Middle East Consortium on Infectious Disease Surveillance (MECIDS)

Cooperation for Effective Disease Surveillance in a Region of Ongoing Dispute

Description	MECIDS unites public health officials of differing Middle Eastern nationalities and contributes to regional health and stability by engaging in regular cross-border information exchange, conducting regular executive board meetings, performing laboratory and risk communication training, and implementing innovative communication technology. Initially focused on food- and waterborne diseases, the MECIDS partnership developed a network of laboratories, protocols for specimen collection and diagnosis of diarrheal diseases, and data sharing and notification cap- abilities to analyze and share information on disease threats. Through these efforts, MECIDS has played an instrumental role in detecting significant outbreaks of mumps and salmonella. Priority diseases in the region now include influenza, leishmaniasis, mumps, salmonella, and shigella.
Purpose	The focus of MECIDS is the improvement of national and regional infrastructure to detect and control infectious disease, especially through improved disease surveillance. The vision of MECDIS is to promote long-term health, stability, and security in the region.
Scope	Regional - Middle East, including Jodan, Israel, and the Palestinian Authority.
Primary Funders	Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI).
Participants & Key Collaborators	Al Quds University, Cooperative Mentoring Center in Amman (Jordan), European Programme on Intervention Epidemiology Training, Ministry of Health (Israel), Ministry of Health (Jordan), Ministry of Health (Palestinian Authority), Sandia National Laboratories, Search for Common Ground, Tel Aviv University, NTI's Global Health and Security Initiative, World Health Organization.
Definition of One Health	None. MECIDS recognizes that the common threat of emerging infectious disease serves as an opportunity to bridge political disputes and focus on humanitarian and health matters for the common good of all partner countries.
Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy	(unknown)
Sources of Information	Website: http://www.ghsi.org/projects/mecids.html Website: http://www.mecidsnetwork.org
Contact	Sari Husseini Project Manager/Country Coordinator Search for Common Ground in the Middle East shusseini@sfcg.org +972 (0) 2-581-2049