



EMPHNET
The Eastern Mediterranean
Public Health Network

ONE HEALTH

► GHD | EMPHNET: working together for better health



OUR APPROACH



Inclusive Participation

Empowering communities as co-creators in One Health interventions by integrating their perspectives and knowledge in design, implementation, and monitoring.



Workforce Development

Strengthening One Health capacities across human, animal, and environmental health sectors through targeted training, including rapid response and biorisk management programs delivered in diverse settings.



Cross-sectoral Coordination and Communication

Establishing effective mechanisms that foster collaboration and information exchange between sectors for joint planning and action.



Operational Guidance Grounded in Field Realities

Drawing from regional experience to develop practical tools and frameworks tailored to local contexts.



Evidence to Action

Translating research, field insights, and grey literature into concrete, context-specific recommendations to advance sustainable One Health practices.



WHY EMPHNET IS INVOLVED



The global health community increasingly recognizes the inseparable link between human, animal, and environmental health and it asserts the necessity to prioritize One Health as an effective approach for tackling inherently connected health threats.



Translating One Health into practice faces many technical, coordinative, collaborative, and institutional hurdles at global, national, and subnational levels (One Health Joint Plan of Action).



In the EMR, home to several LMICs, there is a critical need for effective One Health implementation to combat endemic health issues (Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, 2022)



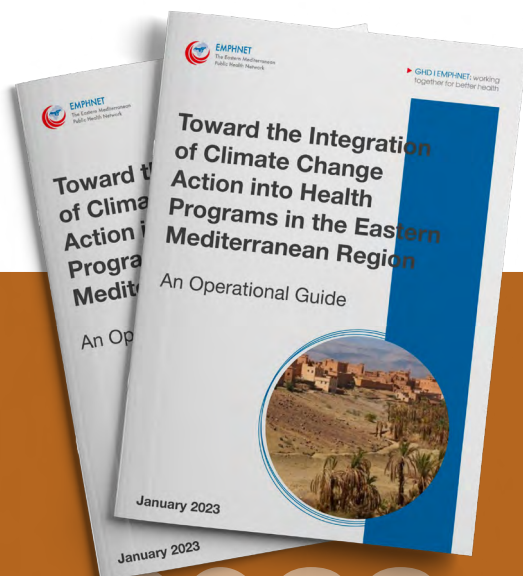
One Health implementation challenges are particularly pronounced in LMICs, which, ironically, are grappling with the very public health issues that most urgently demand a One Health approach (Yopa et al., 2023). Challenges cited include insufficient funding, a lack of trained workforce, absent or unsatisfactory multi-sectoral communication and coordination, and the absence of standardized frameworks to facilitate operationalization (Rai et al, 2024).



STARTING WITH THE FOUNDATIONS: SUPPORTING ONE HEALTH GOVERNANCE

EMPHNET is supporting the development of One Health governance by laying foundational structures and offering recommendations that address implementation barriers and recommend implementation enablers. This includes strengthening all components of the governance architecture, namely coordination, collaboration, regular communication, and capacity building, while also supporting enabling factors such as regulatory frameworks, existing capacities, and knowledge resources.

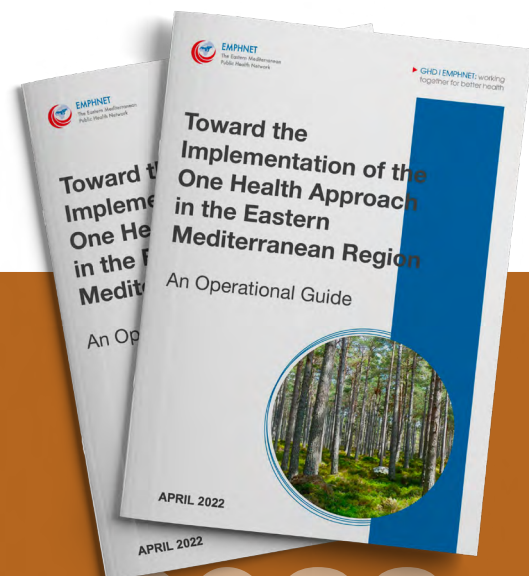
GUIDES LAUNCHED IN SUPPORT OF ONE HEALTH OPERATIONALIZATION IN THE REGION



2022

? What It Offers

- Identifies regional and international players in the climate–health space to build partnerships and synergies.
- Outlines a strategic approach for collaboration with partners and policy actors on climate–health integration.
- Details action steps to help local authorities and field partners reduce health vulnerabilities from climate change.



2023

? What It Offers

- Guides on strengthening governance, legal, and policy frameworks
- Advises on enhancing coordination, communication, and collaboration
- Directs on the development of institutional and workforce capacity
- Facilitates the establishment of regional data-sharing platforms
- Outlines approaches to risk communication, BCC, and community engagement



ILLUSTRATIVE FIGURES FROM EMPHNET GUIDES:

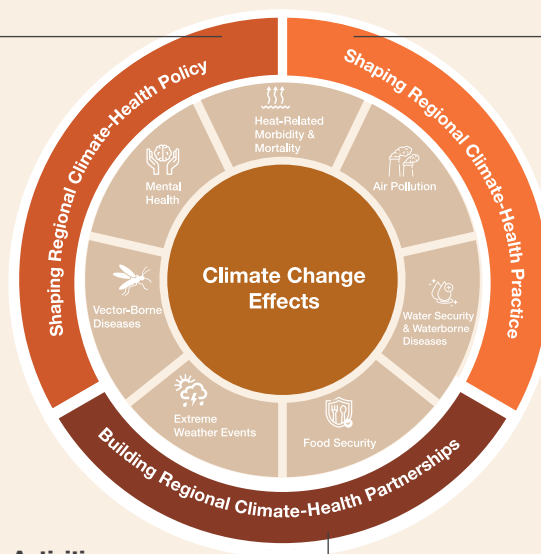


- **Governance, Legal Framework**
- **Coordination, Communication, Collaboration**
- **Capacity Building on One Health**
- **Data Sharing and Exchange**
- **Risk Communication, BCC, Community Engagement**

[The EMPHNET Guide on Operationalization of the One Health Approach in the EMR](#) provides practical insights to support countries in translating the One Health concept into action.

Activities

- Support clear public health strategies within National Adaptation Plans
- Support the creation of working groups for interdisciplinary coordination of responses to climate-health risks
- Provide technical support to update policies and guidelines to incorporate emergency contingency measures for climate risks
- Support the development of new funding channels for climate-health integration



Activities

- Support the development and practical application of integrated surveillance and climate-health early warning systems
- Support launching and adapting health projects which directly target the health impacts of climate change
- Support healthcare facilities boosting climate resilience, increasing environmental sustainability, and advancing carbon neutrality
- Support initiatives which build health workforce capacity to respond to climate-related events
- Support rapid responsiveness to emerging health needs in displacement contexts

Activities

- Increase partnerships at the regional and national levels coupled with ongoing efforts to collaborate with national entities

[The EMPHNET Guide on Climate Change](#) outlines the health effects of climate change and recommends actions to strengthen climate-health integration in the EMR.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ONE HEALTH GOVERNANCE BEYOND THE REGION



Supporting The Partnership for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Excellence (PARSE)

In 2020, EMPHNET joined a multi-regional and multi-country collaboration to assess Antimicrobial Resistance surveillance capacities across four regions: East and Southern Africa, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and West Africa.

EMPHNET's Role in Support of PARSE Southeast Asia

- Supported the development of common protocols and SOPs for AMR surveillance by mapping and assessing capacities in **Afghanistan**.
- Provided feedback to **Pakistan** and **Bhutan** in the process of drafting their proposed protocols and SOPs.



BEYOND THE THEORY: EMPHNET IMPLEMENTING ONE HEALTH ON THE GROUND

EMPHNET is among the early pioneers in implementing the One Health approach, with documented impact at the ground level. Its work is anchored in strong engagement with regional stakeholders, while remaining aligned with and informed by global health priorities. This dual perspective has enabled EMPHNET to advance actions that are both science-based and locally relevant.

EMPHNET IN ONE HEALTH IMPLEMENTATION: CONTRIBUTIONS AT A GLANCE



Established **coordination and communication protocols** between the human and animal health sectors.



Promoted **knowledge sharing and joint capacity building** across sectors



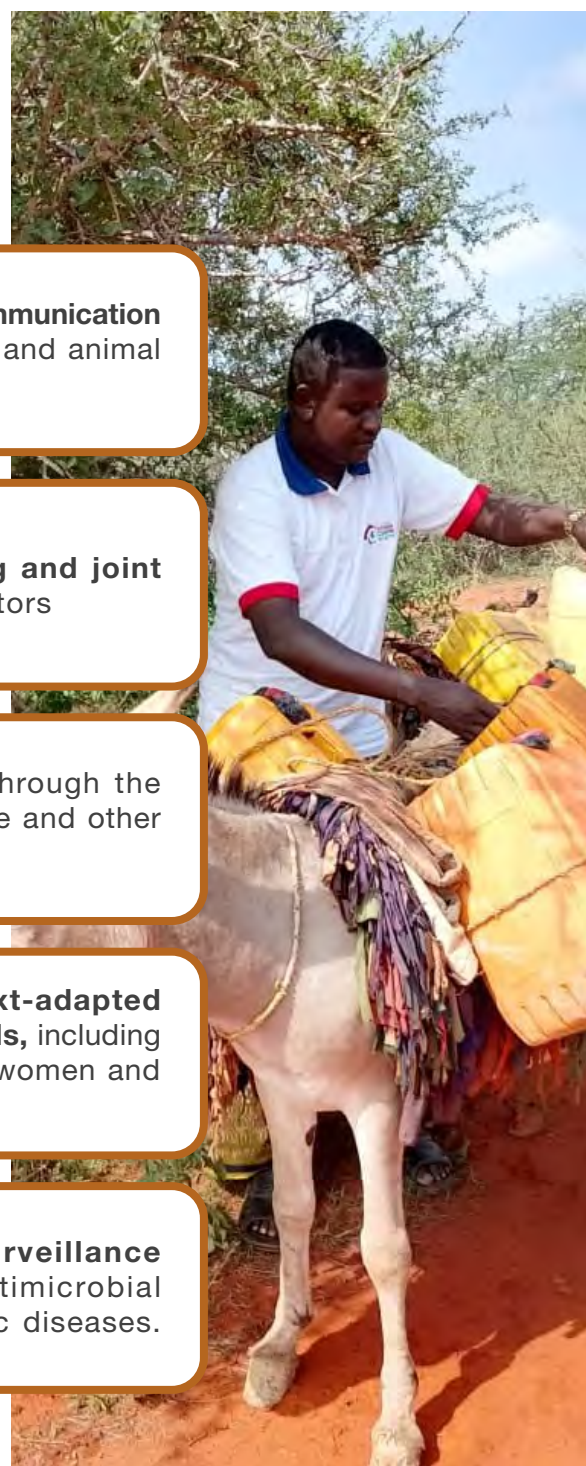
Fostered **regional dialogue** through the EMPHNET Regional Conference and other high-level forums.



Introduced **innovative, context-adapted community engagement models**, including those emphasizing the role of women and households.



Strengthened One Health **surveillance systems**, particularly for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and zoonotic diseases.





SURVEILLANCE

EMPHNET supports national efforts to strengthen surveillance systems by building the capacities of relevant personnel, introducing diagnostic tests, and providing logistical and technological support. These efforts aim to improve the quality and timeliness of data sharing across sectors, ensuring coordinated action and informed decision-making on One Health priorities such as zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and other shared threats.

What We Have Done



BANGLADESH



Focus: AMR in farms



Rationale: Important for both animal and human health; understanding is key to resolving the issue for both.



Surveillance Type: Risk-based



BANGLADESH



Focus: Anthrax



Rationale: Detecting anthrax in only animals or only humans is insufficient due to cross-species transmission.



Surveillance Type: Passive



BANGLADESH



Focus: *Burkholderia pseudomallei*



Rationale: Introducing environmental surveillance to trace the bacterial source.



Surveillance Type: Environmental



JORDAN



Focus: Brucellosis



Rationale: Using PCR and ELISA methods to improve diagnostic sensitivity.



Surveillance Type: Lab-based (genotyping)



IRAQ



Focus: Brucellosis



Rationale: Using PCR and ELISA methods to improve diagnostic sensitivity.



Surveillance Type: Incidence estimation



PAKISTAN



Focus: Brucellosis



Rationale: Expanding surveillance to estimate the true burden of animal brucellosis.



Surveillance Type: Animal-based sentinel surveillance



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

EMPHNET engages closely with community members, particularly those in rural areas who are among the most vulnerable to changes in environmental and animal health. It believes that these communities and their networks are vital to operationalizing One Health approaches on the ground. By building on these local structures, EMPHNET ensures that its interventions are both community-driven and sustainable.

FEMALE COMMUNITY MEMBERS LEAD CAMPAIGN AGAINST ONCHOCERCIASIS IN YEMEN

What Was Done

- ✓ **Mass Drug Administration (MDA)** of ivermectin at household levels in endemic districts
- ✓ Supported **house-to-house mobilization for Ivermectin distribution** at household level
- ✓ Emphasis on **female community volunteers**
- ✓ Community engagement through **health education** to increase reach and trust and off

Impact

2,230,473

Administered tablets

8

Governorates targeted

290,261

Referral cards distributed

1,000

Female volunteers

340

Patients accepted for treatment

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS LEAD MOSQUITO BREEDING CONTROL AGAINST MALARIA IN SUDAN

What Was Done

- ✓ Launched the **Volunteers for Vector Control (V4V)** initiative in Kassala, Sudan.
- ✓ **Trained 300 local volunteers** to apply Larval Source Management (LSM).
- ✓ Developed **indoor mosquito control guidelines** for household use.
- ✓ Designed a **digital reporting tool** for real-time data collection and communication.
- ✓ Engaged communities through **household-level mosquito control**.

Impact

Promoted **Larval Source Management (LSM)** as a low-cost, sustainable intervention.

Integrated **local health authorities** into project planning and oversight.

Encouraged **community ownership** and sustainability through volunteer-led models.

Ensured **real-time monitoring** using digital tools to support data-driven decisions.



WORKFORCE CAPACITY BUILDING

As a relatively underdeveloped discipline in the region, One Health faces several challenges, including limited training opportunities. EMPHNET is addressing this gap by expanding its training efforts, while also working to strengthen One Health training curricula and frameworks. This dual approach ensures that the growing trained workforce can be effectively integrated and engaged where their expertise is most needed.



FETP Integration

Integrating One Health into Field Epidemiology Training Programs curricula, developing specialized tracks, and designing targeted training modules.



Curriculum Development

Co-developing the *Regional Curriculum Framework for One Health Professional Training Program* to unify training standards across the region.

BUILDING A COMPETENT ONE HEALTH WORKFORCE



RRT Customization with One Health Focus

Adapting rapid response team training to include multisectoral outbreak investigation and response.



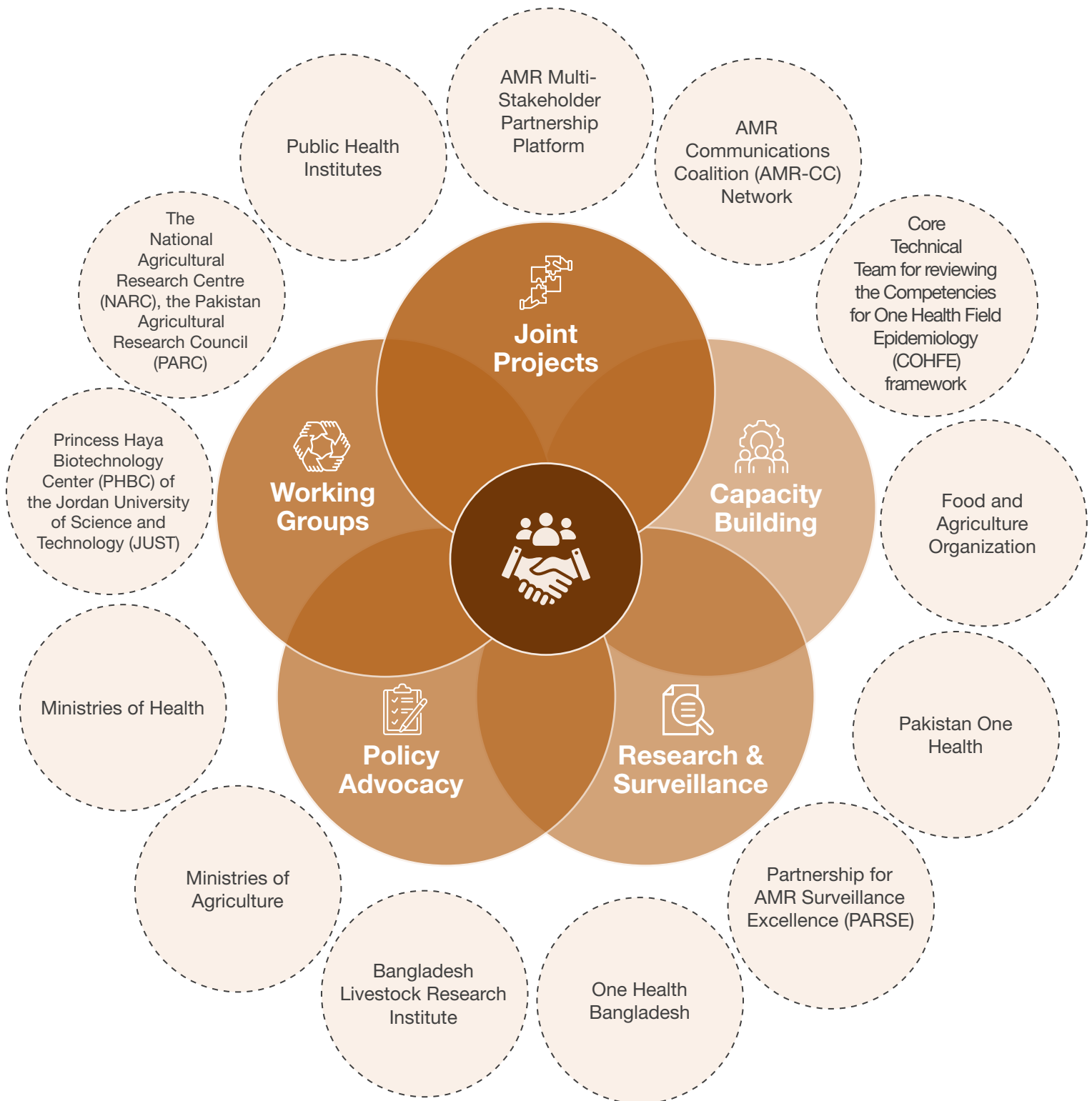
Community of Practice

Fostering synergies within FETPs to build a One Health Community of Practice in several EMR countries.



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

At its core, the One Health approach requires meaningful engagement with stakeholders across sectors. EMPHNET ensures this engagement happens not only at the national level, but also regionally and internationally. Through these connections, EMPHNET facilitates the exchange of experiences, informs global directions, promotes context-specific solutions, and contributes to the success of One Health implementation.





WORKING TOGETHER FOR BETTER HEALTH.



EMPHNET

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JOIN THE CONVERSATION



GHD|EMPHNET: Working Together for Better Health

The Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) is a regional network that focuses on strengthening public health systems in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) and beyond. EMPHNET works in partnership with ministries of health, non-government organizations, international agencies, private sector, and relevant institutions from the region and the globe to promote public health and applied epidemiology. To advance the work of EMPHNET, Global Health Development (GHD) was initiated to build coordination mechanisms with partners and collaborators. Together, 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 areas.

► Shmeisani, Abdallah Ben Abbas Street, Building No 42,
P.O.Box: 963709, Postal Code: 11196 Amman, Jordan

► Tel: +962-6-5519962
Fax: +962-6-5519963

► www.emphnet.net
info@emphnet.net