

## **GHS2026 Conference Workshops**

***Day One - Tuesday 9 2026, 4pm-6pm  
Room 306***

### **Using Simulation to Strengthen the Frontline: Building Preparedness Capacity at Points of Entry and First Contact**

**Aim:**

The majority of emerging infections are first encountered at the frontline primary care facilities, district hospitals, and points of entry (POE). Yet, most existing tabletop (TTX), command post (CPX), and functional simulations focus on high-level coordination once an index case is confirmed. This workshop aims strengthen frontline preparedness with the knowledge and practical competencies required to design, implement, and evaluate in-situ simulation exercises that enhance early detection, rapid coordination, and effective initial response to infectious disease threats at points of entry and first contact.

**Objectives:**

- Equip participants with practical skills to design and conduct multi-disciplinary in-situ simulations for early detection and response to suspected infectious disease cases.
- Demonstrate best practices for integrating Global Health Security (GHS) core functions - identification, communication, coordination, and activation - within the first critical hours after case recognition.
- Guide participants through structured post-hoc After Action Reviews (AARs) to capture lessons learned and inform continuous improvement in frontline preparedness.

**Target audience:**

This workshop is designed for health security practitioners, emergency and outbreak response coordinators, clinicians, and policymakers involved in preparedness, surveillance, and health systems strengthening. It will particularly benefit those working within ministries of health, public health institutes, and implementing partners engaged in simulation-based training.

**Proposed Geographical or Population Focus:**

While globally applicable, the workshop will draw on case examples and toolkits developed through US State department RISE, Jhpiego, and Johns Hopkins University collaborations in SL, India, Lesotho, Cote d'Ivoire and Rwanda. It is open to all delegates interested in building frontline simulation capacity across low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and resource-constrained settings.