



## Emergency Medical Team Twinning & Training

# EMT TT

## Establishing Partnerships Between EMTs from Germany and Partner Countries, Training Experts for EMT Coordination Activities

### Duration

2020–2021

### Budget/year

approx. 300,000 EUR

### Partner countries

Georgia  
Indonesia

### Challenges addressed by the project

Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) deploy internationally in response to disasters and disease outbreaks providing surge capacity to support and augment the local health system. To ensure internationally agreed quality standards and global coordination, WHO has established a classification process in which minimum medical and technical standards must be demonstrated. In addition, the priorities of the WHO EMT initiative are to build national EMT capacities, to strengthen EMT coordination mechanisms and to develop standards and guidance on specific topics, e.g. EMT operations during highly-infectious disease outbreaks.

### Objectives

#### EMT Twinning

Twinning pairs a classified German EMT with an EMT in a partner country and is aimed at strengthening national EMT capacities and improving the cooperation of international teams in the field.

#### EMT Coordination Cell Training

An EMT Coordination Cell (EMTCC), which is operated by staff of the Ministry of Health (MoH), WHO and international EMTs, coordinates EMTs during disasters. Experience from recent EMT missions showed a shortage of EMTCC-trained personnel both among EMTs and within national MoH. Both shortages are addressed by the EMTCC training activities as part of a broader contribution to strengthening public health systems. EMTCC coordination thus contributes both to national response capacity strengthening and to enhanced EMT coordination.

#### EMT Technical Standards and Guidelines – EMT Highly Infectious Disease Technical Working Group

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the need to develop technical standards and guidance for the work of EMTs in outbreak settings. To this end, RKI is partnering with the EMT Secretariat to co-host the EMT Technical Working Group on Highly Infectious Diseases (EMT HID TWG). The TWG brings together experts from various professional organizations around the world. The results of the TWG will be a number of guiding documents to lead EMTs deploying to various outbreaks.

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on the basis of a decision  
by the German Bundestag



Guided tour of the future EMT-training centre in Tbilisi, Georgia (Photo ©LEPL)



The Georgian partners present their EMT-equipment (Photo ©LEPL)



EMT Coordination Cell Training 2019 in Brussels for the WHO European Region (Photo ©RKI)

## Overview of activities

### EMT Twinning

This project supports partner countries in setting up EMTs, which is an important contribution to strengthening the crisis response capacities of the health sector. Joint workshops and field exercises enable an exchange of experience and the training of emergency staff. The German EMT NFP has initiated partnerships with EMTs from Georgia (LEPL) and Indonesia (MDMC) and two classified German EMTs, the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) and I.S.A.R. Germany. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, none of the planned workshops and exercises could take place. Instead, an online seminar between ASB and LEPL was organized which focused on the use of Personal Protective Equipment.

### EMT Coordination Cell Training

The main activity is to organize an international EMTCC training course for participants from the WHO European and other WHO Regions, including staff from MoH, WHO and EMTs. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the planned on-site EMTCC course could not take place in 2020. Instead, a virtual simulation exercise was developed and two EMTCC Refresher virtual exercises were conducted. These Refresher exercises focus on trained and experienced EMTCC coordination experts and combined a natural disaster with a COVID-19 scenario. As a result of these exercises, several of the participants were deployed to coordinate EMT COVID-19 response operations. In addition, the EMTCC Handbook was updated to include the COVID-19 EMT coordination lessons learnt and best practices. In 2021 a physical EMTCC training is planned in the second half of the year.

### EMT Highly Infectious Disease Technical Working Group

Since October 2020 the EMT HID Technical Working Group has met virtually on a regular basis. The overall scope of work and workplan have been defined and 4 sub-working groups have been established to focus the work. The TWG is coordinated by an MD with expertise in hygiene, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and international EMT deployments who has been contracted by RKI.

## Partner institutions

- » LEPL Emergency Situations Coordination and Urgent Assistance Center, Georgia
- » Muhammadiyah Disaster Management Center (MDMC), Indonesia
- » World Health Organization (WHO), Secretariat of the WHO EMT Initiative, Switzerland
- » WHO Regional Office for Europe, Denmark
- » WHO Regional Office for South East Asia, India
- » Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland e.V. (ASB), Germany
- » International Search and Rescue Germany e.V. (I.S.A.R. Germany), Germany

## Supporting institution in Germany/Contact

Robert Koch Institute, Centre for International Health Protection,  
ZIG3 | Preparedness and Operations Support, EMT National Focal Point  
Veronika Wolf [wolfv@rki.de](mailto:wolfv@rki.de)  
[www.rki.de/en](http://www.rki.de/en)