

## Focus area: Policy

Objective 1: Understand how disease outbreaks are identified and reported

Objective 2: Assess how the MOPH communicates information with the WHO, OIE, and FAO within its own structure and with other ministries

Objective 3: Understand the mechanisms that exist to contain and halt continued disease transmission

## Phase I

Assessment question	Participant response (process description)	Participant assistance request/recognized gap	SME capability gap analysis
1. How does the ministry communicate with physicians, hospitals, and clinics, or veterinarians, Veterinary health units, once an outbreak is suspected?			
2. What communication structure is in place for sharing information between military and civilian authorities at the national level? a. Are these structured mirrored at the provincial level? b. And the district level? c. How are communications handled?			
3. Is there a national policy which outlines how diseases should be reported? a. How were the diseases selected? b. Does this policy allow reporting of similar illness profiles without a confirmed laboratory diagnosis?			
4. What is the policy related to identification of illness in soldiers?			

a. Does it differ from civilian policies?			
5. Who is responsible for communicating between the entities? a. Is it a third party or a special unit within the ministries?			
6. What national policy outlines the response structure? a. How is the response structure communicated to entities involved in response? (meetings, frequency, etc.) b. What ministry department guides sample collection and outbreak investigations?  a. Is there policy on sending samples to reference laboratories?			
7. What is the process the ministry follows when a suspected outbreak occurs?			
8. How is the suspected outbreak communicated throughout the ministry?			
9. What entities does the ministry work with to confirm the diagnosis?			

## Phase II

Assessment question	Participant response (process description)	Participant assistance request/recognized gap	SME capability gap analysis
1. Are there any regulations regarding disposal of			

human /animal remains suspected of infection with an especially dangerous pathogen or unknown infectious disease? a. Are there barriers to implementation of these regulations? b. What steps are taken to ensure public safety and maintain culturally appropriate?			
2. Are there any regulations regarding privacy laws? (HIPAA, limits on data sharing...) a. What type of confidentiality measures are in place and followed? b. Are there penalties for violation?			
3. Are there any regulations regarding staffing and training requirements?			
4. National guidelines for specimen collection? a. Reporting? b. Transport? c. Safety and security? d. What entity or department is responsible for sample collection and transport?			
5. Is there policy in place for quarantine and interfacing with the local law enforcement? a. Who is responsible for enforcing quarantine issues?			

### Phase III

Assessment question	Participant response (process description)	Participant assistance request/recognized gap	SME capability gap analysis
1. Are there any regulations regarding medical countermeasure stockpiles? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What criteria are used to identify when to use these stockpiles?</li> <li>b. Would you authorize in this case?</li> <li>c. Are these donated from the international NGO community?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Do donors place restrictions on the usage of vaccine and antibiotics provided?</li> <li>ii. Is the supply timely and to the location with highest need?</li> <li>iii. How is supply prioritized?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
2. Do you have a vector control program? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Where is it located (structurally/org chart wise)</li> <li>b. What role does it serve?</li> <li>c. Is it integrated into public health activities?</li> </ul>			
3. Does the ministry conduct evaluations of a given event to improve the process?			

## Phase IV

Assessment question	Participant response (process description)	Participant assistance request/recognized gap	SME capability gap analysis
1. Would the final report information be communicated externally (outside Afghanistan)? a. Who is responsible for this communication? b. What method do they use to transfer this information?			
2. How are the final results reported to ministerial levels?			
3. Are policies in place that directs the control and/or prevention of infectious diseases?			
4. Is there clinical oversight of physicians or veterinarians? a. What group is responsible for this oversight?			
5. What credentials are required to fulfill the roles of the different sectors (epidemiology, physician/veterinarian clinical, diagnostic medicine)? a. What authority is granted to enforce credential requirements?			