Epidemics and pandemics pose unique challenges to public health leaders. The COVID-19 pandemic is an embodiment of this reality. During the response phase of a health crisis like COVID-19, public health leaders work under stressful conditions to save lives, build and sustain the morale of their teams, engage with diverse partners and communicate confidently - and yet they are expected to maintain a strategic focus at all times.

The Leadership Programme on Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Response addresses these stressors and provides insights from a variety of top notch experts in the field. The programme, which is jointly designed by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (WHO/EMRO) together with the United Nations Systems Staff College (UNSSC) will provide a series of lectures, opportunities for coaching and mentoring and other resources for WHO representatives and senior leaders of Ministries of Health on issues such as leadership in times of crisis, preparedness, adopting a systems approach, strategic thinking, emotional resilience and multisectoral partnership building.

The program intends to be a flexible blend of best practices in leadership, tailored mentoring and coaching sessions, and providing an online platform of easily accessible resources. The program will be implemented in 2021 starting with a cohort of COVID-19 pandemic responders in Eastern Mediterranean countries.

The program will be divided into 3 phases:

- **Phase 1:** COVID-19 pandemic response phase to meet the urgent needs of leadership and management
- **Phase 2:** based on evaluation of phase 1, COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery needs of leadership and management
- **Phase 3:** epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response needs of leadership and management

*specific objectives and scope of activities in each phase will depend on the COVID-19 pandemic situation and demands accordingly*

The program will comprise of following components:

- Rapid needs assessment
- Leadership lecture & dialogue series with known experts in the field
- Tailored coaching on leadership skills for selected participants
- Mentoring advice from experts for selected participants
- Access to tools and resources on leadership and management through an online platform
- Evaluation and reflection in program design

For more information:
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