

MEETING ABSTRACTS**Integrating Management and Operations of Rapid Response Teams and Emergency Medical Teams Globally**

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Background/Introduction: Health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic strain health systems and emergency response mechanisms. Identifying critical points during the response cycle where emergency workforce and operational capacity can be improved can help break the protracted nature of responses. Global health emergency workforce, or health emergency and alert response teams such as multidisciplinary Public Health Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) and Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs), play critical roles in the response to public health emergencies.

Objectives: The project aims to explore and understand how countries manage and operationalize their RRT and EMT programs. With anecdotal evidence of countries integrating the

two historically disparate groups, we propose to examine how countries are jointly or separately addressing legal frameworks and policies; management practices; reporting processes and protocols; training; as well as program operations and standards.

Method/Description: Through existing global partnerships and networks, a convenience sample of national focal points responsible for the management of their RRT and EMT program are sent an online survey followed by participating in a one-on-one interview. Quantitative and qualitative analyses will be conducted.

Results/Outcomes: Twelve countries representing all six World Health Organization regions with both RRT and EMT programs have been selected for engagement.

Conclusion: Factors contributing to or against countries integration of RRT and EMT programs will be identified. Areas of divergence or synergy of plans and standard operating procedures will be mapped. Recommendations for strengthening global health emergency alert and response teams will be generated.

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