

Partnership for Accelerated COVID-19 Testing (PACT)

Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Programs
- ◆ Unit: Public Health Emergency Management Center

OBJECTIVES

PACT aims to strengthen capacity to test for COVID-19 across Africa by mobilizing experts, community workers, supplies and other resources to TEST, TRACE and TREAT COVID-19 cases in a timely manner to minimize the impact of the pandemic on the Africa continent.

REGIONS OF WORK

This project will be implemented by GHD|EMPHNET in North Africa in Egypt, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan, and Tunisia.

BENEFICIARIES

African countries population to be reached with support for testing to COVID-19.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD|EMPHNET will spearhead the roll out and implementation of a community contact tracing strategy that will specifically support contact tracing efforts and other surveillance functions in general within the context of COVID-19 response in Africa Union member states in North Africa.

In collaboration with targeted countries, GHD|EMPHNET will support identification, orientation, and deployment of community health workers to assist in contact tracing and raising the awareness of the population. GHD|EMPHNET will support the deployment of 200 CHWs in each of the targeted countries. The CHWs will be provided with forms of data collection and reporting forms as well as protective equipment and support deployment to facilitate their field work.

Furthermore, GHD|EMPHNET will also support Sudan to enhance responding to outbreaks through support deployments and capacity building trainings on surveillance, Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) practices as well as strengthen laboratory capacity. GHD|EMPHNET will be coordinating and communicating with the countries to conduct training for the nominated countries' supervisors and facilitate the coordination of rolling out the training to the subnational level. GHD|EMPHNET will also facilitate the monitoring of the activities and providing timely reporting.

PROJECT PHASES

This project involves three phases as follows:

Phase I – Preparations: Communication and orientation meetings with all targeted countries; selection of disease outbreak respondents (coordinators, supervisors, Community Health Workers (CHWs)), preparation for conducting trainings, and procuring supplies for field deployment.

Phase II – Implementation: Training of supervisors, support roll out training to CHWs, and delivery of Personal Protective Equipment (PEE) and supplies in five targeted countries. In addition to trainings to strengthen surveillance, Infection Prevention Control and laboratory practices in Sudan.

Phase III – Deployment: field deployment CHWs in five targeted countries, deployment on national epidemiology, IPC and Laboratory experts in Sudan, data collection, provision of logistic support, monitoring, and reporting.

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| Project Start and End Date | August 15th, 2020 – March 31st, 2021 |
| Partner Organizations | CDC Africa, African Union, and the targeted countries' MOHs |
| Funded by | African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) |

Currently. . .

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the African Region was reported in Algeria on the 25th of February in 2020. Most African countries took swift action early on, and it is largely thanks to these efforts of limiting gatherings and strengthening public health capacities that cases and deaths in Africa have remained lower than in other parts of the world to this date. The situation continues to require urgent collective attention and action to response to the pandemic and keep the outbreak under control.

What's next. . .

Continued support is needed for countries to empower individuals to play their role and take preventive actions, to ensure continuity of essential services and strengthen health systems.

Accelerated action is also needed in response to outbreaks in the African Region since it is one of the most vulnerable regions in the globe. *PACT* initiative will continue to strengthen the capacity of the targeted countries to test for COVID-19 across Africa, with emphasis on countries that have only minimal capacity. Supporting these countries is also essential to maintain control of outbreaks with focus on COVID-19 outbreak.

By the Numbers

1000

CHWs will be trained under the PACT initiative

203M

North African countries' population that are targeted. Including: Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, Morocco, and Tunisia

>700K

Number of COVID-19 positive cases in Africa

35,000+

Households have been visited since the field deployment started of CHWs

GHD and EMPHNET: Working together for better health

Global Health Development (GHD) is a regional initiative created to support countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region strengthen their health systems in response to public health challenges and threats. GHD was initiated to advance the work of the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) by building coordination mechanisms with Ministries of Health, International Organizations, and other institutions to improve population health outcomes. As an implementing arm to EMPHNET, GHD aligns its strategies with national policies and directions, while serving as a collaborative platform dedicated to support national efforts in promoting public health policies, strategic planning, sustainable financing, resource mobilization, public health programs, and other related services.

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