



# Risk Communication and Community Engagement Outbreak Readiness Training for Major Disease Outbreak Responses

Photo Credit: Save the Children

The READY initiative is welcoming applications to an upcoming *Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Readiness Training for Major Disease Outbreak Responses*. This **five-day training** in Erbil, Iraq, aims to strengthen technical and operational leadership to plan and execute RCCE readiness and response in large-scale outbreaks with considerations for humanitarian contexts.

## SYNOPSIS

When major disease outbreaks occur, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are often on the frontlines, using their deep connections with affected communities and expertise to support outbreak readiness and response. To be able to control these outbreaks effectively, NGOs are increasingly encouraged to be ready to drive a more participatory, community-led response that facilitates behavior change with data-driven communication.

In this training program, developed and facilitated by the USAID/BHA-funded READY initiative, individuals will learn how to strengthen their skills to design an effective community-centered RCCE plan and identify operational readiness actions required to execute that plan in humanitarian settings.

## COST & COMMITMENT

**Program Fee: \$0**



While there is no training program fee, selected individuals will need to commit to attending the two online sessions and the five-day training to participate. READY will support breakfast, tea breaks, and lunch for all five days of training. READY has limited funding available to support travel costs for local/national organizations and lodging for anyone traveling from outside of Erbil who needs it. Funding will be considered on an as-needed basis based on requests. Please indicate support requests on the [application form](#). READY will discuss expected commitments with individuals during the selection process.

## DELIVERY METHODS

- Two pre-requisite 60-minute online sessions
  - Introduction to Infectious Disease Outbreaks In Humanitarian Settings
  - Introduction to RCCE In Humanitarian Settings.
- Five days in-person training sessions (October 29 – November 2, 2023) in Erbil, Iraq
- Virtual post-training RCCE mentorship for 3 months (February – April)

## TRAINING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the training, individuals will be able to:

-  Design an effective community-centered RCCE plan for a major disease outbreak.
-  Identify the operational readiness actions required to execute that plan in humanitarian settings.



## TRAINING OVERVIEW

In this training, an evolving outbreak scenario in a humanitarian setting will introduce a range of challenges that will need to be solved during interactive exercises throughout five days of in-person sessions. During these exercises, learners can apply what they have learned to prioritize operational readiness actions and develop strategic response plans. READY developed these

modules based on the [Communicating with Communities in Epidemics and Pandemics: RCCE Readiness Kit](#), which includes actions and operational and technical tools to support NGOs and humanitarian actors to strengthen readiness to respond to outbreaks with RCCE, and to have a more community-centered approach across sectors.



### LEARNING THE BASICS:

*Three weeks prior to face-to-face training (early October)*

- Two online sessions to provide the basics on outbreak response and RCCE with considerations for humanitarian settings.
  - i. Introduction to Infectious Disease Outbreaks in Humanitarian Settings
  - ii. Introduction to RCCE in Humanitarian Settings



### RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM:

*Five days in-person training sessions (October 29 – November 2, 2023)*

- The goal of this training is to strengthen RCCE leadership to drive a more participatory, community-led response in large-scale outbreaks, and facilitate behavior change with data-driven communication. The training will include interactive exercises that link to an evolving outbreak scenario in a humanitarian setting, allowing learners to apply what that have learned and reflect on operational considerations. thematic content will include: social and behavior change in outbreaks, data collection and analysis, community-led community engagement, managing uncertainty and rumors, multi-source listening, readiness actions, simulation exercises to test outbreak response knowledge and skills, and more.



### REMOTE SUPPORT/ FOLLOW-UP:

*Up to three months post face-to-face training*

- After the training has ended, READY will offer participants mentorship for up to 3 months upon request (December 2023–February 2024). Post-training virtual mentorship includes virtual technical assistance calls; reviews of strategies, communication materials or other documents; and additional virtual training.

## WHO IS THIS TRAINING FOR?

Priority audience for workshop participants includes individuals that work for a national, local, and international NGO that is operating in Iraq; government and UN representatives are also encouraged to apply. Applicants in the region that are not based in Iraq will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Individuals should have the following attributes:

- Holds a current or future role in planning, managing, and/or executing communication, behavior change and/or community engagement readiness and response to large-scale outbreaks.
- Actively seeks to add or strengthen RCCE technical and operational capacity.
- Has experience working in humanitarian and public health response; a variety of technical sector experts (e.g., WASH, protection, etc.) are encouraged to apply

### Mandatory

- Ability to commit to remote and in-person training sessions.
- Ability to participate in written and spoken English (Training materials are in English and Arabic; simultaneous translations in either Kurdish or Arabic will be available for all five days based on need. However, a simulation exercise on Day 5 uses software that is currently in English only).

## ABOUT READY: GLOBAL READINESS FOR MAJOR DISEASE OUTBREAK RESPONSE

In 2018, the United States Agency for International Development's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance funded Save the Children to lead an initiative to augment global capacity to respond to major disease outbreaks. The READY initiative is ensuring humanitarian NGOs have the tools, knowledge, and skills to support crisis-affected communities and local authorities more effectively in response to major epidemics and pandemics.

*This training is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of READY and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government. Led by Save the Children, the READY initiative is implemented in partnership with the Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health, the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs, UK-Med, and the Humanitarian Leadership Academy.*

If you, your staff member, or your organization meet the above selection criteria, please complete the application using this [online form](#). **Applications will be accepted until September 15, 2023.** All applicants will be informed if they have been chosen for the training by October 6, 2023.

[www.ready-initiative.org](http://www.ready-initiative.org)

Have questions? Email us at: [ready@savechildren.org](mailto:ready@savechildren.org)