



Welcome to the AI4PEP Bi-weekly News Brief.

This week we bring you some exciting updates from Team MENA: **Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco, and Palestine & Jordan.**

This meeting discussed emerging opportunities for collaboration, open calls for publications, and specific milestones and challenges encountered by each team.

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## Global Solidarity with Palestine

- The team continued to debrief about the situation in Palestine. The team reflected on the strength and resilience demonstrated by Palestinian children amidst the peak of the Israel-Palestine conflict. Prof. Radwan reported that he, alongside his close family and friends, were relatively safe, but it was still scary to live under conditions of uncertainty.

## Frontiers Journal Special Issue

- Prof. Kong shared an invitation for papers to the team and encouraged them to contribute. It was recommended that partners contribute policy briefs about what they were doing for pandemic preparedness and response. Two formats were recommended; papers could be grouped according to themes or as per each individual chapter's unique niche.

<https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/59669/innovation-in-pandemic-and-epidemic-intelligence>

## Lebanon

- The team reported that the team had a successful meeting with delegates from the ministry of Public Health. The briefing was part of the preliminary process that helped prepare for the eventual meeting with the Minister of Health.
- One of **the team members** reported that she had attended a conference which offered her an opportunity to present about their work within the scope of the project.
- The team reportedly finished their first article (Literature Review) and they were awaiting feedback.

## Morocco



- Team Morocco submitted that they had recently had a successful meeting to evaluate their project priorities and they were happy to report that their first paper was underway. They announced that they will be happy to share it in coming weeks.
- Additionally, the team reported that they were preparing for a Conference at the University of Kinshasa College of Medicine. Details will be shared in due course. Tentative dates; Mid-December 2023.

### **Tunisia**

- Owing to the transition within the secretariat, Team Tunisia reported difficulties putting in place the mechanism and architecture necessary to make the project a success. This was mainly because their funding was running late despite adhering with the procedural requirements. Meanwhile, Prof. apologized to the team and offered his reassurance that the interim Programs Officer was taking care of business and making sure that the process was expedited.