

## Topic Guides

### Topic Guide 1

**Participants: Members of the national committee for ID, public health experts working at the MoPH, academics, UN agencies and NGOs representatives and participants from other government bodies (DRM, PM office, MoSA, etc.).**

#### **Introduction**

As detailed in the email you have received, the aim of our research is to assess the Lebanese experience with the COVID-19 pandemic focusing on policy making & health system preparedness and response.

#### **Surveillance**

First we would like to assess surveillance process implemented at the national level during the COVID-19 epidemic.

*How do you assess national surveillance for COVID-19?*

*What do you think about screening; testing patterns/ capacities; isolating cases/ suspects; referring process and contact tracing? What about prediction modeling?*

#### **Health Workforce**

Now we would like to move to another section: Human resources and health workforce.

*How do you describe Lebanese health workforce: key skills, numbers, competencies, and deployment?*

#### **Infrastructure and Medical Supplies**

Health system infrastructure is an essential pillar in the fight against emerging infectious diseases. *What did this outbreak reveal about the Lebanese health infrastructure? What is the status of required medical supplies and equipments (availability and functionality)?*

Prompt: Lebanon has not reached the expected worst case scenario yet. What is the government doing to prepare the health care system and increase its resilience? Would the government be able to secure the necessary financial resources to ensure sustainability of the response?

### **Communication mechanism**

An adequate risk-communication strategy is needed to ensure timely and standardized information sharing on emerging infectious diseases.

*What do you think about the communication strategy adopted by the government? To what extent did it affect community's behavior?*

### **Governance and Policy making**

We would like to ask you a few questions now about leadership and governance.

*To what extent did the MoPH play the role of a health leader in steering the overall direction of the health response? Can you assess the multisectoral coordination?*

*Did the government allocate its resources to their highest and best use?*

Now we would like to ask you about the different public policies (decisions and non-decisions) adopted the Lebanese government to curtail the spread of COVID-19.

*What was the strategy of choice? Based on which determinants/ metrics did MoPH and the Government take decisions?*

*Were the community and relevant stakeholders involved in the decision-making process?*

Probe: Assess governance using its major characteristics: participatory, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective, equitable and inclusive.

### **Trust**

*In your opinion, did the adopted strategies lead to community's trust in the transparency and capacities of the government in handling the sanitary situation?*

Thank you for your time. Would you like to add anything?

## Topic Guide 2

### **Participants: Health managers and care givers in the private and public sector**

#### **Introduction**

As detailed in the email you have received, we would like to ask few questions related to the Lebanese experience with COVID-19 pandemic including questions about policy making, health system preparedness and service delivery.

#### **Surveillance**

First, we would like you to assess surveillance process implemented at the national level during the COVID-19 epidemic.

*What do you think about screening capacities; testing patterns and capacities; isolating of suspects and cases; and referring processes?*

#### **Health Workforce**

Now we would like to talk about human resources and health workforce.

*Does Lebanon have sufficient, qualified and appropriately distributed at the sub-national level, health care providers to fight emerging infectious diseases?*

*How do you assess knowledge regarding COVID-19 screening and cases' management? Did health authorities provide capacity building trainings in line with latest guidelines and recommendations?*

*What are the main challenges in the management of COVID -19 patients?*

Prompt: Can you please assess the commitment of health care workers to provide quality care in all health fields despite the fear of COVID-19.

#### **Infrastructure and Medical Supplies**

We would like to discuss the status of the health system infrastructure.

*In your opinion, did Lebanon have the required specialized equipment (testing technologies...) and medical supplies (drugs, PPEs, adequate tests...) to fight the epidemic? Did you face difficulties in securing the needed budget to face the epidemic?*

Prompt: Lebanon has not reached the expected worst case scenario yet. Do you think that you are still in control and are you prepared for a worsening of the sanitary situation?

### **Communication mechanism**

A risk-communication strategy is needed to ensure timely and standardized information sharing on emerging infectious diseases.

*Did the government adopt an adequate communication strategy reflecting transparency?*

*Did the government succeed in spreading awareness and countering misinformation?*

### **Governance**

We would like to ask you a few questions now about leadership and governance.

*To what extent did health authorities have effective leadership and management of health workers? To what extent were you involved in the policy-making process?*

Prompt: Did the government provide any assurances and incentives for frontline health workers?

### **Trust**

*Did you face patient-provider trust issues? In your opinion, did the pandemic help change the opinion of the community regarding the public sector increasing the level of trust?*

Prompt: Did you face institutional trust issues?

Thank you for your time.

Would you like to add anything?