**Establishing Biorisk Management in the Tunisian Military Laboratories**

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**Background**

- Biorisk management is a new concept in Tunisia.
- Laboratory workers in the military health institutions are not trained in biosafety or biosecurity.
- These laboratories each process upwards of 200,000 samples per year, a number of which contain high risk pathogens.
- This project will increase biorisk management awareness; therefore, increasing safety and security in the laboratories.

**Objectives**

- This project will assess both the laboratory environments and the current awareness of staff.
- Staff from 15 Tunisian military health institutions laboratories will be trained in basic biorisk management.
- Overall goal is to increase biorisk management awareness as shown by pre and post assessment.

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**Methodology and Resources (continued)**

**Training Program**

- Number of participants: 13 laboratory health workers (out of 200 lab workers)
- Trainers: Ben Moussa, Anissa, Habiba
- Participating laboratories: Microbiology, Parasitology, Immunology, Hematology, Biochemistry, Pathology and Environment and Hygiene
- Pre and post assessment: 10 questions
- Training evaluation: 6 questions
- Time management is important.
- Additional advanced training workshops are necessary to enhance skills and knowledge.
- Developing a legal framework in Tunisia for effective controls, including national biosecurity regulations, guidelines, and procedures is highly recommended.

**Laboratory Biorisk Management Assessments**

Visit 15 Medical Laboratories:
- Military Hospital of Tunis (5 Labs)
- Military Hospital of Bizerta (1 Lab)
- Military Hospital of Gabes (1 Lab)
- Military Center for Blood Transfusion (1 Lab)
- The Aeromedical Center of Expertise (1 Lab)
- Military Laboratory for Food Analysis (1 Lab)
- Military Polyclinics in Kairouan, Gafsa and Tataouine (5 Labs)

**Biorisk Management Training**

- Deliver training to the laboratory staff in the military hospitals of Tunis and measure awareness post training.

**Laboratory Assessment Results**

- Biosafety, Biosecurity, Standard Operating Procedures, Health Surveillance, Personal Protective Equipment
- Harwashing and Waste Management

**Conclusions**

- Biorisk management (BRM) is key to global health and security.
- This project introduced BRM in the laboratories and increased the understanding of biosafety and biosecurity concepts and practices among laboratory workers handling high risk pathogens.

**Lessons Learned**

- Top level support was necessary:
  - Without the approval of the Directorate General access to hospitals would be limited.
  - Time management is important.
  - Add enough extra time in your schedule.
- Even the best laid plans will need adjustments.

**Future**

- Additional advanced training workshops are necessary to enhance skills and knowledge.
- Training for all laboratory personnel (~200) through a multi-trainer approach is being planned.
- Developing a legal framework in Tunisia for effective controls, including national biosecurity regulations, guidelines, and procedures is highly recommended.

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**Methodology and Resources (continued)**

**Training Assessment**

- Laboratory & Laboratory Design
- Decontamination and Waste Management
- Agents/Special Practices/SOP
- Accident/Incident Investigation
- Workplace Incident Investigation
- Medical Health Surveillance Programmes

**Laboratory Assessment Results**

- Pre-Assessment Results
  - Participants least familiar with:
    - Biosafety, Biosecurity, Standard Operating Procedures, Health Surveillance, Personal Protective Equipment
- Pre-Assessment Test - First Day

- Training Assessment Results

- Training Assessment
  - Top level support was necessary:
    - Without the approval of the Directorate General access to hospitals would be limited.
    - Time management is important.
    - Add enough extra time in your schedule.
- Even the best laid plans will need adjustments.