





The WHO Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) Initiative supports national medical teams to better respond to emergencies and outbreaks. The Initiative also supports strengthening of relevant authorities to manage activation and coordination of national teams and, if required, international medical teams within the national Health Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) system. When a disaster strikes or an outbreak flares, the more rapid the response, the better the outcome for patients. That is why the EMT Initiative places such a strong focus on helping every country develop its own teams, who can deploy where they are needed in the shortest time.



Cover photo: EMT coordination cluster training in

Macao SAR, China

Photo on this page: EMT verification in Sichuan, China

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Key achievements of the EMT Initiative in 2018





National EMTs

National capacity strengthening through EMT team member training and a range of other courses, tools and guidance.





Disaster simulation

Coordinating with regional and global bodies, such as OCHA and INSARAG, ASEAN and the European Civil Protection Mechanism.





Blue Book

Engaging the global EMT community in the revision and update of the guiding document Classification and Minimum Standards for Foreign Medical Teams in Sudden Onset Disasters (2013) (also known as the Blue Book), with a launch expected in 2019.





Red Book

Initiation of a year-long global consultative process to develop a guiding document on EMTs in armed conflicts and complex emergency settings (the Red Book).





Online toolkit

Leveraging the EMT community of practice to build an online toolkit to support teams to learn from each other and implement standards.



classified teams

Eight teams*newly classified, bringing the total to 22 classified teams globally.



79 teams are undergoing mentorship to achieve compliance with the minimum standards with many of them aiming for verification and classification as as internationally deployable teams.

Awareness

130 countries and areas aware of the EMT Initiative through national workshops and regional meetings.

Minimum standards

Final drafts of recommendations and minimum technical standards developed for EMTs on maternal. newborn and child health and on burns care.





EMT coordination

Stronger EMT coordination capacity achieved through three regional, one sub-regional and three national EMT Coordination Cell courses, leading to over 300 people trained in EMT coordination.

With the support of a dedicated community of partners, as of 2018, news of the EMT Initiative has reached over 130 countries globally. EMT awareness and capacity-building work is ongoing in 40 of these, with 63 in the pipeline for WHO support. EMT Coordination Cell training has engaged over 300 people from 38 countries. In addition, a regional approach is being pursued that leverages strong bilateral and regional relationships between countries and strengthens opportunities for south-south and triangular cooperation.

Teams newly classified in 2018:

Chapter 1: BUILDING EMT CAPACITY THROUGH TRAINING AND SIMULATION



Capacity-building EMTs at national, regional and international level is at the core of the EMT Initiative. The Initiative uses a structured approach, starting with awareness workshops and moves through national coordination courses then to team member trainings and participation in simulation exercises. Specific EMT training modules promote interaction and interconnectedness among teams. The Initiative also works with partners and regional bodies, such as OCHA, the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, to offer UNDAC, civil-military, cluster and other courses. These activities support countries and teams to strengthen capacities and save lives in emergencies.

Photo: EMT Coordination Cell course in Macao SAR, China.





Awareness workshops are designed to introduce the EMT Initiative to countries. These workshops build on two International Health Regulations

as to develop processes to accept or decline international EMTs. Awareness workshops are often the start of a multi-year programme of

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