Global Health Emergency Corps
A well-coordinated health emergency workforce centered in countries

The problem
The COVID-19 pandemic and increasingly complex health emergencies exposed our unpreparedness for such crises. There is no biological reason why the next pathogen couldn’t be equally contagious but far more deadly. Few other emergencies can impact the entire world almost simultaneously, and cause decisions in one country to have ripple effects across the entire world. The world is not prepared to stop such a threat to human lives and economic stability.

Assumptions
- Decisions on national response will always remain with each country.
- No country can stop a pandemic by acting alone.
- The greatest single asset in health emergency response is the workforce.
- Coordination in emergencies is most efficient with pre-established relationships and trust.
- Building capacity and coordination will strengthen all health emergency responses.

A health emergency workforce centered in countries

Connected leaders
- Connect senior national health emergency leaders in a trusted network.

Surge capacities
- Standardize quality and enhance interoperability between national, regional and global rapid response capacities.

Emergency workforce
- Strengthen local and national health emergency preparedness and response workforce.

Goals
1. Stop the next pandemic.
2. Strengthen health emergency response at all levels.

There is no global health security without local and national health security.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
WHO Director-General

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Rapid response team. © WHO / Tania Seburyamo
Mass casualty management. © WHO / Eric Leroux
Benefits of the Global Health Emergency Corps

Emergency workforce
- Countries strengthen their workforces to detect and contain emerging health threats.
- Capacity strengthening is implemented based on international guidance, standards and benchmarks.
- Health emergencies are managed closest to where they start.

Surge capacities
- Countries can scale response with their own rapidly deployable surge capacities and expertise.
- Countries can access trusted existing networks for interoperable surge capacities when required.
- No country or district is overwhelmed by emerging health threats.

Connected leaders
- Leaders have a trusted network to collaborate on regional and global responses to transnational health threats.
- Coordinated global solidarity exists when needed.
- The next pandemic is stopped.

Globally and regionally coordinated

A small secretariat at global and regional levels will build on and connect existing health emergency networks and institutions into a collaboration platform to collectively address the gaps exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, identify best practices, areas for collaboration, cross-fertilization and common learning in strengthening the emergency workforce, surge capacities, and connected leadership.

It will enhance interoperability between national and regional teams based on common standards and protocols; and establish a network of national health emergency leaders.

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For more information on the Global Health Emergency Corps, email ghec@who.int or contact the network secretariats.