all five days.

Participation selection criteria

Since the nature of the training is mostly technical, we suggest that nominees are those currently working in the health sector, have a key role during emergencies and can be mobilized in country or region in case of emergencies and have never had a similar training are prioritized. We envisage having 24-26 participants in total.

Funding

Funding for this training is confirmed. We are looking forward to support as many participants as possible, however, we will focus on those National Societies who have limited finances to support their participation. IFRC, PNS will be expected to pay their own expenses.

Modality

Face-to-face learning method.