

EU HEALTH **TASK FORCE**

ecoco

Bulletin 2024

What is the EU Health Task Force (EUHTF)

The EUHTF is a dedicated public health taskforce coordinated by ECDC

- · Working upon specific request
- Providing in-country or remote support
- Collaborating with EU/EEA Member States, EC and global health security partners
- Provide operational and crisis preparedness support
- · Covering communicable diseases and diseases of unknown origin

 Inputs on or review of MS preparedness and response plans or guidance e.g. following PHEPA assessments

- Testing of preparedness and response plans such as simulation exercises
- In-Action Reviews (IAR), After-Action Reviews (AAR)
- Other requested activities

 Threat detection and monitoring, including following disasters or during mass gathering events

- Risk assessment
- Outbreak investigation and response, including rare or emerging pathogens
- Operational research or investigation during outbreaks, such as of cross-border outbreaks

Summary of activities conducted by the EUHTF

Assignments:





Response



Experts engaged
25 deployed
25 supported remotely

Inside the EU/EEA Training on surveillance. Multi-country data operational collection research and outbreak investigation Two mass AAR gathering events: Epidemic Measles data intelligence and management response support AAR Mass gathering Guidance on national **AAR** Development event: Surveillance AAR workforce capacity of an EOC and risk assessment estimation

Outside the EU/EEA

Ukraine: Rapid Risk Assessment related to a flooding event **Israel and occupied Palestinian Territories:** Response to infectious disease events associated with the escalation of violence, through GOARN and DG ECHO (to UNRWA in Jordan)

Zambia: Response to cholera, through GOARN and DG INTPA **DRC:** Response to mpox, through GOARN, DG ECHO and DG

Rwanda: Response to Marburg virus disease, through DG FCHO



Training:

First EUHTF training on designing simulation exercises, 27 participants



Partner Engagement:

Ongoing consultation with the **EUHTF Advisory Group**, including MS, EC, WHO/GOARN and international NGOs

Annual Stakeholder Meeting Quarterly Webinars



How to request collaboration with the EUHTF

Competent authorities in EU/EEA countries (national coordinators and national focal points) can request activation of the EUHTF through EpiPulse by following three simple steps:

- 1.Log in with credentials
- 2.Go to 'Collaborate' tab (top right on the main menu)
- 3.Click 'Request EU Health Task Force support'

Requests from countries outside of the EU/EEA and international organisations are welcome. Requests for support can be sent by emailing the EUHTF Coordination Team at euhtf@ecdc.europa.eu.

Contact: EUHTF@ecdc.europa.eu

Events for 2025

- EUHTF **Webinars**, quarterly
- Continued EUHTF Advisory Group engagement
- EUHTF WHA-side event and third annual EUHTF Stakeholder Meeting, May 2025
- GOARN Tier 2 Outbreak response scenario training, September 2025

Expert pools



ECDC Expert
Pool:
Current ECDC Staff Operational



ECDC Fellowship Pool:

Current fellows of ECDC and affiliated field epidemiology and microbiology programmes - Operational



EUHTF External Expert Pool:

Technical experts in EU/EEA MS – Partially operational, being built in a step-wise approach.

Currently includes recently graduated ECDC fellows.