

**ECHO MEDICAL**



## ***Emergency Response Together*** Firefighter Emergency Medical Responder Training Course

### **Background**

Medical emergencies occur every day. In many environments, trained emergency medical responders provide a critical link to hospital-based lifesaving care. In Peru, the training of pre-hospital emergency medical responders has been isolated to large metropolitan environments and performed by volunteer firefighters without standardized training. Developing and implementing a standardized training curriculum for pre-hospital emergency medical responders is a key pathway for ensuring full access to life saving emergency medical care.

### **Description**

In October 2007, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) developed a comprehensive curriculum for training emergency first responders in the knowledge and skills they need to provide pre-hospital emergency care. The curriculum, translated into Spanish in 2009, includes a number of sequentially designed modules and learning activities. In 2014, the Peruvian National Firefighters Association began requiring all volunteer firefighters in the country complete a training program on emergency first response. The training program developed by the Peruvian National Firefighters Association was located in the capital City of Lima, and proved to be a hardship for many volunteer firefighters to attend due to a range of logistical challenges. In an attempt to build bridges of support for firefighters around Peru - Health Bridges International developed a train-the-training model for advancing the USAID training curriculum. The train-the-trainer program, currently in pilot implementation in the City of Arequipa, brings together trainers to train them in the knowledge and skills of training other volunteer firefighters. The Master Trainers – qualified, certified volunteer emergency response specialists – are the model for scaling the impact of the USAID curriculum. The development, implementation, and validation of a standardized train-the-trainer curriculum will allow scaling of emergency first response trainings throughout Latin American.

### **Vision**

Working in collaboration, a team of subject matter experts, implementation strategists, emergency medicine specialists, and in-country firefighters will plan, develop and implement a pilot project built to -

1. Develop a standardized program for facilitating a train-the-trainer model for training emergency first responders.
2. Train all firefighters in the Region of Arequipa in a standardized training course that meets the Peruvian National Firefighters Association training requirements.
3. Plan, implement and evaluate an initial training to be conducted in partnership with the Compañía de Bomberos Arequipa. Subsequent trainings will be conducted by local fire department certified Emergency Medical Responder instructors as accredited by the Compañía de Bomberos Arequipa.

### **Project Phases**

The *Emergency Response Together* pilot will be implemented over a three-year period with distinct project phases. Phases of the project include –

- **Phase IA – Development:** During the development phase, partner organizations will conduct a thorough needs assessment and environmental scan and develop course materials. Including signed memorandum and agreements between the Peruvian National Firefighters Association, Arequipa Regional Bomberos Organization and the *Emergency Response Together* training consortium (The Fire Department of New York, Health Bridges International and Northwell Health System). Phase I will be undertaken over a six-month period.
- **Phase IB – Standardization:** Critical to the sustainability and scalability of the *Emergency Response Together* train-the-trainer program is the standardization of the model. During the initial phase, the team will implement, evaluate and standardize the train-the-trainer model and materials needed for sustaining the impact of the model (including: manual, supporting training materials, video support, etc.).

- **Phase IIA – Identification and Implementation of Training Cohort:** Implementation will include training a cohort of firefighters selected from firehouses in the Compania de Bomberos Arequipa. Firefighters selected to participate in the training will complete all modules of the USAID curriculum. Approximately 12 participants will be selected to be candidates for the train-the-trainer Master Trainer program. Participants in the initial Master Trainer cohort will receive a total of three weekend trainings over a 6-month period. The trainings will include completion of a skills practicum and written knowledge examination at the initial class enrollment and during the final course meeting.
- **Phase IIB – Identification and Implementation of New Trainers Training Other Firefighters:** The newly trained Master Trainers will each be responsible for training a cohort of fellow firefighters. Volunteer firefighters will receive one intensive training over a 3-day weekend. New Master Trainers will be responsible for completing at least 3 trainings over the next year. The first training sessions of each new trainer, someone from the Emergency Response Together team will observe, make sure key learning points are correct and emphasized, and provide constructive critique. In addition, one of the Master Trainers will be identified as a “super-trainer” to ensure standardization of all course material taught and fidelity to the course structure. In addition to the train-the-trainer curriculum development and pilot implementation, *the Emergency Response Together* project will develop training support materials to aid trainers in the ongoing delivery of evidence-based trainings. Including an evaluation model and assessment.
- **Phase III – Evaluation:** The final phase of the project will include a formal evaluation to identify key pathways for scaling the train-the-trainer project to other geographic areas and standardized the knowledge and skills transmission. Phase III of the project will start at the beginning of year two of the project and include knowledge assessment surveys, focus groups and key informant interviews.

## Objectives

To advance develop a standardized train-the-trainer model and advance the knowledge and skills of pre-hospital emergency responders in the Region of Arequipa, the *Emergency Response Together* team will:

1. Provide standardized emergency first responder level medical care for all citizens of Arequipa, by the Compania de Bomberos Arequipa.
2. Evaluate the suitability of scaling the train-the-trainer model to a wider geographic area in collaboration with the Compania de Bomberos Arequipa.
3. Empower the Compania de Bomberos Arequipa to sustain the long-term impacts of the curriculum and model.

## Outcomes

By completion of the pilot project, the following outcomes will be met and measured in accordance with the logic model –

Phase	Outcomes	Measures	Timing
IA	Formalize project plan, solidify partnerships, define timelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Signed Memorandum of Agreement between partners</li> <li>□ Signed Memorandum of Understanding between <i>Emergency Response Together</i> and Compania de Bomberos Arequipa</li> </ul>	13 months (September 2016-October 2017)
IB	Standardize the methods of the train-the-trainer program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Manualized the program</li> <li>□ Develop training and facilitation resources</li> <li>□ Evaluate the effectiveness of the train-the-trainer model</li> </ul>	One year (September 2017-2018)
IIA	Completion of initial training cohort with outcome evaluations and “super trainers”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Initial training logs and evaluations</li> <li>□ Pre- and Final training skills practicum and written knowledge examination scores</li> </ul>	One year (September 2017-2018)
IIB	Completion of train-the-trainer cohort with standardized curriculum and outcome evaluations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Training logs and evaluations</li> <li>□ Pre- and Final training skills practicum and written knowledge examination scores</li> <li>□ Train-the-trainer training curriculum and implementation resources</li> </ul>	Two year (September 2017-2019)
III	Measurable improvement in knowledge and skills of training cohort and train-the-trainer cohort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Assessments from training cohort and train-the-trainer cohort</li> <li>□ Focus group transcripts</li> <li>□ Key Informant interviews</li> </ul>	Two year (September 2017-2019)