



World Field Epidemiology Day

Special Edition 2022



Editor's Letter

We are happy to present to you this special supplement about World Field Epidemiology Day. This supplement highlights the occasion, its impact on field epidemiology, and our region's FETPs' celebrations.

We share in the pages that follow pictures of country programs celebrating, a brief about World Field Epidemiology Day and what it signifies, a recognition for the role of field epidemiologists, and more.

We hope that you find in this supplement an insightful and inspiring reading experience, and as always, we welcome your feedback.

The Editorial Team



Global Health
Development

► GHD : EMPHNET: working
together for better health



EMPHNET
The Eastern Mediterranean
Public Health Network

Message From the Executive Director for WFED

Achievements made in field epidemiology and the role of Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs) continue to contribute to building a sustainable and strong health system around the world.

For the second year, the world celebrates the World Field Epidemiology Day on the seventh of September, which has become a defining meeting point for all field epidemiologists. Through this day, the important role that field epidemiologists play in supporting health systems and maintaining the quality of public health practice is highlighted, while consolidating the concept of field work.



Field epidemiology has proven its efficacy and importance without any doubt throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, as it is now evident that the steady growth in the numbers of graduates and residents of FETPs at the global level are increasing in response to the urgent need of ministries of health for a skilled and trained workforce for their respective countries.

Field Epidemiology was already present, but its significance was most recognized during the last two years. In fact, countries that did not have FETPs started developing new ones, thus reflecting their belief in the roles these programs play in responding to the pandemic and other health challenges. Over the years, graduates and residents of FETPs have worked far away from their families and sacrificed themselves with a strong sense of duty towards their countries and humanity at large, responding to emergencies and pandemics.

EMPHNET has been supporting FETPs in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) while believing in the importance of the field model in public health. This support has contributed to better FETPs performance which in turn reflected positively on the health system in the programs' countries and their capacities to face epidemics and public health emergencies.

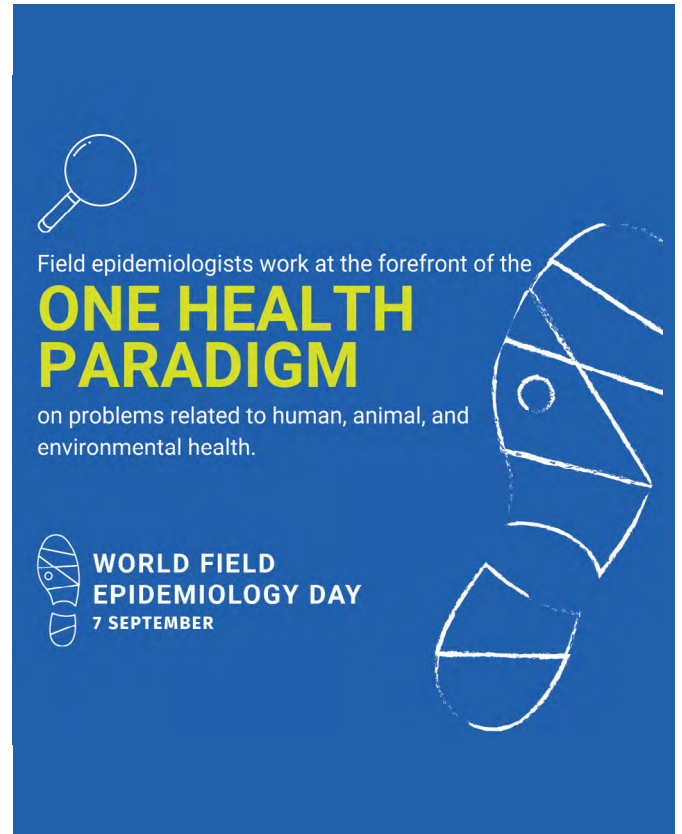
Having FETP in countries is one of the most important health pillars, now well-recognized by the international community for its role in supporting health systems and enabling countries to respond to public health events and emergencies.

Let us dedicate this month to celebrating Field Epidemiologists

The World Celebrates WFED!

Lead by the **Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET)**, **World Field Epidemiology Day (#WFED)** is a global movement that aims to recognize and raise awareness of the vital role of field epidemiologists in protecting the health of populations and advancing global health security. This day is also dedicated to advocating for increased investment in field epidemiology training, research, and professionals.

The celebration of this day was inaugurated on September 7, 2021, after field epidemiologists gained more visibility during the COVID-19 pandemic. This global movement was instigated to support and empower Field epidemiologists, and raise awareness on their importance, with hopes that it will lead to more support for field epidemiologists and field epidemiology research around the world.



Who are Field Epidemiologists?

Field Epidemiologists are the health care professionals responsible for detecting disease outbreaks, identifying cases, and assessing risk factors. The work of field epidemiologists is essential for strengthening public health response and interventions.

The community-level knowledge and experience they acquire through their work enables them to gather informative data through surveillance and outbreak investigations. This data is later put to use by decision makers in planning and strategizing when handling health emergencies, thus making the impact of field epidemiologists on advancing global health security critical.

Empowering Field Epidemiologists

More than ever, competent field epidemiologists are needed worldwide. As new, and resurgent communicable diseases’ impact is increasing globally, the International Health Regulations (IHR) and the Global Health Security Agenda call for a sufficient field epidemiologic capacity in every country to rapidly detect, respond to, and contain public health emergencies, thereby ensuring global health security.

Although the visibility of field epidemiologists has increased recently due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the re-emergence of some diseases, it still has not resulted in a satisfactory understanding of the importance of field epidemiology, nor has it increased the support needed to strengthen public health systems around the globe to better detect and respond to outbreaks.

Arising from that need WFED 2022 holds the theme “**Empowering Field Epidemiologists for Stronger Health Systems**”.

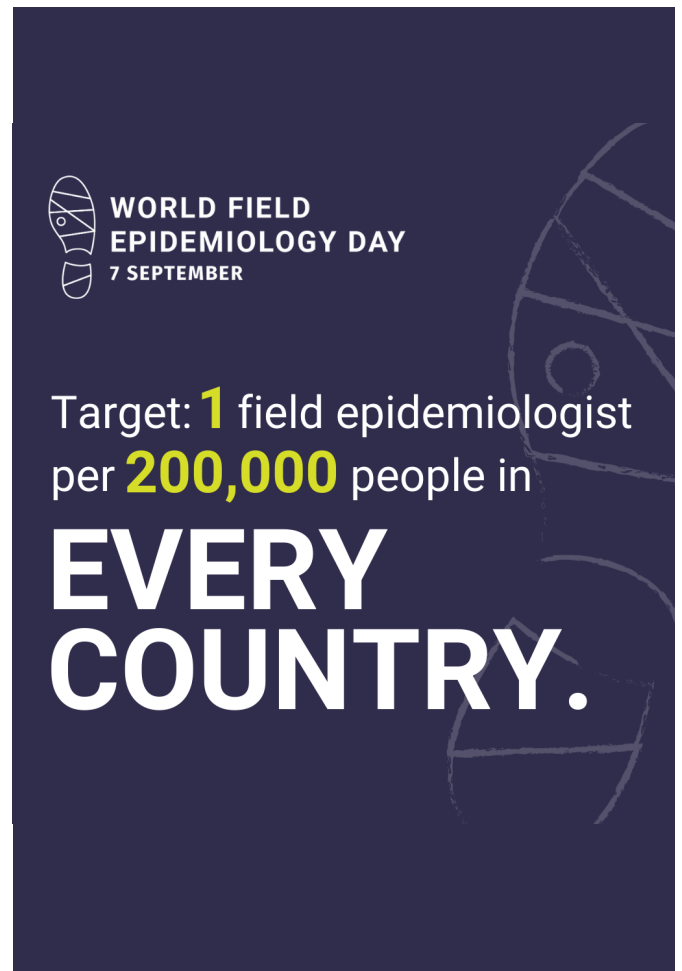
How Can We Support Field Epidemiologists?

When field epidemiologists are empowered within health institutions, public health systems benefit from their expertise and skills to collect, analyze, and interpret data and contribute to evidence-based decisions.

Empowerment can mean that field epidemiologists are involved in key decision-making processes, have clearly defined roles with adequate resources and support, have access to career opportunities, are recognized as a profession, and undergo training sessions that are well integrated within the health system.

The first step to doing that would be to raise awareness of the significance of their work, such as conducting epidemiological activities and leading risk communication efforts as well as providing guidance and surveillance in cases of outbreaks.

Field epidemiologists can also be supported in their regions through workshops, and hands on experience in the field.



WORLD FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY DAY
7 SEPTEMBER

Target: **1** field epidemiologist per **200,000** people in **EVERY COUNTRY.**



18,000+
public health workers around the world have trained in field epidemiology through the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP).

FETP trainees have conducted **10,000+** outbreak investigations.

They have established or evaluated **4,000+** disease surveillance systems to improve disease detection and response in their countries.

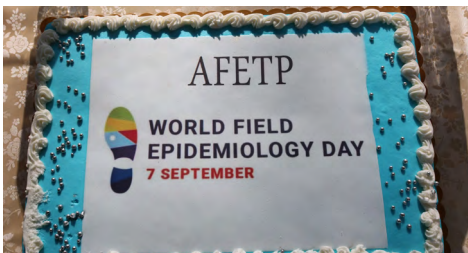
The Eastern Mediterranean Region Celebrates WFED

Several Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETP) from the Eastern Mediterranean Region celebrated WFED. Below is a rundown of the region's celebrations.

Afghanistan FETP

The Afghanistan Field Epidemiology Training Program (AFETP) celebrated World Field Epidemiology Day in the National Emergency Operation Center of Afghanistan.

The event was attended by the Director of Afghanistan FETP, Director of Training Department of Afghanistan National Public Health Institute (ANPHI), technical staff from the program, and the graduates of previous cohorts and current residents. Graduates of previous cohorts shared their success stories and how FETP changed their professional life. The speeches given by the speakers were focused on capacity building of public health professionals to respond to health threats and emergencies including outbreaks.



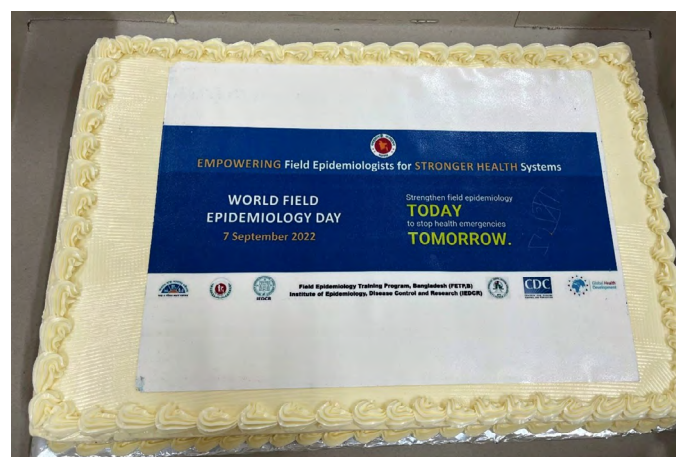
Bangladesh

Bangladesh Field Epidemiology Training Program (Bangladesh FETP), and its host “the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR)” organized and celebrated the second WFED on September 7, 2022, to commemorate the significance of the field epidemiology community and FETPs in the world.

The event was formally inaugurated by the Director in Charge and senior team members of the IEDCR, Bangladesh FETP Course Coordinator, CDC Country Director, Resident Advisor for Bangladesh FETP Advanced and Intermediate Cohorts, as well as representatives from previous and current enwidens.

Residents made a speech about their memories and their current experience at different public health positions in the country. The event also saw around 100 participants.

In conclusion, Bangladesh FETP residents and graduates also shared a video documenting the efforts made by field epidemiologists in the country.



Iraq

The Iraq Field Epidemiology Training Program (Iraq FETP) celebrated World Field Epidemiology Day in the department of public health in the Diyala Health Division/ Epidemiology Unit.

In this celebration, several topics were discussed, such as the definition of field epidemiology and the work done by the members of this unit and its establishment. The celebration was attended by several members of the division and the unit manager, who presented the unit's designated tasks required to maintain community health and control public health threats.



**WORLD FIELD
EPIDEMIOLOGY DAY**
7 SEPTEMBER

Expand the footprint of
**DISEASE
DETECTIVES.**

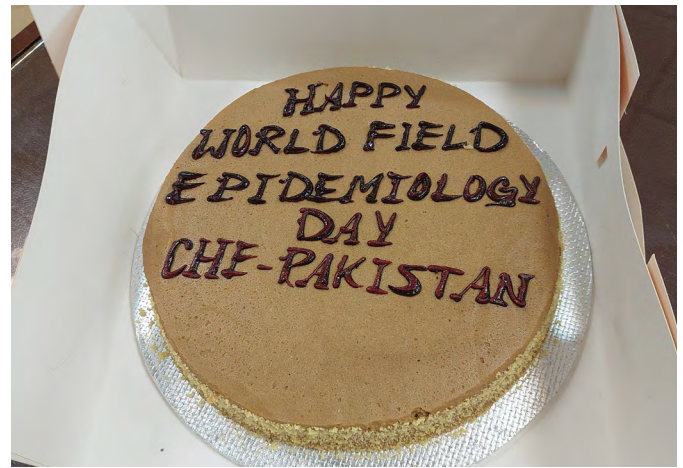
**WORLD FIELD
EPIDEMIOLOGY DAY**
7 SEPTEMBER

A health threat
ANYWHERE
is a health threat
EVERYWHERE.

Pakistan FELTP

On September 7, 2022, Pakistan Field Epidemiology & Laboratory Training program (Pakistan FELTP) held a “Public health Talk on the frontline response at the Points of Entry across Pakistan”.

This event was organized by Dr. Nadia Noreen, a graduate of the Pakistan FELTP tenth Cohort, and the current Technical Public Health, and focal person for points of entry in Pakistan.



Yemen FETP

The Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program (Yemen FETP) celebrated WFED at the Yemen Ministry of Public Health and Population.

Launched by the Deputy Minister of Primary Health Care (PHC) and the Director General for Disease Control and Surveillance, this event saw 100 attendees representing FETP and Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) residents and graduates, as well as program directors.

During the event, the YFETP Director presented the program’s achievements, progress, and challenges during the past decade. Afterwards, an FETP graduate gave a presentation on his planned study for YFETP Advanced cohort evaluation. The meeting ended with a discussion session on YFETP sustainability and recommendations.



EMPHNET Celebrates Field Epidemiologists on WFED

In recognition of World Field Epidemiology Day, and to further highlight the impact FETPs have on public health in their respective countries, EMPHNET will be holding a special webinar within the EMPHNET WEBi Series titled “The Role of Field Epidemiologists in Advancing Public Health Practice”.

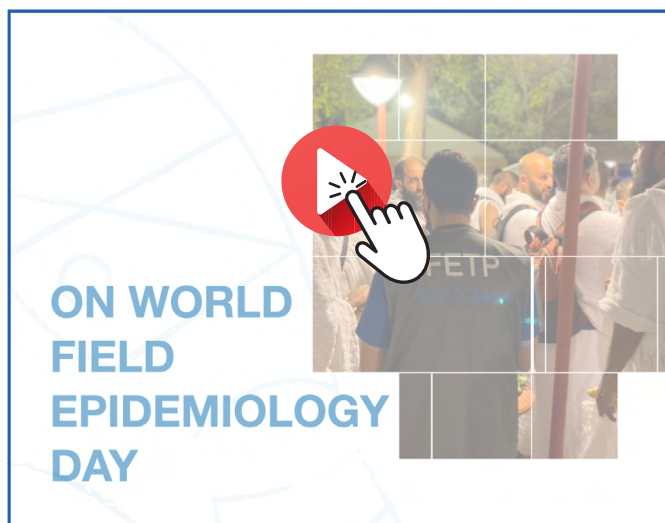
This webinar is scheduled to be on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, and will bring together field epidemiologists to raise awareness of the impact field epidemiology has on people’s health. It will also showcase the lessons learned from FETP residents and graduates’ roles as front-line responders to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stay tuned for the announcement and the registration link.

Additionally, as the region’s network of FETP’s, GHD|EMPHNET celebrated Field Epidemiologists on World Field Epidemiology Day on September 7 by posting a video containing Photos of the EMR regions’ FETP residents and graduates in the field.

While attending the 11th TEPHINET Global Scientific Conference. Members of GHD|EMPHNET along with other conference participants celebrated World Field Epidemiology Day.

Click on the below picture to watch the video.



Other Resources

- [WFED | WFED \(worldfieldepidemiologyday.org\)](https://worldfieldepidemiologyday.org)
- [Save the Date: World Field Epidemiology Day 2021 | TEPHINET](#)
- [World Field Epidemiology Day | TEPHINET](#)

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. Serving as a collaborative platform, GHD|EMPHNET is dedicated to serving the region by supporting efforts to promote public health policies, strategic planning, sustainable financing, resource mobilization, public health programs, and other related services.