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THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



World Health
Organization



Առողջապահության
Նախարարություն
Ministry of Health
of the Republic of Armenia

Media Kit



5TH EMERGENCY MEDICAL TEAMS
GLOBAL MEETING 2022
YEREVAN, ARMENIA



ACTIONS FOR MEDIA:

JOIN US AND TELL THE STORY ABOUT

- **Why Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) and EMT initiative are important**
- **How they help save lives, preserve health and alleviate sufferings**

The Emergency Medical Teams Initiative aims to provide much needed help to people affected by health emergencies, environmental disasters and conflicts.

Whether you are a journalist or a blogger, represent TV, online media or a scientific magazine, you can help your audience to learn more about the EMTs and their impact during emergency response.

**Join us and follow
the 5th Global Meeting
of the EMT Initiative**



EMT initiative
on Facebook



5th EMT Global
Meeting website



KNOW MORE

WHAT ARE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TEAMS (EMTs)?

The role of Emergency Medical Teams has never been more significant than now when millions of human lives are taken away by pandemics, disasters and conflicts.

EMTs are an important part of the global health workforce and have a specific role. EMTs are groups of health professionals (doctors, nurses, paramedics etc.) that treat patients affected by an emergency or disaster. They work to comply with the classification and minimum standards set by WHO and its partners and come trained and self-sufficient so as not to burden the national system.

Emergency medical teams have a long history of responding to sudden onset disasters such as the Haiti earthquake, the Indian Ocean Tsunami and the floods in Pakistan. EMTs historically have had a trauma and surgical focus, but Ebola has shown their value in outbreak response and other forms of emergency.



WHY IS THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TEAMS INITIATIVE IMPORTANT?

The Initiative aims to ensure that people in need of health care assistance during the emergencies may receive that assistance of the highest possible quality as soon as possible. The purpose of the EMT initiative is to improve the timeliness and quality of health services provided by national and international Emergency Medical Teams and enhance the capacity of national health systems in leading the activation and coordination of this response in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, outbreak and/or other emergency. Teams shall also include public health expertise and logistics support either included in the team or as specific public health or logistics rapid response teams.

HOW DOES THE EMT INITIATIVE WORK?

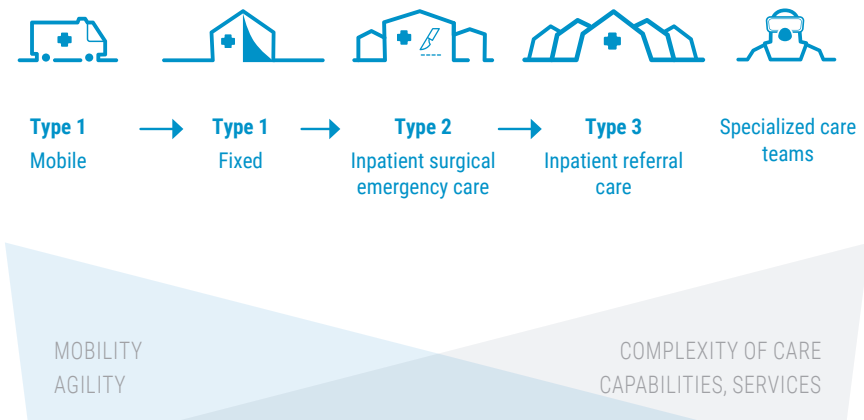
In an emergency, it is critical to get the team with the right skills to the right place at the right time, WHO's EMT classification list requires that all EMT's clearly outline their services and skills. Populations affected by disasters or public health emergencies need to be provided with quality health care by qualified professionals with established standards. The WHO EMT Initiative requires that all teams and their members are:

- licensed to practice in their home country;
- specialists in their field and have suitable malpractice insurance; and
- registered (and obtain licensing) with national authority and lead international agency.

Operating in complex settings brings challenges, which require flexibility and adaptability.

EMTs can be deployed as whole (standardized) or separate (modularized) entities to support specific surge requirements based on identified needs and gaps in capacity and capability.

EMTs can be divided into four different types based on their mobility and level of care provided.



HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

**JANUARY
2010**



A catastrophic earthquake in Haiti causes hundreds of thousands of injuries. The international response is unprecedented, but coordination between the teams is poor. Lives that could have been saved are lost, and the global development community is awakened to the need for better-coordinated responses to emergencies.

**DECEMBER
2010**



WHO and partners convene a meeting in Cuba to discuss the Haiti response and determine the need to set standards and a coordination mechanism for Foreign Medical Teams (FMTs)

**MAY
2011**



As part of a profound reform process, WHO Member States identify emergencies as a critical aspect of the Organization's work. WHO creates a new workstream to ensure its capacity to prepare for and respond to outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences.

**DECEMBER
2011**



A working group on FMTs convenes for the first time and commits to develop a registration process for teams and quality assurance systems.

**MAY
2013**



WHO issues the first ever Classification and Minimum Standards for Foreign Medical Teams.

**NOVEMBER
2013**



Super-typhoon Haiyan ravages the central part of the Philippines archipelago. The WHO FMT standards are used successfully for the first time. The Department of Health Philippines coordinates the deployment of 151 medical teams.

**JULY
2014**



As the Ebola outbreak in West Africa spreads exponentially, WHO mobilizes FMTs. WHO ultimately brings in a total of 58 teams, building treatment units with the help of the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

**FEBRUARY
2015**



The first Global Meeting of FMTs is hosted in Geneva, focussing primarily on the ongoing Ebola outbreak while also addressing next steps for the WHO FMT initiative and its national and regional approaches.

**JULY
2015**



WHO launches the FMT Classification List which sets minimum standards and allows teams to clearly outline their services and skills, and an online system where they can register. More than 70 organizations and teams apply in the first year.

**DECEMBER
2015**



At a global meeting in Panama, participants reach key agreements on the strategic governance and direction of the FMT initiative. They abandon the previously used term – “Foreign Medical Teams” and adopt the term “Emergency Medical Team” to reflect an emphasis on building national teams and establishing ties between teams in neighbouring countries.

- JUNE 2016**  As a response to the lessons learnt from Ebola and an outcome of WHO reform, EMT activities are markedly expanded as part of a new emergencies unit within the Organization.
- OCTOBER 2016**  Hurricane Matthew pummels Haiti. National authorities draw on lessons learnt during a WHO training session on EMT coordination in Costa Rica the month before. The WHO Regional Office for the Americas activates its local emergency team and deploys additional experts.
- NOVEMBER 2016**  The third EMT global meeting is held in Hong Kong SAR, People's Republic of China, and convenes more than 300 participants from over 65 countries. The vital role of EMTs in clinical care and the overall public health response to an emergency is emphasized, stressing EMTs as integral to the disaster or emergency preparedness plans of Member States.
- JUNE 2019**  During the EMT global meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, specific standards required for EMTs operating in armed conflict, complex emergencies and outbreaks are discussed.
- JANUARY 2020**  Before the novel coronavirus outbreak is declared as a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC), WHO issues an alert to mobilize teams to respond to the emerging pandemic.

**2020 –
2021**



COVID-19 provided an unconventional operational context for EMTs, particularly as the pandemic required international support while simultaneously challenging the national capacities of all countries. This was a health emergency that required efficient, rapid deployment of EMTs. Over the course of the first 2 years of the COVID-19 pandemic, over a thousand National and International EMTs provided hands-on surge support where most needed.

2021



An updated version of the “Classification and Minimum Standards for EMTs and the Guidance document for medical teams responding to health emergencies in armed conflicts and other complex environments is published based on evidence and operational experience from the last ten years.

**FEBRUARY
2022 –
ongoing**



The war in Ukraine highlights the need for multilateral operation and coordination of EMTs. The first EMTs are deployed to Ukraine and neighboring countries in the first weeks following the crisis. Three EMT Coordination Cells are active in Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Poland, and have coordinated more than 60 organizations from all over the world since the start of the response.

WHY IS ARMENIA HOSTING THE 5th EMT GLOBAL MEETING 2022?

The national EMT is prioritized by the Government of Armenia as a mechanism to respond to emergencies – earthquakes armed conflict, infectious diseases with epidemic potential. Its establishment in Armenia will enable strengthening the operational capacities of the Ministry of Health for response to emergencies with health consequences at both country and regional levels.

The process of development of the Armenian National Emergency Response Medical Team has made considerable progress since its establishment in 2021 under the auspices of the Ministry of Health and is a priority for the country. Hosting the 5-th EMT Global Meeting 2022 is a milestone for Armenia that will certainly highlight and contribute into the national efforts to further enhance public health system in Armenia.

ABOUT THE 5th EMT GLOBAL MEETING 2022

Under the leadership of the EMT Strategic Advisory Group, the EMT Global Meeting 2022 will convene over 500 participants from over 100 countries and organizations. The event will provide the network an opportunity to define the milestones for a longer EMT strategy—EMT 2030. The main goal of EMT 2030 strategy will be to identify milestone that strengthen National EMT capacities as part of the global health emergency preparedness, response, and resilience (HEPR) architecture.

**FOR QUESTIONS AND IDEAS FOR COLLABORATION,
GET IN TOUCH**

Contacts

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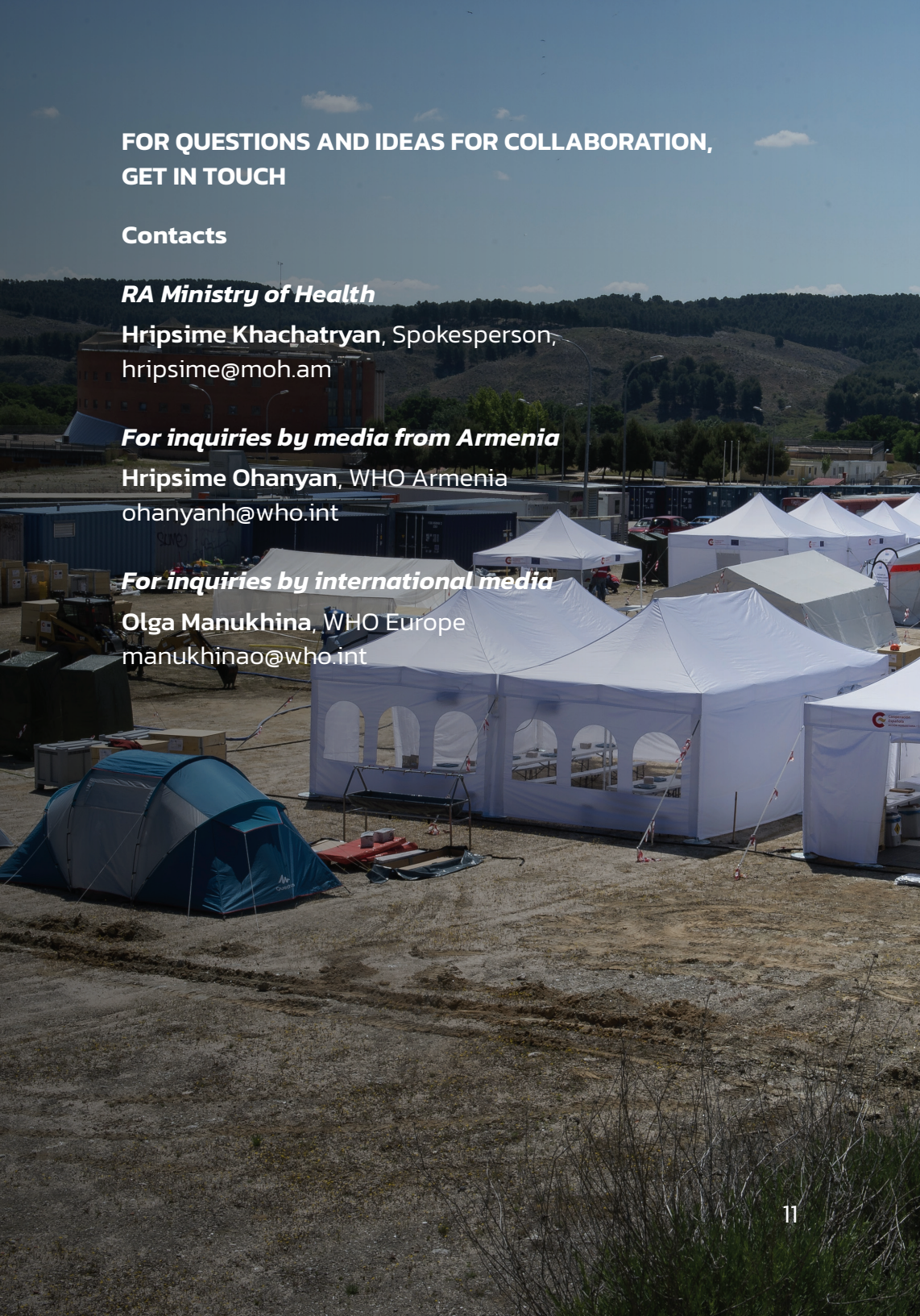
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