



FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 13



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Editor's Letter

We are delighted to bring you the thirteenth issue of our Quarterly Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) Newsletter. This issue covers FETP news and events in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) from September 1 to November 31, 2022.

The news covered in this issue highlights the commitment and hard work of the region's FETP residents and graduates, as well as their valuable contributions to public health in their respective countries.

This newsletter highlights the graduations celebrated and the public health programs launched during this quarter. It also contains sections dedicated to the latest news from different country programs, while shedding light on the work done by FETPs on the re-emergence of some diseases following natural disasters, and investigations of new outbreaks, as well as presenting the achievements of several FETPs during the Intermediate and Advanced cohorts.

We hope you find an insightful reading experience in the pages that follow, and that they serve as a source of inspiration for you all.

FETP Newsletter Editorial Team



EMPHNET

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Feature Story

EMPHNET and the EMR Make Notable Presence in the 11th TEPHINET Global Conference

The 11th Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET) Global Scientific Conference was officially inaugurated on September 6, 2022, in Panama City, Panama, and was co-hosted by the Executive Secretariat of the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic (SE-COMISCA), the Central American Field Epidemiology Training Program Network (REDCEC), and the Central America Regional FETP.

With its diverse agenda, the conference drew 378 in-person attendees and 222 virtual registrants from 65 countries.



Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony featured several keynote speeches, including ones given by the Panamanian Minister of Health, Luis Francisco Sucre, who highlighted the importance of the work of field epidemiologists and public health specialists in countries like Panama. The agenda also included an address given by the Chairperson of the TEPHINET Advisory Board, Major General Dr. Amer Ikram who welcomed the guests and stressed on the importance of using the conference space as an opportunity to advance and share epidemiological knowledge.

The opening ceremony also saw remarks from TEPHINET Deputy Director, Miriam Alderman; COMISCA Executive Secretary, Alejandra Acuña Navarro; General Director of Epidemiology for the Ministry of Health of the Dominican Republic, Ronald Skewes; and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Central America Regional Director, Emily Zielinski-Gutiérrez.

Following the official opening of the conference, a series of oral presentations was given by FETP residents and graduates that covered areas of infectious diseases, COVID-19, vector-borne diseases, and more.



Pre-Conference Workshops

Fifteen pre-conference workshops dubbed Interactive Learning Sessions (ILS) took place between September 3-4, 2022. These facilitated sessions were an opportunity for participants to engage with the material being presented as well as each other.

One of the workshops “FETP Learning & the Pandemic: From Face-to-Face to Blended Modalities” was co-facilitated by GHD|EMPHNET’s workforce capacity team members. During this workshop, GHD|EMPHNET’s team presented the organization’s experience in E-Learning and its Learning Management System (LMS), in addition to facilitating other group activities. The session was attended by 12 participants from different countries.

Another workshop titled “Developing an FETP Institutionalization and Sustainability Plan” was co-facilitated by GHD|EMPHNET’s Workforce Capacity Team Leader, Dr. Haitham Bashier.

The session covered several topics, including the sustainability and institutionalization matrix, as well as the best practices and Country Experiences Panel. The workshop was attended by 24 participants from different countries.



Covered Topics and Technical Sessions

The 11th TEPHINET conference agenda also included several technical sessions. These sessions covered several public health related topics, such as the lessons learned from the smallpox eradication, the Global Field Epidemiology Roadmap, and the global elimination of Hepatitis C. In addition, a session was held on the origins of the FETP pyramid (Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced training). The session addressed the need for more trained epidemiologists to respond to emergencies.

A Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) meeting also took place during the conference. The SLG was launched in 2021, by TEPHINET and other key partners involved in global field epidemiology capacity building efforts across the globe to provide high-level leadership and accountability for the Global Field Epidemiology Roadmap. The meeting offered a space for working group

members to discuss the updates from all working groups.

Dr. Haitham Bashier attended this session while GHD|EMPHNET’s Executive Director, Dr. Mohannad Al-Nsour participated as a speaker virtually in “The Global Field Epidemiology Roadmap & Strategic Leadership Group” session that was held during the meeting.

A session titled “Learning in the FETP Community, pivoting to a New Normal” was co-facilitated by GHD|EMPHNET’s Head of Electronic Learning and Training Unit, Mr. Ahmad Al- Talafih; and the General Director of the National Observatory of New and Emerging Diseases, Tunisia FETP Director, Dr. Nissaf Bou Afif, amongst others. The session’s goal was to raise awareness, gain new knowledge, and learn from peers about global, regional, and national level learning initiatives within the FETP community.

Oral and Poster Presentations

TEPHINET received 379 abstract submissions from 72 countries and accepted 265 oral and poster presentations. During the conference, residents and recent FETP graduates, as well as the alumni who graduated more than two years ago, presented on topics ranging from COVID-19 to food and waterborne disease outbreaks, HIV, antimicrobial resistance, cardiovascular disease, noncommunicable diseases, and malaria, among others.

In a session dedicated to Frontline Oral presentations on “infectious diseases”, five presentations were given both virtually and in-person. The presentations shed light on COVID-19 outbreak investigations and vaccine hesitancy among parents of children under five.

Other Activities

Another activity held at the conference was the Traditional International Night that had participants gather for an evening of networking and cultural exchange. The evening featured musical and dance performances by conference attendees from more than twenty countries. From the Eastern Mediterranean Region, videos were shown from Tunisia and Pakistan.

During the conference, TEPHINET celebrated 25 years of global health workforce capacity building, and hosted an official celebration featuring presentations from Belize, Pakistan, and Zambia FETPs, as well as reflections from previous TEPHINET leaders.

A special workshop titled “Yes, We Can! Epidemiologists Can Be Advocates Too!” was also held in celebration of World Field Epidemiology Day (WFED) which fell during the conference on September 7, 2022, allowing attendees to come together and celebrate the work of field epidemiologists around the globe.

Furthermore, in keeping with the 2022 WFED theme of “Empowering Field Epidemiologists for Stronger Health Systems,” Nigeria Country Director at Resolve to Save Lives, Dr. Emmanuel

From the Eastern Mediterranean Region, oral and poster presentations were given by FETP residents and graduates from Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Yemen.

Download the Book of Abstracts: [11th TEPHINET Global Conference Abstract Book](#)



Agogo presented a special session in which he led attendees on a journey on how to become better self-advocates. During the session, different FETPs and health organizations shared stories of health care workers as policy advocates.

Throughout the conference, EMPHNET’s Knowledge Exchange and Networking Team Leader, Ms. Dana Al-Shalabi set up a booth for EMPHNET in the exhibition area.

The booth contained copies of EMPHNET and the International Academy of Public Health (IAPH)’s profiles as well as other promotional material. Visitors to the booth asked about EMPHNET and its work, which was explained by Ms. Shalabi.



A Grand Finish

The closing ceremony included closing remarks by TEPHINET Director, Dr. Carl Reddy, Dr. Amer Ikram, and others.

In their speeches, they highlighted the importance of good mentorship for the success of FETPs. Moreover, TEPHINET and the CDC also introduced the Robert Fontaine Award for Excellence in FETP Mentorship, with the inaugural recipient is the award's namesake, Dr. Robert E. Fontaine, who has been mentoring FETP residents for over 25 years.

TEPHINET also presented several awards during the Awards and Closing Ceremony on September 9, 2022.

Dr. Amer Ikram, Executive Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Pakistan, and Pakistan FELTP Director also attended this conference in person and received an award on behalf of TEPHINT from the city

government of Panama City in celebration of World Field Epidemiology Day 2022.

Dr. Sumia Aturki from Yemen FETP was awarded for the best poster presentation titled "Prevalence and Associated Factors of Diabetes Mellitus among Tuberculosis Patients, National Tuberculosis Center," Sana'a-Yemen, 2021.

The closing ceremony also saw recognition for Egypt FETP being accredited by TEPHINET. Dr. Haitham Bashier received the accreditation award on behalf of Egypt FETP as they attended virtually.

The 11th TEPHINET Global Scientific Conference was a great opportunity for public health workers from all over the world to come together and share their knowledge and experience while focusing on Field Epidemiology concerns, and methods for improvement and support.





**Country
Program News**

This section highlights the region's FETPs' updates

AFGHANISTAN

Two Residents from Afghanistan FETP Visit the NIH in Islamabad, Pakistan

Through the GHD|EMPHNET Exchange Program, two Afghanistan Field Epidemiology Training Program (Afghanistan FETP) residents visited the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Islamabad. During their stay, they attended epidemiological surveillance meetings, worked with contact tracing and data analysis teams, as well as vaccination and laboratory teams. The residents also participated in conducting outbreak investigation of Dengue Fever cases. At the end of their stay, the residents expressed their gratitude to the NIH and the Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (Pakistan FELTP) and commended the valuable information they had gained in a short period of time.



Afghanistan FETP Participates in the FMIC 12th Scientific Conference and Quality Convention

Afghanistan FETP residents participated in the French Medical Institute for Children and Mothers (FMIC) 12th Scientific Conference and Quality Convention held in November, 2022. In this conference, residents of the third and fourth Intermediate cohorts presented 28 abstracts in total, with 9 oral presentations and 19 poster presentations. The abstracts covered communicable diseases and immunization.

At the end of this conference, a poster presentation prepared by one of the third cohort residents won second place in the conference's top three poster presentations awards.



Afghanistan FETP Third Intermediate Cohort Attends a Communication Workshop

On October 10, 2022, Afghanistan FETP third Intermediate cohort residents attended the third workshop that is part of their one-year training at the Afghanistan National Public Health Institute (ANPHI), Kabul. The workshop focused on the communication and presentation skills needed in their work as field epidemiologists.

The workshop sessions highlighted the Single Overriding Communication Objective development for non-technical audience, scientific presentations for technical audience, abstract and scientific presentation development, as well as facilitation and mentorship skills.

After the completion of this workshop, residents finalized their research protocols for the Institutional Review Board (IRB) committee of the Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health (MoPH).

The residents will now be able to utilize the skills they have learned in this workshop in the field, whether during outbreak investigations and response, or community engagement, technical conferences, and other relevant activities.



Afghanistan FETP Residents Attend a Social Gathering

The Afghanistan FETP fourth Intermediate cohort residents attended a social gathering arranged by the program’s team in Qargha National Park, Kabul. In this event, residents came to know each other more out of formal context and shared their experiences. This activity also presented an opportunity for team building.



Afghanistan FETP Holds the Second Workshop for its Fourth Intermediate Cohort

On September 4, 2022, Afghanistan FETP fourth Intermediate cohort attended the second workshop as part of their one-year training.

This two-week workshop focused on specific epidemiological study designs, case studies, and data analysis and statistical features using Epi Info.

Additionally, residents received guidance on research protocol development in an open discussion supported by case studies served to enhance the residents' understanding of the workshop's material.

Moreover, the fourth cohort residents presented the findings of their earlier assigned projects along with outbreak investigations, and rotation program reports.



EEL's Bulletin First Issue published

We are happy to share with you the first issue of EEL's bulletin. This issue covers updates on EEL from 11 May, 2022 to September 30, 2022.

In this issue, you will find general information on EEL, updates on resource collections, new features, past events, as well as announcements of upcoming events.

We hope that you find in this issue a beneficial and inspiring reading experience. Click [here](#) to access this issue.

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh FETPV Attend AMR Awareness Celebration

The Department of Livestock Services (DLS) in Bangladesh, in partnership with the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and the Fleming Fund country grant to Bangladesh, celebrated AMR awareness week. They organized a glamour rally and a seminar program to raise awareness among various stakeholders. This event saw attendance from Bangladesh Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (Bangladesh FETPV), The secretary of the Bangladesh Veterinary Association (BVA), The team head of the Fleming Fund, Prof. Dr. Nitish Chandra Debnath, and the Director General of the DLS.



Bangladesh FETP Residents Present their Posters at the 7th One Health Congress

Residents from the Bangladesh Intermediate and Advanced Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETPB) gave poster presentations during the Seventh Global One Health Congress that took place in Singapore in November, 2022.

Bangladesh FETP Inaugurates its First Intermediate Cohort

Bangladesh FETPB officially inaugurated its first Intermediate cohort on November 2, 2022.

The Intermediate program is a nine-month in-service training that addresses the skills needed by health officials at the middle level of the MOH to improve epidemiologic capacity, strengthen public health surveillance systems, investigate and control outbreaks, and conduct field studies to address public health priority issues.



GHD|EMPHNET's Team Meet with Fellows from the Bangladesh FETP and FETPV

As part of GHD|EMPHNET team's visit to Bangladesh, they met with fellows from the Bangladesh FETPB and Bangladesh FETPV, they discussed workforce capacity development and strengthening One Health's approach to respond to health threats, and how the synergy between FETPB and FETPV under the one health umbrella could be accomplished.

In addition, Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) invited GHD|EMPHNET's team to participate in the inauguration of Bangladesh FETP Intermediate cohort, and the celebration of One Health Day.

The visit also included meetings with Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) and USAID, in addition to the South Asia Field Epidemiology and Technology Network (SAFTYNET) and the Bangladesh FETP steering committee to discuss progress and opportunities. The steering committee meeting was also attended by the CDC Director and members of the IEDCR, and EMPHNET Country Office team.



EGYPT

Updates on Egypt FETP First Intermediate Cohort

Egypt Field Epidemiology Training Program (Egypt FETP) first Intermediate cohort residents participated in many field activities, within their training, including infection prevention and control, field investigations, and disease management.

Read more about their activities [here](#)



Egypt FETP Second Intermediate Cohort Concludes its Second Workshop

On October 13, 2022, the second Intermediate cohort of the Egypt FETP concluded the second workshop forming part of its one-year training.

The workshop introduced residents to the research process including development of research questions, setting SMART objectives, selection of the proper study design, selection of suitable sampling procedures, estimation of sample size, and writing a research proposal, amongst other topics. The workshop was facilitated by professors from Cairo University and supported by GHD|EMPHNET.

During the workshop, residents presented their final reports from their first round of fieldwork and discussed them with the cohort's mentors.

The facilitators also encouraged all residents to provide their comments on the presentations of their peers which resulted in a very useful interactive discussion.



Egypt FETP Participates in Hepatitis B and C Survey

In October 2022, Egypt FETP residents and graduates from all levels (Advanced, Intermediate, and PHEP) participated in a national household survey to estimate the prevalence of Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) in Egypt to characterize high-risk groups.

The data was collected using a semi-structured electronic questionnaire using the Epi Info mobile app and face-to-face interviews.

The survey will help decision makers design effective prevention and control measures to achieve the 2030 AVH elimination goals.



Egypt FETP Participates in Polio Vaccination Campaign

In October, Egypt FETP residents and graduates from both the Advanced program and the Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) participated in a door-to-door targeted vaccination campaign against Polio in Cairo and Giza governorates.

The aim of this campaign was to vaccinate all children aged one day to five years living in Cairo and Giza governorates, whether Egyptians or non-Egyptians.

Egypt FETP Receives the TEPHINET Accreditation Award

In a ceremonial event held in the presence of the Chief of Central Administration for Preventive Affairs at the Egypt Ministry of Health and Population (MoPH), Dr. Amr Kandeel; Egypt FETP Coordinator, Dr. Sahar El Shourbagy; as well as GHD|EMPHNET's Workforce Capacity Team Leader, Dr. Haitham Bashier, Egypt FETP received its TEPHINET accreditation award for the sixth TEPHINET Accreditation Cycle.

The announcement of the accreditation was first made during the closing ceremony of the 11th TEPHINET Global Scientific Conference held in September 2022, in Panama City, Panama.

TEPHINET accreditation is an opportunity for FETPs to align with common standards that support quality training and increased recognition of their value in supporting country public health priorities.



IRAQ

Iraq FETP Tenth PHEP Cohort Graduate After Presenting their Field Work

On October 30, 2022, the Iraq Field Epidemiology Training Program’s (Iraq FETP) Tenth PHEP Cohort attended their last two-day workshop that ended with their graduation ceremony. In attendance were 22 residents and 8 supervisors along with the Iraq FETP Director, Dr. Yasir Majeed. In this workshop, the participants presented their fieldwork to their colleagues and supervisors and later received their certificates.



Iraq FETP Residents Attended a Workshop on Study Design and Analysis

Iraq FETP third Intermediate cohort residents attended the second workshop on Study Design and Analysis, in Erbil. The workshop was facilitated by four subject matter experts and saw attendance from 35 residents who presented their pervious assignments and completed the required test at the end of the workshop. The workshop also covered several topics such as types of studies, measure of association, sample size, and developing a study protocol.



Iraq FETP Residents Attend a QGIS Training

With aims of increasing the capacity of their health workforce, the Iraq Ministry of Health (MoH), and Iraq FETP graduates with support from the Biological Threat Reduction Program facilitated a QGIS training for FETP residents. The five-day training saw attendance from 20 FETP residents from all Iraqi governorates including Kurdistan.

QGIS is an open-source cross-platform desktop geographic information system application that supports viewing, editing, printing, and analysis of geospatial data. This workshop was set to provide the residents with in-depth training of the ins and outs of QGIS. On the final day of this workshop, the residents were given exercises on the software to test their understanding and use what they have learned.



Iraq FETP Residents Conduct a Survey on Hemorrhagic Fever

Residents of the third Intermediate cohort of Iraq FETP conducted a survey with the support of GHD|EMPHNET, to assess the knowledge food workers have on hemorrhagic fever within the Arba'een processions.

[Watch | Facebook](#)

Iraq FETP Contributes to Keeping Arbaeen Pilgrims Safe

The Arbaeen is an annual religious event that sees millions of pilgrims travel to Karbala, Iraq. It is considered one of the world's largest mass gatherings. Iraq FETP contributed to ensuring the safety of the pilgrims during the event.

Read more about their activities [here](#)



JORDAN

Jordan FETP Residents and Graduates Attend Pink October Event at the Ministry of Health

Jordan Field Epidemiology Training Program (Jordan FETP) residents and graduates attended the festivities of October pink day at the Jordanian Ministry of Health (MoH). The event was under the patronage of Jordan's Health Minister H. E. Prof. Feras Al-Hawari, and was organized by the Non-Communicable Diseases, and Mother and Child Health Directorates in cooperation with the Directorate of Institutional Development and Quality Control, and Jordan's breast cancer program.

During the event, lecturers focused on the role and objectives of the breast cancer program and its mission to equip women with knowledge and create a safe environment for them to adopt breast cancer early detection practices. The event had quiz and game stations, and also offered clinical breast examination for participants.



Jordan FETP Residents Present their Weekly Surveillance Report at the Ministry of Health

Jordan FETP residents presented their weekly "Diarrhea and Infectious Diseases in Jordan" surveillance report in the weekly meeting held at the Jordanian Ministry of Health (MoH). Sections of that meeting were captured and displayed on television during October 2022.

The meeting saw attendance from participants from the Communicable Diseases Directorate and the Epidemiological Administration at the Ministry of Health, in addition to representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the World Health Organization (WHO), while all the ministry's focal points from different health directorates attended virtually.

FETP residents also prepared a presentation about the Cholera outbreak in the neighboring countries, and displayed sample results from the regular Cholera screening conducted by various health directorates in Jordan.

Jordan FETP Commences its 19th Advanced Cohort

With aims of building the residents' capacities in order to further strengthen Jordan's public health status, Jordan FETP commenced their 19th FETP Advanced cohort.

This cohort comprises 11 residents, and is set to complete a two-year curriculum that will expand their knowledge in surveillance, outbreak investigations, and scientific writing, while also allowing them to get familiar with the different departments in the Communicable and Non-Communicable directorates within Jordan's Ministry of Health (MoH).



Jordan FETP Participates in First Monkeypox Case Report

On September 7, 2022 Jordan registered the first Monkeypox case.

Jordan FETP residents tackled the country's first case, and followed up on case investigations and contact tracing by taking blood samples and conducting interviews.

Residents also wrote the final report about the case contacts and presented it to stakeholders in the Jordan Ministry of Health (MoH) during the weekly surveillance report.

Jordan FETP Participates in Measles Outbreak Investigation

In response to the increase in the number of suspected cases of measles since the beginning of summer 2022, Jordan FETP, along with teams from the health directorate conducted epidemiological investigations for the reported cases.

In an effort to confirm the diagnosis, FETP residents took blood samples and administered vaccines to all unvaccinated children in all governorates with reported cases. After further investigation, the primary incidents were found to be two unvaccinated young patients. Visits were conducted to their place of residence, as well as their neighbors and health centers to check for the presence of new cases, and spread the information about measles and the role of vaccination in helping to stop its spread.



LEBANON

Lebanon FETP Presents themselves in ESCAIDE

Lebanon FETP participated in the Hybrid European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE), that took place in November 22 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Zeina Farah, Lebanon FETP coordinator presented the “Importance of Regional Networking in Building National FETP: Lebanon Experience” poster abstract which was accepted in the conference. The presentation highlighted the importance of the support provided by the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) in launching Lebanon FETP and graduating 15 fellows of frontline FETP.

Additionally, Lebanon FETP Director, Dr. Nada Ghosn, participated as a facilitator for the MediPIET session titled “The role of national FETPs in strengthening countries capacities for infectious disease prevention and response”, in which she highlighted the capacity building support provided by The Mediterranean and Black Sea Programme Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET).

INTRODUCTION	RESULTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2014, the Epidemiological Surveillance Unit (ESU) at the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in Lebanon aimed to launch a national Field Epidemiology Training program (nFETP) in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empower public health professionals with needed knowledge and skills Enhance their capacities in disease surveillance and outbreak investigation After years of continuous work, the Lebanese FETP was launched in 2022 This work describes the steps in setting up the program, highlighting the importance of regional networking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The established nFETP has the following outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cohort 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-month basic FETP: February-June 2022 Dedicated for the COVID-19 response 15 fellows from ESU central and peripheral teams and the National Influenza Center Fellows successfully completed the 3 workshops and fieldwork assignments Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75 weekly reports on COVID-19 surveillance, covering all Lebanese provinces 60 data quality audit visits to hospitals aiming at improving reporting and enhancing coordination between MOPH and reporting sites 8 documentaries on the influenza like illness (ILI) surveillance system Outcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved knowledge and skills including report writing, epidemiological,
METHODS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In September 2021, a training needs assessment was conducted for the district public health officers to identify priority needs The curriculum and the competencies were adapted and the nFETP guide was developed nFETP team (director, coordinator, mentors and assistants) was formed 	

Lebanon FETP Participates in Cholera Outbreak Investigation

Lebanon FETP residents and graduates have been involved in several activities related to the recent cholera outbreak in the country. These activities were conducted by the Epidemiological Surveillance Program which included field visits, outbreak investigations, and specimen collection, in addition to holding training sessions for healthcare workers.

These outbreak investigations were guided by FETP mentors, coordinators and the FETP director who have been leading the surveillance activities of cholera in the country.

Lebanon FETP first cohort residents participated in cholera surveillance activities using the knowledge and skills gained during the fellowship period through conducting field visits, data and specimen collection, and implementing corrective and preventive measures.

MOROCCO

Morocco FETP and RRT Attend a Workshop in Rabat

In October, 2022, Morocco Field Epidemiology Training Program (Morocco FETP) and Rapid Response Training (RRT) teams attended a workshop in Rabat, where they assessed the role of the National Emergency Operating Center (CNOUSP), the Regional Emergency Operating Center (CROUSP) and RRT in the management of public health emergencies. In this workshop, they also assessed the role of these entities in strengthening the Moroccan Health System in general.

Morocco FETP Graduates Attend a Workshop to Assess the Activities of the National Center for Public Health Emergency Operations

The Moroccan Epidemiology and Disease Control Department organized a workshop between October 18 and 19, 2022 to assess the activities of the National Center for Public Health Emergency Operations, which was responsible for managing the COVID-19 pandemic in Morocco. This workshop saw attendance from Morocco FETP graduates, who contributed to the formulation of the recommendations for the improvement of the National Public Health Emergency Management System.



ANET Will be Holding their Second Conference in January

The National Association of Field Epidemiology of Morocco (ANET) is holding its second conference between January 27 and 28, 2023. The theme of this conference will be “Field Epidemiology is a Pillar of Health Security in the Context of Epidemic Dangers.”

ANET brings together Morocco FETP graduates and is interested in promoting field epidemiology at the national level.

OMAN

Oman FETP Holds Two PHEP-BFE Workshops

On September 8, 2022, The Oman Field Epidemiology Training Program (Oman FETP) held its first workshop as part of the Public Health Empowerment Program- Basic Field Epidemiology (PHEP-BFE). Prior to this workshop, a mentorship training was conducted for 11 mentors.

The two-week workshop, attended by 23 cohort residents, offered an introduction to basic epidemiology with a focus on epidemiological surveillance.

Oman FETP also conducted the second workshop in October 2022, forming part of the residents' three-month training. This workshop offered a focus on outbreak investigations, amongst other health topics.



PAKISTAN

Pakistan FELTP Graduates Represent their Country in the 7th World One Health Congress

Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (Pakistan FELTP) graduates, laboratory professionals and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) fellows represented their country and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Pakistan in the 7th World One Health Congress in Singapore. In this conference, they attended different modules and participated in valuable discussions focused on the discussion of NIH collaboration with regional and global organizations regarding pandemic preparedness and AMR activities. The team expressed that this event proved to be very valuable in terms of capacity building and knowledge exchange.



Pakistan FELTP Residents and Graduates Participate in a Capacity Building Training on IDSR

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) in collaboration with USAID and JSI conducted a capacity building training on Integrated Disease Surveillance Response System (IDSR) in the Sindh province on 33 priority diseases. The training sessions were given by Pakistan FELTP residents and graduates and saw attendance from 210 healthcare professionals from 2 districts in Sindh.

Additionally, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), along with NIH in Islamabad, Pakistan, and in collaboration with UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) conducted a capacity building training for Pakistan FELTP residents and other healthcare professionals from Bhimber and Kotli districts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The training sessions focused on disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, implementation of public health measures, risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), as well as reporting of data through DHIS-2 tool. Combined, the training sessions saw a total attendance of 122 healthcare professionals.



Pakistan FELTP Participates in Flood Response and Outbreak Investigations

After Pakistan experienced an unprecedented monsoon weather starting June 2022 that has led to nationwide floods, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) stated in its situation report that 84 districts have been labeled as ‘calamity hit’ areas, and more than 33 million people were affected by the floods.

Pakistan FELTP graduates have been supporting provincial areas in expanding disease surveillance, outbreak response, and ensuring that preventive and control measures are being taken. They also established a daily reporting system and are monitoring the trends of communicable diseases in the flood affected areas.

FELTP residents and graduates along with WHO representatives and local health authorities developed a plan for rapid need assessment. They also engaged in risk communication and community engagement activities, where they conducted health awareness sessions for the affected communities on waterborne and vector-borne diseases, as well as other infectious diseases such as COVID-19.

Follow this [link](#) to read more about Pakistan Flood Activities



Pakistan FELTP Conducts a Survey at Islamabad International Airport

Pakistan FELTP fellow, Dr. Nadia Noreen, along with the Pakistan FELTP Technical Coordinator and Team Leader, Dr. Zeba Nasir conducted a survey at Islamabad International Airport to determine the prevalence of COVID-19 among the returning Pakistani pilgrims following the 2022 Hajj season.

The data was collected from pilgrims using a semi-structured questionnaire that included the pilgrim’s demographic profile, clinical data, vaccination status, and exposure history. Swabs were collected from pilgrims and were tested for COVID-19 while pilgrims also underwent rapid antigen testing (RAT).



CDC, NIH, and Pakistan FELTP Facilitate Writing for Public Health Bulletin (PHB) Workshops

On September 25, 2022, the NIH - Pakistan, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and TEPHINET conducted two Writing for Public Health Bulletin (PHB) workshops in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Baluchistan provinces. Facilitated by the CDC, NIH and the Pakistan FELTP residents and graduates, the workshop saw a total attendance of 34 public health professionals including the FELTP Pakistan residents and graduates.

The purpose of these workshops was to provide public health professionals with the skills and scientific knowledge they need for writing epidemiological reports, analyzing and displaying data, avoiding scientific misconduct, as well as formatting the reports as per national and international writing standards.



The Eighth EMPHNET Regional Conference

“Advancing Public Health Preparedness and Response: Challenges, Opportunities, and Ways Forward”

October 22 - 25, 2023 | Amman, Jordan



ANNOUNCEMENT



Mark your Calendars for EMPHNET’s Eighth Regional Conference in October 2022

We are pleased to announce that the Eighth EMPHNET Regional Conference will be held between October 22 and 25, 2023, in Amman, Jordan. With the central theme of the conference being “Advancing Public Health Preparedness and Response: Challenges, Opportunities, and Ways Forward”.

Keep an eye on our social media channels for the abstract submission announcement. [Read More](#)

SUDAN

Sudan FETP Participates in a Workshop to Introduce Participants to Epi Info

In collaboration with the Sudan Field Epidemiology Training Program (Sudan FETP), the Blue Nile International Institute for Communicable Diseases held a workshop that introduced participants to the Epi Info Software.

The workshop sessions were held under the supervision of Community Medicine Consultant, and Sudan FETP Technical Advisor, Dr. Mohamed Nageeb. They were attended by 32 students from the Master's of Public Health Program.

The workshop agenda included several interactive sessions and practical activities focusing on the design and methods of data collection, entry, and analysis.

Sudan FETP Second Intermediate Cohort Concludes their Third Workshop

The second Intermediate cohort of the Sudan FETP concluded the third workshop within its one-year training, which was held at Khartoum from October 31 to November 5, 2022.

During the workshop sessions, all 13 residents presented their fieldwork and were evaluated by Epidemiological Experts, Dr. Hassan El-Bushra, Dr. Elfatih Malik, and Dr. Babker Ali.

The residents also learned more about public health communication, technical report writing, mentoring, and group project implementation review.

Following this workshop, residents returned to their workstations in their states and began their fieldwork.



Sudan FETP Participates in River Floods Rapid Assessment

Sudan FETP residents and graduates contribute to a rapid assessment of the River Nile floods and damages caused by the heavy rains.



Sudan FETP Holds an Orientation Meeting to Discuss Field Visits

Sudan FETP held an orientation meeting titled “The Field Visits for Strengthening the Contribution of SFETP to the Response to the Heavy Rainfall Emergency in Sudan 2022” at the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) on October 16, 2022. The meeting was intended to highlight Sudan FETP’s efforts in strengthening residents’ engagement in the response to the heavy rainfall.

Field activities conducted by Sudan FETP’s second and third Intermediate cohorts such as the rapid assessment of the Nile floods and damages were also discussed in this meeting as an opportunity for residents to apply the basic principles of disaster epidemiology, and to provide a structured post disasters health risk and needs assessment at the targeted states.



Sudan FETP Conducts a Monkeypox Outbreak Investigation

On October 6, 2022, residents of the third Intermediate cohort of the Sudan FETP conducted a field outbreak investigation for Monkeypox in the North Darfur state, (Jaber village - GarTwoba).



Sudan FETP Participates in EOC Meeting

Sudan FETP participated in the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) meeting held at the Sudan Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), earlier in September, 2022.

The meeting saw high level representation from the World Health Organization (WHO) and was attended by the General Director of the Health Emergencies and Epidemic Control Directorate; and the Sudan FETP Director, Dr. Muntasir M. Osman. During the meeting, the contribution of Sudan FETP in building the capacity of the ministry’s staff in field epidemiology was highlighted and discussed in detail.

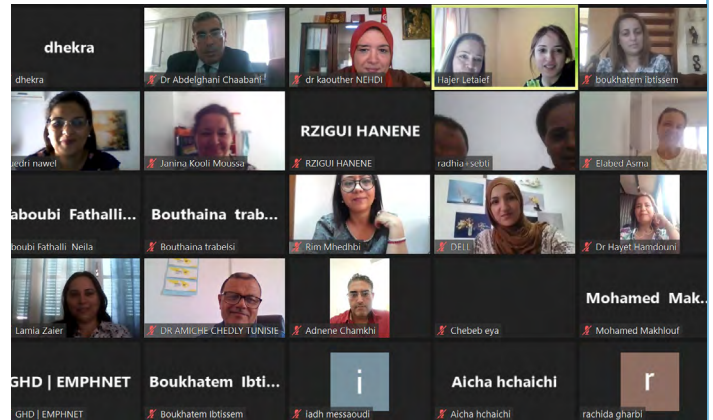


TUNISIA

Tunisia FETP Holds First PHEP Workshop for its Second Cohort

The Tunisia Field Epidemiology Training Program (Tunisia FETP) held the first workshop for the second cohort of the Public Health Empowerment Program – Basic Field Epidemiology (PHEP-BFE) from October 24 to October 28, 2022 online. The workshop included an introduction to Public Health Surveillance and Basic Interventional Epidemiology.

The workshop saw attendance from 20 residents and 15 mentors.



Tunisia FETP Fourth Intermediate Cohort Completes the Fourth Module and Starts Module Five of their Training

The fourth Intermediate cohort of the Tunisia FETP completed the fourth module as part of their one-year training. The module focused on complex emergencies response.

Residents also engaged in a disaster simulation exercise using the Emergo Train System, which is a simulation system used for education and training in emergency and disaster management. This system is used worldwide and can test and evaluate incident command system, disaster preparedness, the effect on the medical management system, and resilience within the organization. On October 23, 2022, residents started module-five, where they presented and discuss their fieldwork experience.



YEMEN

Yemen FETP 17th PHEP Cohort in Sana'a Attends their Third Workshop

On October 23, 2022, Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program (Yemen FETP) commenced the third workshop for the 17th Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) cohort residents.

The workshop was attended by 26 district surveillance coordinators, and 22 residents from Aljawf, Taiz and Marib governorates, as well as four residents from the national programs. The country program's team was also visited by the WHO Team Lead for Disease Control and Surveillance.

At the end of the workshop, all participants passed their final exam and received their certificates after 12 days of hard work.



Yemen FETP First Intermediate Cohort Commences a Two-Week Workshop

Yemen FETP first Intermediate cohort in Sana'a, Yemen, commenced a two-week workshop held in preparation for the residents' third round of field work which was part of their one-year training. The workshop sessions provided a focus on the steps needed to develop a planned study.

After two weeks, 25 public health research topics were selected and approved by the program's technical advisory team for implementation.



Yemen FETP Celebrates the Graduation of the 16th PHEP Cohort in Sana'a and the First PHEP Cohort in Mukalla and Aden

Yemen FETP celebrated the graduation of the 16th PHEP cohort in Sana'a in October 2022. Graduates came from 26 districts representing Ibb and Mareb governorates.

Furthermore, Yemen FETP celebrated the graduation of the first PHEP cohort in Aden that comprised 22 graduates and eight mentors, and the graduation of the first PHEP cohort in Al Mukalla that also comprises 22 graduates and eight mentors.



Yemen FETP Wins Best Poster Presentation Award at TEPHINET 11th Conference

Dr. Sumia Aturki from Yemen FETP was awarded for the best poster presentation titled “Prevalence and Associated Factors of Diabetes Mellitus among Tuberculosis Patients, National Tuberculosis Center” Sana'a-Yemen, 2021. The award was granted at the 11th TEPHINET Global Scientific Conference held in Panama City in September 2022.

Yemen FETP presented virtually during the conference.



Yemen FETP and EPI Launch a New PHEP Cohort in the City of Sana'a

In September, 2022, the Expanded Program for Immunization in Yemen (EPI), and the Yemen FETP launched a new cohort within the Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) for EPI governorate and central supervisors in Sana'a. This is the 19th PHEP cohort established within the Yemen FETP and the third specifically for EPI.

The total number of residents making up this cohort are 24 coming from 15 governorates.



Yemen FETP Conducts a Scientific Writing Workshop

Yemen FETP conducted a Scientific Writing Workshop for its fifth Advanced cohort in October, 2022.

One of the workshop's participants, the Director General of health office at Almahweet governorate, Dr. Ameen Hubaish was able to finalize and publish his scientific paper, and help the Director General of health office at Sana'a governorate, Dr.Khaled Al Muntaser, to finalize his scientific paper and publish it as well.

You can read the published papers via the links below:

[The Impact of Computerized Health Information System on Medical & Administrative Decisions, Sana'a Hospitals, Yemen \(2017-2020\)](#)

[The Impact of Total Quality Management on Health Services Improvement, Sana'a Hospitals, Yemen \(2017-2020\)](#)

Yemen FETP Sixth Advanced Cohort Completes a Surveillance System Analysis

In October 2022, The sixth Advanced cohort of the Yemen FETP completed a surveillance system analysis and presented their reports in the third mentorship workshop conducted as part of their two-year training . The activity constituted their first deliverable.

The residents will then work for the next three months on surveillance system evaluations within national health programs.



Yemen FETP Completes Second PHEP Workshop in Sana'a

The 18th cohort of the Yemen FETP completed the second workshop within its PHEP in Sana'a in September, 2022. The workshop focused on outbreak investigation and is to be followed by field work.

A total of 37 participants from governorates, national programs and police medical services attended the workshop.





Other News

This section covers regional news and success stories

OTHER NEWS

Yemen FETP and GHD|EMPHNET Celebrate Baby “Tamkeen”

On behalf of GHD|EMPHNET’s Executive Director, Dr. Mohannad Al Nsour, the Yemen EMPHNET office congratulated the family of the newborn baby Tamkeen, jointly with the Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program (Yemen FETP) in Sana’a.

EMPHNET honored Tamkeen and his mother, alongside all the women enrolled in the Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) 17th cohort. This recognition was made as part of EMPHNET’s genuine appreciation towards the role of women in the community and working women in particular.

Baby Tamkeen, named after the Arabic name for “PHEP”, was born on October 26, 2022, after his mother, who is a surveillance officer, finished her session and was immediately taken to hospital to give birth.

She was also given a certificate by the Yemen FETP in recognition of her dedication as a model mother and a woman in the workforce.



Qatar FETP Soon to be Established

A Training Needs Assessment for the soon to be established Qatar Field Epidemiology Training Program (Qatar FETP) was conducted in October, 2022. The assessment was conducted by technical experts from CDC USA, GHD|EMPHNET, the Resident Advisor of the Oman FETP , and the Qatar’s Ministry of Public Health (MoPH).

The assessment was held over a period of two weeks.



Dr. Shamaila Usman, a Pakistan FELTP Graduate Shares her Story

Dr. Shamaila shared with us her story of success and her words of gratitude to the Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) that gave her an opportunity to pursue the career she had always wanted.

She said: “Joining the FELTP was a dream for me. As I look back on the amount of professional excellence that I have achieved after graduation because of this remarkable program is enormous. I have actively worked at Points of Entry as a first line responder during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am currently working at the Provincial Disease Surveillance and Response Unit and have been nominated as a provincial focal person for Cholera related activities. I am engaged in the forefront of the event based surveillance for control, prevention, and vaccination activities of Cholera, especially focusing on Water, Sanitization, and Hygiene (WASH).

I have presented my abstract at the 7th EMPHNET Conference in Amman, Jordan, which again was a unique opportunity for interaction and exposure provided by the FELTP.

Strengthening the health system of my country and providing a solution to the challenges in the community is the most enjoyable and satisfying part of my work, surely credited to the FELTP”.

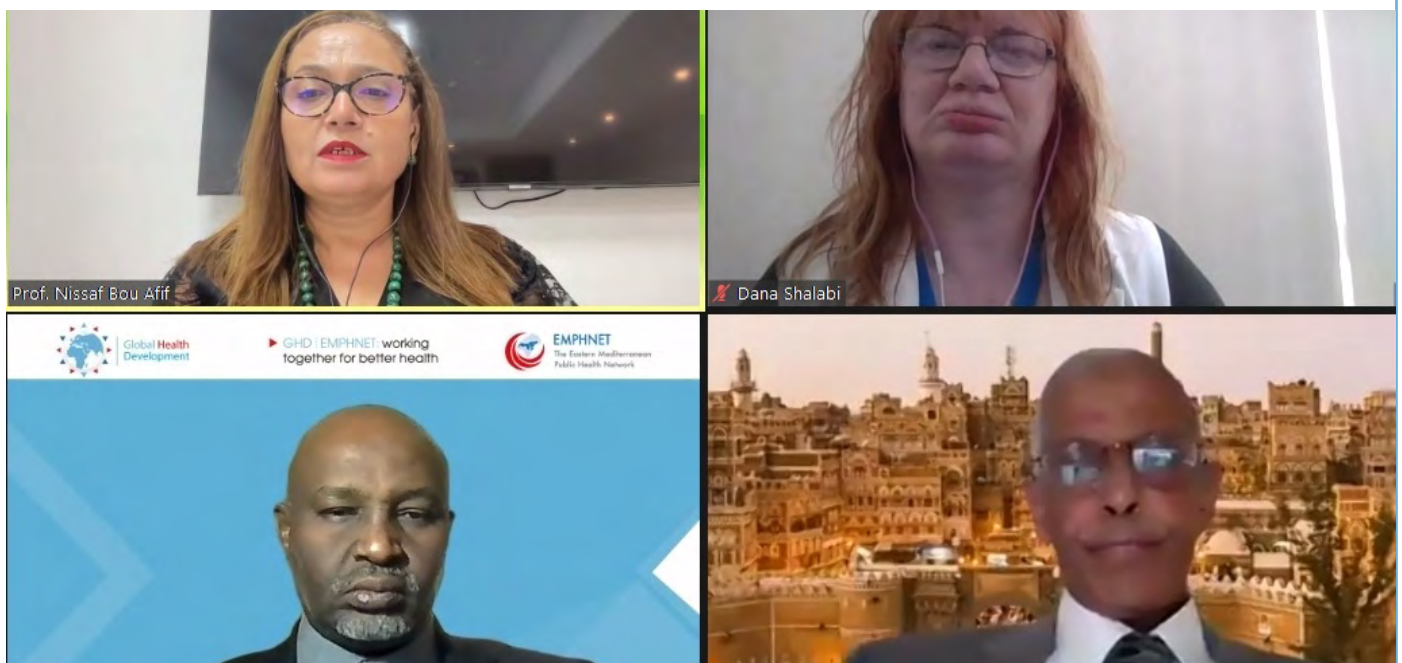


EMPHNET Holds its Twenty-Fourth Webinar Titled “The Role of Field Epidemiologists in Advancing Public Health Practice.”

Field Epidemiologists have been at the forefront of public health emergency response efforts, equipped with the competencies they gained as part of their training. Recently, they have contributed to COVID-19 management through participating in contact tracing, case investigations, community engagement, data collection, and analysis. The efforts they had made contributed to raising more awareness of the critical role they play in elevating public health practice in their respective countries. In light of this increased visibility, the Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET) commenced the first World Field Epidemiology Day (WFED) on September 7, 2021. The WFED is a global movement that recognizes and raises awareness of the vital role of field epidemiologists and advocates for increased investment in field epidemiology training, research, and professionals.

In recognition of the second WFED, EMPHNET held a webinar titled “The Role of Field Epidemiologists in Advancing Public Health Practice” on Tuesday, Oct 18, 2022. The 90-minute session offered a space to highlight the importance of field epidemiologists in improving public health practice and raising awareness regarding the impact of field epidemiology on people’s health. The session also highlighted the expected changes and anticipated roles of FETP in the coming years based on the achievements and changing environment. In addition, the webinar shed light on the methods and tools for improving the FETP visibility.

[Click here to read more](#)



GHD|EMPHNET: Working Together for Better Health

Global Health Development (GHD) is a regional initiative created to support countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) and to strengthen their health systems to respond to public health challenges and threats. GHD was initiated to advance the work of the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) by building coordinating 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. Serving as a collaborative platform, GHD|EMPHNET is dedicated to serve the region by supporting national efforts to promote public health policies, strategic planning, sustainable financing, resource mobilization, public health programs, and other related services.

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