**Proposed plan for scoping visit to Jordan, PREDICT-2**

**Lead Implementing Partner**: EcoHealth Alliance (EHA)

**EHA Personnel to travel**: Dr. Maureen Miller (Behavioral Research Lead), Dr. Kevin Olival (EHA Liaison for Jordan project, Modeling & Analytics Coordinator), Faisal Abdal-Qader (Jordanian Columbia University student intern)

**Proposed dates:** June 1-June 15 (Ramadan begins June 17)

**Objectives for Visit:**

* To meet with the USAID mission to introduce the Emerging Pandemics Threat program and PREDICT project.
* To meet with relevant government officials, including those from Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture Liaison to Ministry of Health, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Environment. Looking for guidance from USAID mission on contacts to meet with, potential contacts below.
* Discuss with potential partners plans for specific research across the MERS-CoV epidemiological zone in the Middle East and North/East Africa
* Visit laboratories and conduct initial assessment of laboratory capacity relevant to PREDICT aims
* Assess the potential for a qualitative research study along the camel market value chain.

**Previous Experience in the Region:**

EcoHealth Alliance has experience working in and managing projects in the Middle East. This includes field and laboratory investigations over the last 2 years to understand the origins and transmission of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV). EHA has been part of four 2-4 weeklong trips to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to conduct on-the-ground investigations in close collaborations with Government (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Ag) and University partners there. We found evidence for MERS-CoV in both bat and camel populations and published these findings with our partners from KSA. Additionally, in 2013-14 Dr. William Karesh from EHA advised the Israeli government on integration of a One Health framework into their disease and wildlife investigations; and we conducted a preliminary bat virus investigation there.

EHA has not previously worked in Jordan under the PREDICT project or other programs. However, we bring a depth and breadth of international relations experience in the arena of One Health and disease surveillance, and will work closely with partners from Jordan to determine the best way forward. We have identified several potential contacts outlined below, some of whom are already aware of the goals and aims of the PREDICT project.

**Potential contacts:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Dr. Munther Al-Refai | Ministry of Agriculture | Chief Veterinary Officer |
| Dr. Faisal Abdeldayem | Jordan Bio-Industries Center (vaccines and diagnostics) | General Manager |
| Dr. Ehab Abu-Basha | University of Science and Technology | Dean |
| Dr. Nisreen AL-Hmoud | Center for Excellence in Biosafety, Biosecurity and Biotechnology( BSL-3 lab), Royal Science Society) | Director |
| Dr. Rachel Dodeen | Ministry of Agriculture Liaison to Ministry of Health | One Health liaison |
| Dr. Ahmad Al-Majali | Veterinary School | Dean |
| Dr. Najwa Khuri-Bulos | Jordan University | Dean of Academic Research |