

Dr Rick Brennan

Regional Emergency Director, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt

Rick Brennan is Regional Emergency Director for WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, based in Cairo, Egypt. He oversees WHO's support to 22 countries for emergency preparedness and response, including for the COVID-19 pandemic and for multiple large-scale humanitarian crises, including Afghanistan, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. Previously he spent seven years at WHO headquarters, including as Director of Emergency Operations, Director of Ebola Response and Coordination, and Director of Humanitarian Response.

Rick has extensive experience in health emergencies and humanitarian settings in over 40 countries across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. He received a medical degree from the University of Sydney and trained as an emergency physician in Australia and the United States. After obtaining an MPH from Johns Hopkins University, he worked with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on humanitarian and civil-military issues. Thereafter, Rick spent 10 years as Health Director of the International Rescue Committee in New York, overseeing global humanitarian health operations. Prior to joining WHO in 2012, he worked with JSI Research and Training in Liberia managing a large post-conflict health system support project.