



Global Health  
Development

## Invasive bacterial disease surveillance network in Africa, Middle East, and Eurasia: Meningitis and Septicemia Mapping Network (MenMap)

### Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Programs
- ◆ Unit: Disease Control and Prevention

### OBJECTIVES

The main goal of the MenMap project is to implement real-time PCR testing technique to improve diagnosis of Invasive Bacterial Disease (IBD) due to *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, and *Haemophilus influenzae* in the region) through a laboratory network (the MenMap laboratories).

### REGIONS OF WORK

MenMap will be operating in three countries (Egypt, Iraq, and Jordan).

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Meningitis and Septicemia Mapping Network (MenMap) is a five-year initiative by Global Health Development (GHD) in collaboration with Sanofi and international partners. It aims to establish a surveillance network for vaccine-preventable invasive bacterial diseases (IBDs) in the region, focusing on *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib).

In its first year, MenMap engaged Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq, setting up 16 sentinel sites and providing essential training in surveillance and molecular diagnostics. It also developed a Data Protection Policy, communication plan, protocol, Statistical Data Analysis Plan and launched a secure website for project updates and data sharing. Now in its second year, MenMap continues to enhance diagnostic capabilities with real-time PCR technology, strengthen surveillance systems, and build local capacity through training. It maintains strong collaborations with international partners and local Ministries of Health to ensure effective knowledge sharing.

With a robust governance structure, MenMap aims to reduce the burden of bacterial meningitis, support evidence-based vaccine interventions, and contribute to global health security.

### BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries are the public health institutions, MOHs and hospitals from three countries (Egypt, Iraq, and Jordan). Other beneficiaries include researchers, epidemiologists, and public health professionals engaged in meningitis surveillance and response. This includes academic institutions, research centers, and public health laboratories in the region.

### PROJECT PHASES

The MenMap project involves three phases:

Phase I – Preparations: Embark countries to network, design the assessment tools to review the current diagnostic landscape in the targeted countries.

Phase II – Implementation: Hospitals Assessment, trainings, providing laboratory supplies, cases enrolment, samples and data collection, reporting, and analysis.

Phase III – Closing: Reporting and end of project workshop.

Project Start and End Date

**December 01, 2024 – November 30, 2025**

Partner Organizations

**Ministry of Health (Egypt), Ministry of Health (Iraq), Ministry of Health (Jordan).**

Funded by

**SANOFI PASTEUR S.A.**

### **Currently . . .**

Bacterial meningitis is a common disease worldwide, responsible for significant morbidity and mortality in infants and young children and remains an important cause of endemic and epidemic diseases in many of the region. Very limited published data are available for meningococcal disease in the region. Hence, evidence-based decisions are not being made to employ effective vaccine-intervention strategy.

### **What's next . . .**

Under this project, through its different Phases, with the involvement of concerned sectors, MenMap Network will advance research on surveillance and laboratory diagnosis of vaccine preventable IBDs, support public health policies in the prevention of these infections, and improve clinical practice for the prevention and treatment of bacterial meningitis and/or septicemia, building the knowledge infrastructure, research and communication capacity in the network participating countries.

**GHD|EMPHNET Information:** Global Health Development (GHD) Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) works at achieving its mission by responding to public health needs with deliberate efforts that allow for health promotion and disease prevention.

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