

Role of NPHIs in health emergency rapid response systems

Introduction to IANPHI's GHEC Survey

Thank you for agreeing to complete this survey as the representative on behalf of your NPHI, as the nominated IANPHI focal point.

IANPHI has been awarded a grant by the Gates Foundation to facilitate the understanding of country level needs to assist in the development of the WHO coordinated Global Health Emergency Corps (GHEC) ([Global Health Emergency Corps \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/ghec)), ensuring that it meets the needs of the global public health community. GHEC aims to be a corps of health emergency professionals in all countries with common training and standards who are globally connected and work together in times of international health crises. GHEC provides both a framework for enhancing health emergency workforce capacity, and a collaboration platform for countries and health emergency networks. The vision of GHEC is a health emergency workforce centered in countries and coordinated regionally and globally, composed of:

- Connected health emergency leaders
- Health emergency surge capacities
- Health emergency workforce

The focus of this survey is on the role and functions of National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs). The questions seek to understand the extent to which your NPHI is leading or involved in the key domains outlined by the GHEC framework.

The information collected from this survey will be used for:

- Providing an overview to the WHO GHEC of the current landscape and support needed for NPHIs to strengthen their roles in rapid response to health emergencies.
- Providing evidence to support the development of IANPHI guidelines for NPHIs reviewing, planning or developing surge capabilities to respond to domestic, regional, and international emergencies.
- Generating position papers and publications to advocate for investment, support and strengthening of the roles and responsibilities of NPHIs in health emergencies.
- Producing a report to the Gates Foundation describing the current NPHI landscape of health emergency prevention and response and making recommendations to support further GHEC development.

In the context of this survey, a health emergency is defined as an emergency that requires a national, regional¹ or international response to a public health threat that has cross-border, epidemic or pandemic potential. The public health threats of interest include infectious diseases, non-infectious hazards such as chemical and radio-nuclear incidents, humanitarian crises, and natural disasters requiring public health responses.

¹For the purpose of this survey, regional refers to countries within your WHO Region e.g., AFRO, AMRO, EMRO, EURO, SEARO, WPRO.

Ethics

The survey has been determined to be exempt from requiring Institutional Ethics Review Board approval by Emory University's Institutional Ethics Review Board. Further details are available upon request.

Responding to the GHEC Global Survey

As the nominated IANPHI focal point, we ask that you complete the survey for your NPHI. You are the only person in your country who has been asked to respond to this survey, and we encourage you to participate to ensure your NPHI's experience and perspective is captured. If there is another person within your NPHI that is better placed to complete this survey, please forward the invitation and copy in ghec@ianphi.org.

As the questions within this survey are designed to collect information related to public health emergency management in your country, this may require you to consult with colleagues and those working in organizations outside of your own.

This survey is divided into five parts:

- Part A – NPHI Respondent Details
- Part B – Mandate and Governance

Part C – Public Health Emergency Workforce

Part D – Surge Capacity and Rapid Response Mechanism

Part E – Connected Leadership

The survey should take between 30 and 40 minutes to complete. You can complete the survey in more than one session by using the 'log out' button on each page. To log back into the survey, use the code: IANPHIXXX

In addition to English, this survey is available in French, Spanish and Portuguese. These can be found at the following links: [LINKS TO SURVEYS IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES HERE]

We would be grateful if you could complete the survey before 15th November 2024.

Once the survey is closed and the analysis is complete, IANPHI will share the final report with all IANPHI members.

If you have any questions related to the survey, please do not hesitate to contact us using the following email address: ghec@ianphi.org.

Whilst the data collected as part of this survey will be anonymized, we may wish to highlight the areas of innovative practice which you share with us in our reports, publications or elsewhere. If this is the case, and we wish to use country specific information you provide to highlight innovative practice, we will contact you for permission beforehand.

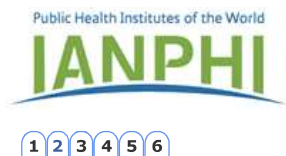
Data Consent

The information collected is subject to computer processing for the purpose of gathering and compiling information that may be shared with Members and Partners of IANPHI to facilitate connection and collaboration. By answering the question below you authorize information that you have shared about your organization to be shared within the IANPHI network. Your personal data may be shared, under the responsibility of IANPHI, with IANPHI's processors, only to the extent of what is necessary to realize the mission IANPHI gave to them.

Furthermore, your personal data may be shared with other IANPHI Members, belonging or not to the European Union. If need be, the transfer of your personal data outside of EU, will be done according to confidentiality agreement complying with the European general data protection regulation. Your data will be processed until the end of the subscription of your organization to IANPHI or up to the exercise of your right to object to processing. You can object to processing of your data and you have the right to request the access, erasure, rectification of your data or request the restriction of their processing. For more information or questions about the processing of your personal data you can contact the Secretariat: secretariat@ianphi.org If you feel like your rights have been impaired by IANPHI, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the "Commission nationale informatique et libertés", or, if you live in the European Union, with your national data protection authority. Before doing so, we advise you to contact us at secretariat@ianphi.org.

I authorize the storage and use of the data provided in this survey in accordance with the confidentiality rules mentioned above.

Source: <https://gdpr-info.eu/>



A. NPHI RESPONDENT DETAILS

What is your name?

What is your job title or role?

What is your email address?

What is your organisation's name?

What is the country your organization serves?

--None--



What type of organization do you work for?

--None--



Is your organisation a National Member or an Associate Member of IANPHI?

- ☐ National Member
- ☐ Associate Member
- ☐ Not a member of IANPHI

When was your organisation established/created? The value must be between 1800 and 2024, inclusive.

What is the scope of your organisation's work? (Tick all that apply)

- ☐ Local remit with teams operating at the local/provincial/state level
- ☐ National remit with teams operating at the national level
- ☐ International remit with teams operating internationally

What is your organisation's total number of employees?

- ☐ <100
- ☐ 101-500
- ☐ 501-1000
- ☐ 1000-2000
- ☐ 2000+ staff
- ☐ Not known

B. NPHI MANDATE & GOVERNANCE

Does your NPHI have a role in the management of public health emergencies in your country?

- ☐ Yes, legally mandated role
- ☐ Yes, but not a legally mandated role
- ☐ No role
- ☐ Don't know

Is your NPHI involved in the following public health functions related to national public health emergencies?

	NPHI is the lead agency responsible for this function	NPHI has some involvement in this function	NPHI is not involved in this function
Emergency planning and/or preparedness planning for response to a public health emergency	☐	☐	☐
Coordination of public health emergency response activities	☐	☐	☐
Surveillance capability to detect diseases/hazards/threats	☐	☐	☐
Business continuity planning and management	☐	☐	☐
Emergency training and exercises (internal and external)	☐	☐	☐
Specialist laboratory or scientific capability to confirm diagnosis of pathogens/hazards/threats	☐	☐	☐
Mechanisms and analytical capability to	☐	☐	☐

B. NPHI MANDATE & GOVERNANCE

carry out risk assessments			
Emergency needs assessment of affected populations	☐	☐	☐
Devising and/or implementing control measures	☐	☐	☐
Monitoring and evaluation of the emergency response	☐	☐	☐
Knowledge management – e.g. research and evidence reviews to guide responses	☐	☐	☐
Disaster recovery planning	☐	☐	☐
Post-disaster debriefing and lessons learning	☐	☐	☐
Communicating information on the hazard to government and national agencies	☐	☐	☐
Communicating information on the hazard to the public	☐	☐	☐
Communicating information on the hazard to international partners	☐	☐	☐
Mounting a public health response through the mobilisation of field level teams	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify)	☐	☐	☐

In your country, which agencies are actively involved in the response for the following national public health emergencies? (Tick all that apply)

NPHI

MOH

**Civil defence /
National
disaster**

**Other
government
department**

B. NPHI MANDATE & GOVERNANCE

management agency

Infectious diseases	☐	☐	☐	☐
Environmental hazards	☐	☐	☐	☐
Chemical hazards	☐	☐	☐	☐
Biological hazards	☐	☐	☐	☐
Radiological/Nuclear hazards	☐	☐	☐	☐
Civil disorder/Conflict	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify)	☐	☐	☐	☐

In a public health emergency, is your NPHI also involved in the following issues?

	NPHI is the lead agency responsible for this function	NPHI has some involvement in this function	NPHI is not involved in this function
Non-communicable diseases management or prevention/screening	☐	☐	☐
Healthcare / health service planning and management	☐	☐	☐
Mental health	☐	☐	☐
Community engagement	☐	☐	☐
Housing / shelter	☐	☐	☐
Water and sanitation	☐	☐	☐
Employment & Economy	☐	☐	☐
Animal health	☐	☐	☐
Environmental quality / issues	☐	☐	☐
Health equity e.g. marginalized groups	☐	☐	☐
Climate change adaptation / sustainability	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify)	☐	☐	☐

Does your NPHI have a formal framework or plan for emergency preparedness and response in a health emergency?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

Does your NPHI contribute to a regional or international framework or plan for emergency preparedness and response in a health emergency?

- ☐ Yes, we contribute at the regional and international level
- ☐ Yes, we contribute at the regional level only
- ☐ Yes, we contribute at the international level only
- ☐ Yes, we contribute to a regional and/or international plan but only for certain hazards
- ☐ No, we do not contribute to regional and/or international plans
- ☐ Don't know

Does your NPHI contribute to a regional or international framework or plan for emergency preparedness and response in a health emergency?

- ☐ Yes, we contribute at the regional and international level
- ☐ Yes, we contribute at the regional level only
- ☐ Yes, we contribute at the international level only
- ☐ Yes, we contribute to a regional and/or international plan but only for certain hazards
- ☐ No, we do not contribute to regional and/or international plans
- ☐ Don't know

Does your NPHI have collaboration agreements with international organizations or institutions from other countries for public health emergency response, e.g., legal agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, data sharing agreements etc.?

- ☐ Yes, we have agreements with other NPHIs
- ☐ Yes, we have agreements with non-NPHI government agencies in neighbouring countries
- ☐ Yes, we have agreements with non-NPHI government agencies in non-neighbouring countries
- ☐ Yes, we have agreements with international organizations (e.g. WHO)
- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, we have agreements with other organizations (please specify)

C. PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY WORKFORCE

Is there a national public health workforce strategy or development plan with specified roles and responsibilities for national public health emergencies?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Who is responsible for public health workforce planning for health emergencies in your country? (Tick all that apply)

	National public health emergency	Regional public health emergency	International public health emergency
NPHI	☐	☐	☐
Ministry of Health	☐	☐	☐
Other gov. dept.	☐	☐	☐
Non-governmental organisation	☐	☐	☐
No one	☐	☐	☐
I don't know	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify)	☐	☐	☐

In a health emergency, who assesses the public health workforce needs in your country? (Tick all that apply)

	National public health emergency	Regional public health emergency	International public health emergency
NPHI	☐	☐	☐
Ministry of Health	☐	☐	☐
Other gov. dept.	☐	☐	☐
Non-governmental organisation	☐	☐	☐
No one	☐	☐	☐
I don't know	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify)	☐	☐	☐

Which organization provides public health staff from your country to respond to a public health emergency? (Tick all that apply)

	National public health emergency	Regional public health emergency	International public health emergency
NPHI	☐	☐	☐
Ministry of Health	☐	☐	☐
Other gov. dept.	☐	☐	☐
Non-governmental organization	☐	☐	☐
No one	☐	☐	☐
I don't know	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify)	☐	☐	☐

C. PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY WORKFORCE

What do you think are the key public health workforce challenges for responding to health emergencies in your NPHI? (Tick all that apply)

- ☐ Workforce planning
- ☐ Training
- ☐ Accreditation
- ☐ Recruitment
- ☐ Retention
- ☐ Funding
- ☐ Duration of deployment of staff coming into your organisation
- ☐ Duration of deployment of staff leaving your organisation to work elsewhere
- ☐ Gaps in the wider health system (i.e. beyond the NPHI)
- ☐ Post deployment staff recovery and recuperation
- ☐ Post deployment staff mental health and welfare support
- ☐ Other, please specify

Is there a formal system of accreditation (i.e. the staff have formal qualifications and are governed by a regulatory body such as a medical licensing authority) for the following staff groups who are involved in health emergencies in your country?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Clinical staff (e.g. medical, nursing, etc.,)	☐	☐	☐
Laboratory staff	☐	☐	☐
Public health staff	☐	☐	☐
Emergency services staff (e.g. police, fire, ambulance)	☐	☐	☐
Emergency planners and managers	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify)	☐	☐	☐

D. SURGE CAPACITY & RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM

Who provides training for public health emergency preparedness and response in your country? (Tick all that apply)

- ☐ NPHI
- ☐ Ministry of Health
- ☐ Civil defence/Civil protection organization (if one exists)
- ☐ Disaster management agency (if one exists)
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Subnational government (e.g., local or provincial government departments)
- ☐ Other government agencies
- ☐ Non-governmental organizations
- ☐ Academic institutions (e.g., universities)
- ☐ Regional agencies (e.g., Africa CDC, WHO regional office)
- ☐ UN agencies
- ☐ Private agencies or contractors
- ☐ Other, please specify

Subsection – National Health Emergency

Since 2014, has your NPHI deployed any workforce nationally (i.e. within your country) in a health emergency?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

Since 2014, has your NPHI received any workforce regionally, or internationally (i.e. from outside your country) following a call for assistance in a public health emergency?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

What are the current challenges to increasing surge capacity to respond to health emergencies at a national level in your country? (Tick all that apply)

- ☐ Lack of plan or protocol for deployment of staff
- ☐ Delayed identification of surge needs
- ☐ Issues with the coordination of deployments
- ☐ Unclear decision-making authority around deployment
- ☐ Challenges with logistics required to deploy staff
- ☐ Communication between NPHI and stakeholders to enable collaboration
- ☐ Lack of staff to deploy
- ☐ Lack of required skillset in staff available to deploy
- ☐ Issues such as medical and wellbeing support for deployed personnel
- ☐ Challenges with modifying existing contracts to enable deployment
- ☐ Challenges with rapid recruitment
- ☐ Program areas do not include budget for deployments
- ☐ Other, please specify

D. SURGE CAPACITY & RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM

Thinking of the challenges outlined above, what are your NPHI's top three priority areas for improving surge capacity to respond to health emergencies at the national level?

Priority areas for improving surge capacity to respond to health emergencies at the national level

Priority 1

Priority 2

Priority 3

In the event of a national public health emergency, where would your NPHI draw staff from to respond? (Tick all that apply)

- ☐ The NPHI has an existing rapid response team already set up that can be deployed
- ☐ From existing NPHI staff redeployed from elsewhere in the NPHI
- ☐ From non-NPHI staff working outside the agency from the public health care sector
- ☐ From non-NPHI staff working outside the agency, from the private health care sector
- ☐ Short term temporary recruitment of more staff
- ☐ Private contractors/consultancy firms
- ☐ From a roster of volunteers
- ☐ From retired staff
- ☐ From academic institutions
- ☐ Other, please specify

Sub-section – Regional and International Health Emergency

Which types of regional or international health emergencies would your NPHI respond to? (Tick all that apply)

	Regional	International
Infectious diseases	☐	☐
Environmental hazards	☐	☐
Chemical hazards	☐	☐
Biological hazards	☐	☐
Radiological/Nuclear hazards	☐	☐
Civil disorder/conflict	☐	☐
Other (please specify)	☐	☐

Since 2014, has your NPHI deployed any workforce regionally, or internationally, following a call for assistance in a public health emergency?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

What are the current challenges to increasing surge capacity to respond to regional and international health emergencies experienced by your NPHI? (Tick all that apply)

	Regional Health Emergency	International Health Emergency
Lack of plan or protocol for deployment of staff	☐	☐
Issues with the coordination of deployments	☐	☐
Unclear decision-making authority around deployment	☐	☐
Challenges with logistics required to deploy staff	☐	☐
Communication channels between NPHI and	☐	☐

D. SURGE CAPACITY & RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM

stakeholders to enable collaboration

Lack of staff to deploy

☐
☐

Lack of required skillset in staff available to deploy

☐
☐

Lack of required experience in staff available to deploy

☐
☐

Issues such as insurance for deployed personnel

☐
☐

Issues such as medical and wellbeing support for deployed personnel

☐
☐

Challenges with modifying existing contracts to enable deployment

☐
☐

Challenges with rapid recruitment

☐
☐

Program areas do not include budget for deployments

☐
☐

Other (please specify)

☐
☐

Thinking of the challenges outlined above, what are your NPHI's top three priority areas for improving surge capacity to respond to health emergencies at the national level?

**Regional Health
Emergency**

**International Health
Emergency**

Priority 1

Priority 2

Priority 3

E. CONNECTED LEADERSHIP

Does your NPHI have a senior level lead for national health emergencies?

- ☐ Yes, the chief executive/director general for the NPHI leads on health emergencies
- ☐ Yes, there is a director level NPHI lead for health emergencies
- ☐ There is a sub-director level NPHI lead for health emergencies
- ☐ There is no NPHI lead for health emergencies
- ☐ It will depend on the specific context of the health emergency
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Other, please specify

Which stakeholders would you consider to be key partners for your NPHI in a response to health emergencies? (Tick all that apply)

	Response to national health emergency	Response to regional health emergency	Response to international health emergency
Ministry of Health	☐	☐	☐
Other government department	☐	☐	☐
Civil defence organisation (if one exists)	☐	☐	☐
Disaster management agency (if one exists)	☐	☐	☐
Military	☐	☐	☐
Subnational government (e.g. local or provincial government departments)	☐	☐	☐
Non-governmental organizations	☐	☐	☐
Academic institutions (e.g., universities)	☐	☐	☐
Regional agencies, e.g. Africa CDC, WHO Regional Office, etc.	☐	☐	☐
UN agencies	☐	☐	☐
Other NPHI	☐	☐	☐
Private agencies or contractors	☐	☐	☐
Government of another country	☐	☐	☐
Private Sector Organization(s)	☐	☐	☐
Civil Society	☐	☐	☐

E. CONNECTED LEADERSHIP

Other, please specify

☐
☐
☐

How does your NPHI collaborate with other NPHIs before, during and after health emergencies? (Tick all that apply)

	Before a health emergency	During a health emergency	After a health emergency	Never	Don't know
Meet (online or face-to-face) with other NPHI leads	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Share information/intelligence on health threats with other NPHIs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Run simulation / training exercises with other NPHIs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Share lessons learned from recent incidents with other NPHIs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Collaborate on joint policies or projects related to health emergencies	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Which international organizations and associations would you consider contacting in a health emergency of potential international concern? (Tick all that apply)

	For alerting/ reporting	Information sharing	To request assistance
WHO	☐	☐	☐
Other NPHI	☐	☐	☐
Other government	☐	☐	☐
IANPHI	☐	☐	☐
Other UN agency, e.g. OCHA, Health Clusters	☐	☐	☐
Regional organisation or network (e.g. ECOWAS, EMPHNET etc)	☐	☐	☐
International organisation or network (e.g. GOARN, EMT network)	☐	☐	☐
A continental organisation or network (e.g. ECDC, Africa CDC etc.)	☐	☐	☐

When will your NPHI contact any regional or international organisations and associations regarding a health emergency? (Tick all that apply)

- ☐ Following initial risk assessment which shows possibility of a health emergency
- ☐ Following further risk assessment which shows high likelihood of a health emergency
- ☐ When a health emergency has been declared
- ☐ When additional support is required to respond to the health emergency
- ☐ Following the conclusion of the health emergency, for awareness only
- ☐ Only if the health emergency has potential international concern or spread
- ☐ No contact would be made

In a health emergency, if your NPHI contacted other organizations for support, what kind of support would you be seeking? (Tick all that apply)

	For national emergencies	For regional emergencies	For international emergencies
For professional medical support	☐	☐	☐
For technical support	☐	☐	☐
For financial support	☐	☐	☐
For workforce support	☐	☐	☐
For administrative / logistics support	☐	☐	☐
For other support (please specify)	☐	☐	☐
Would not seek support	☐	☐	☐
Don't know	☐	☐	☐

In a health emergency, does your NPHI have standard protocols for who to contact? (Tick all that apply)

	For national emergencies	For regional emergencies	For international emergencies
For professional clinical support	☐	☐	☐
For professional public health support	☐	☐	☐
For technical expertise	☐	☐	☐
For financial support	☐	☐	☐
For workforce support	☐	☐	☐
For administrative / logistics support	☐	☐	☐
For other support (please specify)	☐	☐	☐
Would not seek support	☐	☐	☐
Don't know	☐	☐	☐

Is your NPHI involved in simulations, drills and exercises to aid preparedness for health emergencies? (Tick all that apply)

	Within your NPHI	With national partners	With international partners
Drills, Exercises and Simulations	☐	☐	☐
Training	☐	☐	☐

E. CONNECTED LEADERSHIP

Research and development	☐	☐	☐
Sharing of best practice	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify)	☐	☐	☐

Following a health emergency, does your NPHI undertake an experience or lessons learned sharing activity, e.g. after-action review?

- ☐ Yes, always
- ☐ Yes, occasionally
- ☐ Yes, rarely
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

If yes, are other organizations involved in this?

- ☐ Yes, always
- ☐ Yes, occasionally
- ☐ Yes, rarely
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

Following a health emergency, does your NPHI implement changes based on recommendations from a review?

- ☐ Yes, always
- ☐ Yes, occasionally
- ☐ Yes, rarely
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know