



Issue 1 : A Special Issue Covering January to December 2019

# FETP Voice

A Quarterly Newsletter Dedicated to the Achievement of Field  
Epidemiology Training Programs Across the EMR

## Editor's Letter

Dear Reader,  
Happy New Year!

On behalf of the GHD/EMPHNET family, we hope that this year brings with it new achievements, new reasons to celebrate, and good tidings for you all. We are very happy to start off this year by presenting to you the first issue of our FETP Newsletter series. This newsletter series was issued as a reflection of the pride we feel towards our region's country programs, as we believe that the monumental work done by FETPs in the region is worth highlighting and learning from. In fact, this newsletter is a testimony of the hard work and dedication of FETP residents and graduates across the EMR.

In this newsletter we dedicate sections for the news of different country programs, and we also feature the cholera outbreak in Yemen. Furthermore, we highlight the presence of FETPs in conferences, and we feature different success stories from different countries. We also dedicate a section to our region's contributions to the TEPHINET global conference, and on a lighter note we present you with quizzes and challenges designed to test your knowledge.

We hope that you find in this issue a valuable reading experience and that the articles it features serve as a source of knowledge for you all.

We do welcome your feedback and comments regarding the content you read, as this is your publication and we want to respond to your needs.

Wishing you further success and growth  
Happy Reading

## In This Issue

The Cholera Outbreak, an On-  
going Challenge in Yemen

The Morocco Field Epidemiology Training Program and Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programs Gain Accreditation

Tunisia Field Epidemiology Training Program Integrates the Use of Technology

EMR Makes Notable Presence at the TEPHINET 10th Global Scientific Conference





## Feature Story

### The Cholera Outbreak , an Ongoing Challenge

As of December 2019, and according to the European Center for Disease Control and Prevention ( ECDC), Yemen reported 2 226 610 suspected Cholera cases and 3761 deaths. These figures deem it one of the countries reporting the largest increase in number of reported Cholera cases when compared to others.

#### The Numbers

The Yemen Cholera outbreak was first announced in early October 2016, and by January 2017 the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (WHO EMRO) considered the outbreak to be unusual in its rapid and wide geographical spread.

According to the WHO, the earliest cases were predominantly in the capital, Sana'a, with some occurring in Aden. However, by mid-December that year, 135 districts of 15 governorates had reported suspected cases, but nearly two-thirds were confined to Aden, Al-Bayda, Al-Hudaydah and Taiz. By mid-January 2017, 80% of the Cholera cases were located in 28 districts and the number had been on the rise ever since.

UNICEF and WHO attributed the causes of the outbreak to malnutrition, as well as collapsing sanitation and the lack of availability of clean water systems. The country's ongoing con-

flict, and the resulting displacement of people make masses subject to lack of adequate food, water, housing or sanitation. Such shortages have been made worse by naval and air blockades, whereby bombing has damaged, health-care, water and sanitation infrastructure.

A vaccination program was not introduced in Yemen until more than a million people were ill, according to the WHO. The International Coordinating Group on Vaccine Provision, which maintains vaccine stockpiles for Cholera, announced a plan in June 2017 to send one million doses of oral Cholera vaccine (OCV) to Yemen, but that plan stalled and it wasn't until May 2018 that the first oral Cholera vaccine campaign in Yemen was launched. At that point, the WHO and UNICEF delivered oral vaccines to 540,000 individuals by August 2018.

According to the WHO, in July 2019, the Ministry of Public Health and Population of Yemen reported 19,459 suspected cases of Cholera with 11 associated deaths that month.

The cumulative total number of suspected Cholera cases from 1 January 2018 to 21 July 2019 was recorded to be 885,982, with 1259 associated deaths. Within these figures, the children under five represent 24.2 % of total suspected cases reported that year.

By the end of 2019, the outbreak affected 22 of 23 governorates and 301 of 333 districts in Yemen. From week 8 of 2019, reported suspected cholera cases started increasing, thus reaching more than 29500 cases in week 14. The number of cases increased further with the start of rain season i.e. week 23 of the year. However, since week 27, less cases were reported every week.

The governorates reporting the highest number of suspected cases of Cholera during 2019 were Amanat Al Asimah (76408), Sana'a (62598), Al Hudaydah (61746), Hajjah (49152), Ibb (46184), Dhamar (45181) and Arman (35952).

### Efforts Made by the Field Epidemiology Program in Yemen (Y-FETP)

Throughout this crisis, the Y-FETP has been contributing to efforts made to alleviate the Cholera outbreak effects.

In an outbreak investigation it made in November 2019 in the Mayfa Ans District, Dhamar Governorate, Yemen, the team confirmed that a total of 16 cases met the case definition, 62% of these cases were females. The overall attack rate was 2.2 /10,000. Furthermore, it identified the risk factors to be poor latrine status, contact with other infected persons, and eating uncleaned guava fruit. The team also announced that poor sanitation, personal hygiene and contaminated food were other risks factors contributing to the outbreak. To reduce the effects of such factors, the team also recommended an extensive effort to be made towards increasing the community awareness towards hand washing, personal

hygiene, chlorination of water and washing fruits before consumption.

On a wider scale, the team is also investigating the impact of awareness promotion among cholera patients and their households contacts. Within this investigation, a total of 704,235-suspected cases and 915 deaths were reported from January 1 to October 4, 2019.

This study looks at these cases to determine the impact of Cholera awareness promotion on knowledge of Cholera transmission and prevention, handwashing practices, and incidence of symptomatic Cholera infection.

For its implementation, a Randomized Controlled Trial will be conducted among all patients complaining from acute watery diarrhea (three or more times within 24 hours) who attend at health facilities in Al Hudaydah City and their households contact during the period from October to December 2019. Report findings and recommendations will be presented to Diarrhea Control Program, National Center of Health Education and Communication, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, and to include the Cholera awareness promotion – as low-cost intervention for prevention and control of Cholera.

### The Verdict

Efforts on several fronts continue to be made towards reducing the impact of the Cholera outbreak, with hopes of its effects to subside in the coming year. However, work needs to be done towards increasing people's awareness on how to reduce their risks of contracting the disease.

“We live in a world at constant risk of public health emergencies. In our increasingly interconnected world, public health emergencies can affect anyone, anywhere”

*Tedros Adhanom*







**THE FETP HALL  
OF FAME**

## The FETP Hall of Fame

Country Programs congratulate the following residents

- **We congratulate from Afghanistan** Dr Bahara Rasooly, Dr Malik Mihraban, Mr Mohsen Hassanyar, Ms Marizia Mohmand, Ms Humaira Nesaht, Dr. Fazil Rabi Isaqzai, and Dr Shukour Nasimi for submitting an award-winning abstract to the Kabul FMIC Scientific Conference held in August 2019.
- **We congratulate from Egypt** Dr. Hesham Magdy, Dr. Hala BahaaEldin, and Dr. Saly Wagdy Attia for presenting abstracts that were presented at TEPHINET's 10th Global Scientific Conference held in Atlanta in October 2019. We also congratulate Dr. Rania Attia for winning fourth place at the conference photo contest. From another angle, we congratulate Dr. Manal Fahim, Dr. Shereen Elghazaly and Dr. Hend Elshaikh for presenting their abstracts in the 2nd EMARIS Scientific Conference held in Morocco in November 2019. Finally, we commend Dr. Heba Ahmad for having her poster presentation being selected amongst the top five in the same event.
- **We congratulate from Jordan** Dr. Sa'ed Assaf for presenting one of two oral presentations at the 68th Annual Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Conference in Atlanta last April 2019. We also congratulate Dr. Rakan Aburoman, Dr. Mohammad Alhawarat, and Dr. Nansi Abdulrahim for presenting their abstracts at the TEPHINET 10th Scientific Global Conference.
- **We congratulate from KSA** Dr. Fatma AlGhawi for winning the Best Poster Award at the 2nd conference taking place in November 2019 and Dr. Nada AlGhawi for being one of the top five oral presenters at the same event.
- **We congratulate from Pakistan** Dr. Munaza Fatima for receiving an award for best poster presentation at the 68th Annual Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Conference in Atlanta last April 2019 and Dr. Sanam Rehan for winning third place at the TEPHINET 10th Global scientific Conference held in Atlanta in October, and finally Dr. Mohammad Bashir for winning second place in the same contest.

**Congratulations for a year  
of achievements !**



# **COUNTRY PROGRAM NEWS**



## Country Program News

### Congratulations for Graduating in 2019 !

Different country programs celebrated their graduations this year

#### The Egypt Field Epidemiology Training Program Celebrates the Graduation of Cohort 19

On February 4, 2019, the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) celebrated the graduation of Egypt Field Epidemiology Training Program Cohort 19. The ceremony concluded with the graduation and recognition of 21 epidemiologists who were named FETP graduates after fulfilling all their graduation requirements. Chief of Preventive Sector – MoHP Dr. Alaa Eid, Head of Preventive Sector Technical Office – MoHP Dr. Mohamad Abd El-Fattah, General Director of Epidemiology and Surveillance Department- MoHP Dr. Hanaa Abu Elsood, and Field Epidemiology Training Program Coordinator- MoHP Dr. Sahar Samy were in attendance. In a speech he gave to the attendees, Dr. Alaa Eid commended the program for its contributions and active presence during any public health event. Addressing the graduates, Dr. Eid emphasized the importance of not only gaining knowledge but also sharing it by serving as mentors for future cohorts. The graduates will move on to work in the MoHP where they will be responsible for responding to outbreaks and other health events. They will work to compile surveillance data of communicable and non-communicable diseases, and train other residents.

#### The Egypt Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP-BFE ) Graduates Present Their Achievements

Also last January, a two-day workshop was held in Cairo during which graduates of Cohorts 1 and 2 at national, intermediate, and local levels of the Public Health Empowerment Program-Basic Field Epidemiology (PHEP-BFE) presented their achievements. Their presentations highlighted their impact on the improvement of surveillance reporting as well as their contributions and responses to the investigation of outbreaks and public health events. They also presented the improvement in the quality of surveillance data and reporting timeliness overtime and especially after their graduation in the presence of leaders from the Ministry of Health and program Mentors. The goal of this workshop was to keep the program sustainable and to engage the participants after their graduation for future cohorts.

#### The Jordan Field Epidemiology Training Program Holds Graduation for Cohorts 12 and 13

The Jordan Field Epidemiology Training Program celebrated the graduation of Cohorts 12 and 13 on June 19, 2019. The ceremony witnessed the graduation of 13 residents, all of whom have successfully completed the requirements of the two-year program.



### The Tunisia Field Epidemiology Training Program Graduates Second Cohort

Under the patronage of H.E. the Minister of Public Health in Tunisia Dr. Sonia Ben Cheikh, the graduation ceremony of the second cohort of Tunisia's Field Epidemiology Training Program (T-FETP) took place in Tunis in October 2019. The National Observatory for Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases (ONMNE) held the event on behalf of the Tunisian Ministry of Public Health (MoH). The ceremony was attended by, the Director of the Primary Health Care Dr Chokri Hamouda, the President of the Virtual University of Tunis Dr Mahjoub Aouni, the General Director of ONMNE and Firector of the T-FETP Program Dr. Nissaf Ben Alaya, and Executive Director of GHD/EMPHNET Dr. Mohannad Al-Nsour who also presided the ceremony. The second cohort

of this program comprised ten physicians and five veterinarians working in regional and central surveillance units at the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture.

The T-FETP is a one-year program where residents enroll in five modules that focus on surveillance of public health, outbreak investigation, priority diseases and one health approach, complex emergency situations and biosecurity issues, and research methodology. Each module is followed by a field activity. Targeting seven governorates, this cohort also sat through a two-day evaluation of portfolios workshop prior to the formal graduation ceremony. During this session, participants presented their main field activities in the presence of mentors and program directors and scientific coordinators.

## Are you on EpiShares ?

If you answered with a no, then we invite you to join the growing public health networking platform and interact with Public Health Professionals from the EMR and beyond. To create an account, go to :

[www.epishares.net](http://www.epishares.net)

and hit sign up !







## FETPs Make Notable Achievements in the Area of Training

### Updates from the Afghanistan Field Epidemiology Training Program

#### Afghanistan Field Epidemiology Training Program Conducts Mentorship Workshop

The Afghanistan Field Epidemiology Training Program conducted a mentorship workshop in Amman, Jordan between January 25 and 31, 2019 in which 20 mentors from the Central Ministry of Public Health, medical universities and provincial offices attended. Additionally, five key

members of the Field Epidemiology Training Program steering committee including ex-deputy minister and senior advisor to H.E. the Minister of Public Health also participated. The aim of this workshop was to train the potential mentors set to serve the Afghanistan program. The workshop covered the concept of mentorship in didactic as well as field training.

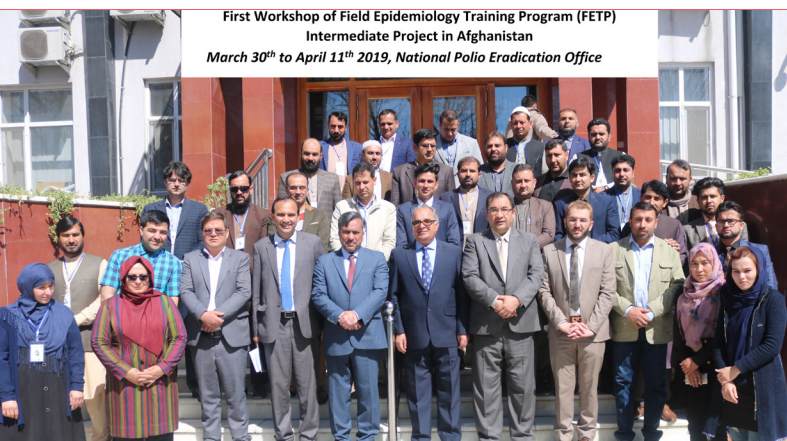


#### Afghanistan Field Epidemiology Training Program Conducts Screening Workshop for Cohort One Candidates

The Afghanistan Field Epidemiology Training Program organized and conducted a five-day screening workshop in February 2019. The objective was to select most eligible, relevant and committed participants to be enrolled in Cohort One of the new intermediate program. Furthermore, the workshop aimed to build the capacity of participants on concepts of public health,

epidemiology, outbreak investigations, National Diseases Surveillance and Response (NDSR) and AFP Surveillance, management of surveillance data, problem analysis and quality of data. Forty-One participants attended the workshop from 15 provinces as well as Kabul. The workshop was facilitated by local experts, and it ended with a comprehensive evaluation of various skills of trainees including experience and background, learning and knowledge, English, computer and communication skills and participation in class.





### Afghanistan Field Epidemiology Training Program Conducts its First Workshop

The First Workshop of the Afghanistan Field Epidemiology Training Program brought together the program's first 30 intermediate residents from 12 provinces and Kabul. Its sessions highlighted public health surveillance, outbreak investigations, epidemiological concepts, the role of laboratory in field investigation of outbreaks, as well as a few concepts related to

AFP surveillance and the expanded program on immunization (EPI) in Afghanistan. Residents were given a chance to think of their long and short-term project and to present their thought of potential assignment in the class. From another angle, they were also introduced to their mentors. The learning and knowledge of trainees was assessed using daily quizzes and pre and posttest. This workshop was held between March 30 and April 11, 2019.



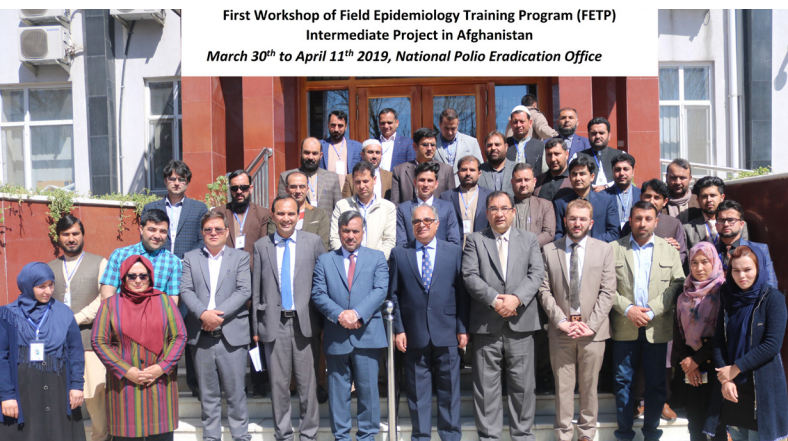
### Afghanistan Field Epidemiology Training Program Conducts its Second Workshop

The Afghanistan Field Epidemiology Training Program conducted its second workshop in Kabul. The workshop sessions shed light on study designs, surveys, measures of associations, epi info, Open Epi, statistical analysis, tests of significance, bias and confounding. Residents also learned about measures of validity, sample size, sam-

pling strategies, protocol development and a few concepts of data quality in EPI and vaccine preventable diseases. Students were given chance to share the results of their field assignment. All 30 students presented their findings in front of class. The learning aspects of trainees were assessed using daily quizzes, home assignments and pre and posttest. The workshop was held in June and July 2019.



First Workshop of Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)  
Intermediate Project in Afghanistan  
March 30<sup>th</sup> to April 11<sup>th</sup> 2019, National Polio Eradication Office



### Afghanistan Field Epidemiology Training Program Conducts its Third Workshop

The third workshop conducted by the program included didactic and practical sessions on main topics including comprehensive review of second workshop, basics of management, conflict and time management, communication to technical and nontechnical audiences, writing abstracts,

executive summaries and brief reports. The workshop also covered the main components of a literature review, teaching and mentoring and one session on immunization. As part of the workshop's proceedings, residents were put in groups, and the group developed presentations and delivered them in front of class. This training took place in August 2019.



### Afghanistan Field Epidemiology Training Program Conducts its Fourth Workshop

Residents of the Afghanistan Field Epidemiology Training Program attended their fourth workshop. The workshop focused on management and analysis of data in Epi Info v.7. It shed light on aspects of data entry, data cleaning, management and analysis. Partici-

pants presented their field work in front of their colleagues. Data was also collected for a group project on child immunization in 12 high risk provinces for polio. Sufficient technical support was provided to them for further analysis and development of reports. This workshop took place in the month of November 2019.

## Updates from the Egypt Field Epidemiology Training Program

### Egypt Field Epidemiology Training Program Residents Sit for Peer Review Seminar and Mid-Course Exam

In January 2019, a peer review seminar and Mid-Course Exam were conducted in Cairo where 21 residents forming Cohort 20 defended their study proposals. The workshop helped residents in refining their study methodology and identifying further steps in their research projects. Public health professionals

in attendance provided guidance to participants. At the end of this workshop, 21 residents took the mid-course exam. The exam included multiple-choice questions (MCQ) as well as short essay questions covering the surveillance, outbreak investigation, basic biostatistics, and research methodology modules. The exam questions were designed to assess the resident's problem-solving skills in the field of epidemiology.

### Cohort 20 Residents Sit for Advanced Biostatistics Course

On March 17, 2019, an Advanced Biostatistics workshop was held in Cairo for the residents of Cohort 20. The goal of this workshop was to provide residents with the knowledge and skills of basic statistical methods used in epidemiology and to understand the concept of Statistical Inference. This workshop was conducted in col-

laboration with the Public Health Department of Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University. Upon workshop completion, residents were able to read, interpret, and critically evaluate statistical findings in different epidemiological studies. Residents also presented their progress regarding the methodology and data collection tools that they were working on for their study projects.

### Cohort 20 Residents Sit for Peer-review Seminar for Abstract Submission to the 10th TEPHINET Global Scientific Conference

Egypt Field Epidemiology Training Program Residents sat for a two-day workshop last May to review abstracts to be submitted for the 10th TE-

PHINET Global Scientific Conference. At the end of this workshop, the best four abstracts were selected for submission based upon the following criteria: relevance of abstract topic for the conference, and whether or not the abstract has a well-defined structure.

### The Egypt Field Epidemiology Training Program Holds Mentorship Workshop

In May 2019, a two-day Mentorship Workshop was held for FETP and PHEP mentors as well as fresh graduates of Cohort 19. The workshop highlighted the program's goals and objectives. It also provided mentors with the knowledge and tools they need to maintain a successful men-

toring relationship with residents. The sessions also served to clearly define the role of mentors and mentees, while also providing the constructive feedback needed to develop a new generation of mentors. The workshop also provided a constructive space for mentors to discuss current challenges they are facing and to discuss possible solutions.

### Cohort 20 Residents Sit for Scientific Writing Workshop

Egypt FETP residents sat for a Scientific Writing Workshop in Cairo last June. The goal of this workshop was to provide residents with the knowledge and skills they need to submit grant proposals and publish their research projects

in high-impact journals. The workshop sessions focused on the goals of effective scientific writing, basic principles of scientific writing, protocol development, ethics in research authorship and plagiarism, the format of a scientific paper, oral and poster presentation preparation, while also providing resources for improving writing skills.



### **Egypt Field Epidemiology Training Program Holds Screening Workshop for Cohort 21**

A screening workshop was conducted in Cairo to select FETP residents for its 21st Cohort. The objective of this workshop was to identify and select the most eligible, relevant and committed participants to be enrolled in the program. Furthermore, the workshop aimed to build the capacity of participants on concepts of Public Health, Epidemiology, Outbreak Investigations, and Diseases Surveillance. The workshop consisted of both theoretical and practical sessions to support each other in terms of learning as

well as ice-breaking sessions. In total, 25 participants attended the workshop: 10 are working at the central level of MoHP and 15 at intermediate and local levels. The workshop was facilitated by Public Health Professionals from MoHP, CDC and WHO as well as program graduates. To select the most eligible participants, a comprehensive evaluation of trainees' willingness to learn, as well as their knowledge, English level, computer and communication skills and active participation in the class was conducted. The residents of this cohort were selected and there is a plan to conduct the first workshop very soon.

### **Cohort 20 Residents Sit for a Data Management Workshop**

A Data Management workshop was conducted last October. Through its sessions, residents understood when, where and why to use various statistical techniques as well as how to ap-

ply them, interpret their output, and graphically display the results. At the end of this course, residents shared the plan of their study projects. A review committee was invited to provide constructive comments to the residents regarding their presentations.

## **Updates from Jordan Field Epidemiology Training Program**

### **Jordan Field Epidemiology Training Program Holds Introductory Course for Residents of Cohort 16**

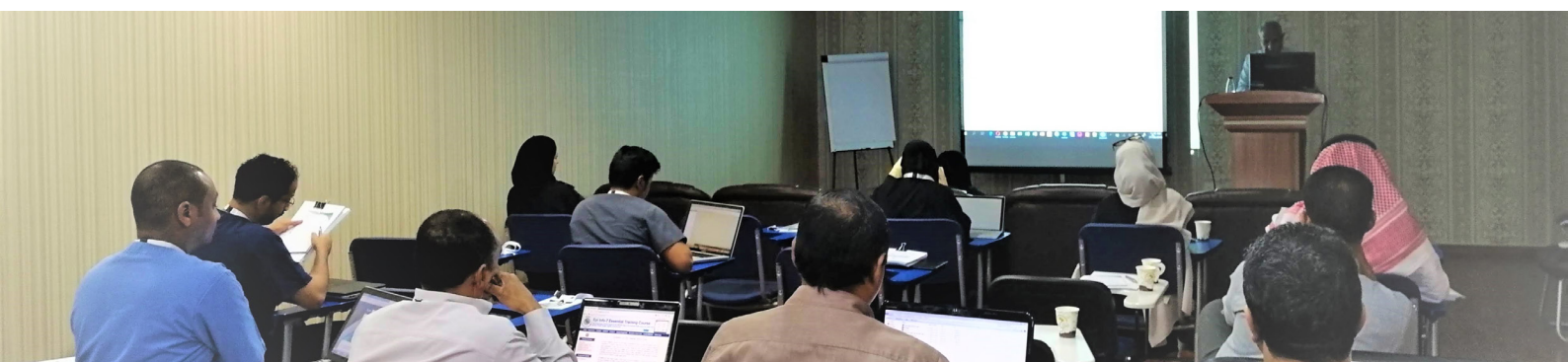
On May 1, 2019, the Jordan Field Epide-

miology Training Program held an introductory course for the residents of Cohort 16, preparing them for the training to come.

### **Jordan Field Epidemiology Program Holds Screening Course for Cohort 15**

An introductory course for Cohort 15 took place between October 1 and 8, 2019. At the end of this workshop, two females and six males were accepted into the program.

Their curriculum was introduced and prepared through consultation from the chief of Community Medicine Specialty at the Jordan Ministry of Health (MoH), trainers were then selected from both the MoH and the various Jordanian universities.



## **Updates from KSA Field Epidemiology Training Program**

### **Team Design Training Sessions for Advanced Training Course on Epi Info**

In March 2019 the public health program's officers and in particular surveillance officers sat for an advanced training session on the Epi-Info software. The course was conducted online with

detailed illustrated manual and mentor's assistance. The aim of this session was to encourage using such specialized software in public health day to day activities. The training team also visited Dammam city at the Eastern Region to train 20 participants over three days.

### The KSA Field Epidemiology Training Program Hosts Session on Work Stress

In order to address work stress encountered by program residents, the KSA Field Epidemiology Training Program invited an expert in this subject matter to discuss ways to improve residents' per-

formance. Held in April 2019, such a session was the first of its kind to be hosted by the program. The three-day workshop was attended by most involved staff members and residents. This session led to further considerations to include soft skills as part of the program's curriculum.



### The KSA Field Epidemiology Training Program Sits for Preventive Medicine Clinics Practice

The KSA Field Epidemiology Training Program submitted initiatives to improve performance in health delivery systems. One of the sound initiatives discussed was to add "Preventive Medicine Clinics" to selected primary health centers.

As part of preparation and prior to implantation, residents sat for a pilot three-day training workshop relevant to this subject matter. The workshop was attended by the potential public and preventive health physicians set to work in these clinics. Its sessions served as a general orientation. This session was held in August 2019.

### Residents Sit for Epidemiological Investigation and Response Session

The Saudi Arabian health system considers "Epidemiological investigation and response" a core and routine function of public health units at the regional level. There is a predictable need for strengthening the epidemiological and outbreak investigation skills of regional

public health staff. This is to enable them to efficiently conduct investigations and apply control measures. A standard three-day training course was conducted in Taif city, Taif health directory (Western Region). Held in September 2019, the course targeted staff working at public health programs, mainly those dealing with disease control.

### Program Hosts Session on Administrative Innovation Planning and Coordination in Organizations

Epidemiologists, beside their technical skills, need to be proficient and successful managers in their tasks and have their job well done. An expert in the subject matter conducted a three-day course in Riyadh attended on administrative

innovation planning and organizational coordination. The session saw 30 participants. It covered managerial basics; planning skills, communication skills, methods of leadership, problem solving, team building, and translating innovative ideas into action plans. This session was held in September 2019. As part of the program's curriculum.





## Updates from Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program

### **Eight Residents Complete One Health Fellowship at Duke University, North Carolina**

Between May 18 and June 8, 2019, a total of eight residents successfully completed the One Health Fellowship at the Duke University

in North Carolina, USA. They attended a three-week didactic session at the university campus and completed a set of research assignments as part of their training



### **Residents Conduct Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response Training in District Haripur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province**

Between the months of June and July 2019, the Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program in collaboration with Public Health England and the National Institute of Health conducted a training session on Integrated Dis-

ease Surveillance and Response in the Haripur District. The training was envisioned to improve the district's capacities in terms of surveillance and outbreak response. A total of 32 participants attended the training including medical officers, paramedics, data operators, public health specialists, district surveillance officers, clinicians and EPI surveillance officers.



**Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program Conducts Seminar on Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Prevention and Control in Quetta, Baluchistan**

The Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program in collaboration with Bolan University of Medical and Health Sciences Quetta, the National Institute of Health Pakistan, and

Department of Health, Baluchistan, conducted a one-day seminar on Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Prevention and Control. Taking place in Quetta, a total of 95 participants attended the workshop including technical experts from federal and provincial human health, animal health, environment departments and academia. of their training



**Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program CCHF Conducts Prevention and Control Training for Healthcare Providers in Baluchistan**

In collaboration with the WHO, the Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program conducted a training on prevention and control of CCHF. The training

targeted healthcare providers in Baluchistan. A total of 49 participants attended the training including district health officers, medical superintendents, medical officers, district CCHF focal persons, clinicians, isolation ward staff, nurses, paramedics and surveillance officers. This session took place in July 2019.





### **Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program Conducts Seminar on Anti-microbial Resistance and Infection Prevention and Control in Quetta, Baluchistan**

Also, in July 2019, the Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program in collaboration with the WHO, National Institute of Health and Department of Health, Baluchistan conducted an Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response

training workshop in Quetta, Baluchistan. The training served to improve the capacities in District Kech, Gwadar and Killa Abdullah in terms of surveillance and outbreak response. A total of 18 participants attended the training including medical officers, paramedics, data operators, public health specialists, district surveillance officers, clinicians and EPI surveillance officers.



### **Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program Conducts Two Rapid Response Team Training Sessions**

The Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program in collaboration with WHO, PPHI, National Institute of Health Pakistan and Department of Health, Baluchistan, conducted a Rapid Response Team training workshop in Quetta. The training was designed to increase outbreak response capacity within the district's health teams. A total of 24 participants attended the training including Medical Officers, Paramedics, Data Operators, Public Health Specialist, District Surveillance Officers, Clinicians, EPI Officers,

IDSR Focal Persons, District Health Officers, and Medical Superintendents. This training took place in July 2019.

In November 2019, the program collaborated with USAID, John Snow Inc, Contech International and Department of Health of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to conduct another Rapid Response Team training in Peshawar. The training was designed to increase outbreak response capacity of the district health teams. A total of 22 participants attended the training including medical officers, public health specialists, district surveillance officers, clinicians and EPI officers.



### Program Conducts Two-day Training on Laboratory Diagnosis of XDR Typhoid in, Quetta, Baluchistan

FELTP Pakistan in collaboration with WHO, PPHI, IPH, National Institute of Health Pakistan and Health Department Baluchistan conducted

a two-day workshop on Laboratory Diagnosis of XDR Typhoid. A total of 49 participants attended the training including pathologists, microbiologists, surveillance officers, professors, MPH students, lab specialists, lab technicians, and lab assistants.

### Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program implemented VHF Surveillance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province

In April 2019, a surveillance system for Viral Hemorrhagic Fever was designed and implement-

ed within the program, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Initially the surveillance mechanism was executed in five major hospitals with plans of expanding the coverage to secondary and primary care facilities in the future.

## Updates from Sudan Field Epidemiology Training Program

### Sudan Field Epidemiology Training Program Conduct TOT for Emergency Rapid Response

A one day Training of Trainers course was conducted last September by public health experts Prof. El Fatih El Samani, Prof. Haider Ab Ahmed and Prof. Hassan El Bushra to review the training materials for the Rapid Response Training course, discuss the methods of instruction for each ses-

sion (Lectures, group discussions, case study etc.) and discuss the activities to be conducted by trainees (field visits, assignments, presentations etc.). Instructors used real-life examples such as the Cholera Epidemic in Sudan of 2019 and their experience to facilitate learning and orient the participants about effective methodologies in training rapid response teams.

### Residents from the Sudan Field Epidemiology Training Program Co-Facilitate a Rapid Response Training

Last October, the Sudan Field Epidemiology Training Program hosted a Rapid Response Training (RRT) Course. The course focused on basics of Cholera emergency response and prin-

ciples of outbreak investigation. Participants included rapid responders at state and locality level at the Blue Nile state and White Nile state. The training was held over a three-day period and was co-facilitated by four FETP residents namely: Dr Mohamed Abdallah, Dr. Soha Gadeed, Dr. Abdelaziz and Dr. Hala Bushra.

### Residents of the Sudan Field Epidemiology Training Program Participate in the Research Projects Discussion

Ten program residents completed their final research projects to fulfill the requirement of a Master's Degree with the Sudan Medical Specialization Board. Each of these resident's resident defended their project in front of an

internal and external examiner and with the presence of their supervisor. This session took place on November 12, 2019 at the Educational Development Centre located in the premises of the Sudan Medical Specialization Board; all residents who took part passed the defense discussion.



## Updates from Tunisia Field Epidemiology Training Program

### Residents of Cohort Two Brush Up on their Research Skills

The residents of Cohort Two of the Tunisia Field epidemiology Training Program sat through a session titled “Research Methodology and Scientific Writing” in Tunis between July 27 and 31, 2019. A critical aspect of the scientific process in field epidemiology is the preparation of protocols, manuscript and reporting of results and publishing research findings in peer-re-

viewed journals. This one-week workshop highlighted all the components required in the research cycle and aimed to help participants conduct high quality research in the field. Its agenda included interactive lectures, discussions, group activities and practical exercises that shed light on the various components of the scientific project cycle. This part of the program corresponded to the requirements of its fifth module.



## Updates from the Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program

### The Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program Conducts Training on the Adverse Events Following Immunization

Between February 16 and 17, 2019 and in preparation for the national Measles and Rubella immunization campaign, the Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program participated in the preparation of training materials relevant to this cause. Furthermore, the Field Epidemiology

Training Program in Yemen conducted a training session, serving as part of the Y-FET Program for the Adverse Events Following Immunizations (AEFIs). The trainees benefiting from this training were distributed across 11 governorates. Following the session, they moved on to train three individuals from each district including surveillance officers, immunization officers and doctors.



### Residents and Ministry Officers Participate in Manuscript Writing Workshop

Taking place at program’s lectures room from August 3 to 7, 2019. Thirteen participants including five program graduates and eight Ministry of Public Health and Popula-

tion officers attended a workshop on Manuscript Writing. The purpose of the workshop was to equip participants with writing skills that will enable them to re-work the content they produce so that it is suitable for publication.



### Program Residents Sit for Advanced Epidemiology and Advanced Epi-Info Workshop

A workshop on advanced epidemiology and the use of advanced Epi-Info was held at the Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program headquarters between August 24 and September 4, 2019. Its sessions were attended by 11 residents from Cohort Four and health officers from the General

Directorate for Disease Control and Surveillance. The workshop was designed to equip participating residents with the necessary knowledge and skills to design, conduct, analyze, and appropriately interpret findings from field investigations and research. They also received training on how to use -to-date Epi Info software, particularly for field projects.



### Yemen Field Epidemiology Program Conducts Protocol Writing workshop

The Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program conducted a protocol writing workshop targeting fourth cohort residents. Taking place between September 16 and 18, 2019, the workshop introduced its participants to the steps needed to design and conduct research pro-

jects, while also providing them with the skills they need to develop solid research question and one-page bulleted concept papers. Through the workshop's sessions participants also increased their competency in writing a protocol for epidemiological investigations, deeming the sessions a valuable addition to the participants skills.

### Yemen Field Epidemiology Program Conducts Screening Workshop for Cohort Five

A workshop was held to select Fifth Cohort Residents for the Yemen Field epidemiology Training Program between November 2 and 13, 2019. The session was attended by 21 public health professionals including: surveillance officers, public health officers, medical doctors, and laboratory technicians. Out of the 21, 12 were selected as residents for the Fifth Cohort. During the first week of the workshop, participants sat through sessions on basic epidemiology, basic statistics and outbreak investigation. On the second week, the participants were introduced to the concepts of surveillance and they learned how to analyze, monitor and evaluate data.







## Country Program Residents Make Notable Presence in Regional and Global Conferences

### Updates from Afghanistan

#### Program Residents Attend FMIC Conference

An announcement from the French Medical Institute for Children (FMIC) in Kabul regarding its conference was made in parallel with the start of the program’s second workshop. Therefore,

seven abstracts were submitted for presentation at the event. As a result, two were accepted for oral and six were approved for poster presentations. The abstracts presented are listed below:

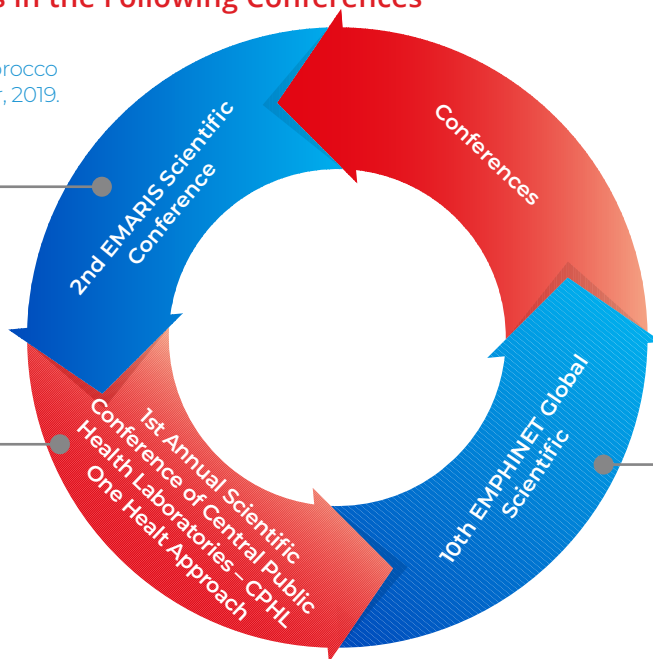
1. Descriptive Epidemiology of Measles in Afghanistan: National Surveillance Data, 2017- first quarter of 2019
2. Typhoid Fever Outbreak in Payenda Mohammad village, Khan Abad district, Kunduz province, Afghanistan April – May 2019
3. Review of Tetanus Toxoid (TT) coverage in Sarepol province-Afghanistan-2018
4. Descriptively exploration the determinants of OPV in missed under five children in south region during 2 Polio campaigns of 2019
5. Descriptive Epidemiology of Acute Flaccid Paralysis cases during 2018 in Kabul province
6. Low immunization coverage causes outbreaks: analysis of four measles outbreak in Kabul province, 2018
7. Investigation of chickenpox outbreak in Dara-e-peach District, Kunar-Afghanistan-April 2019

### Updates from Egypt

#### Egypt FETP Participates in the Following Conferences

Casablanca-Morocco  
12-15 November, 2019.  
Two oral and two poster presentations.

Cairo-Egypt  
10 and 11, November, 2019  
Presented Publication Titled: “Evaluating Tools to Define Influenza Baseline and Threshold Values Using Surveillance Data, Egypt, Season 2016/17”



Atlanta-USA,  
Oct 28th-Nov 1 2019.  
Two oral and Two Poster Presentations and 4th place award winner at Facebook Photo Contest

## Updates from Iraq

### Iraq FETP Launches Third National FETP Conference

In March 2019, the Iraq Field Epidemiology Training Program hosted the third edition of its National FETP Conference, thus providing a space for residents, graduates, and public health professionals to discuss issues at the forefront of public health.

The conference also allowed residents of the program to display their work, while also providing a multitude of opportunities for all participants to expand on their knowledge. More specifically, the event was hosted at the : Palestine Meridian Hotel, with Dr Faris Al-Lami recognized as its leading organizer and head of its scientific committee.

## Updates from Jordan

### The Jordan Field Epidemiology Training Program was Well Represented at the 68th Annual Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Conference and the TEPHINET Global Scientific Conference

An abstract by the resident Dr. Sa'ed Assaf was accepted for oral presentation at the EIS FETP International Nights Conference held in Atlanta last April. The abstract was titled "Prevalence, awareness, control, and trend of diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia among adults in Jordan: a cross-sectional study, Jordan, 2018". It was selected by the Scientific Program Committee (SPC). Later in the same year, in October 2019, three abstracts from the program were accepted for poster presentations at TEPHINET's 10th Global Scientific Conference that took place between October 28 and November 1, 2019, in Atlanta Georgia. These abstracts covered the following topics: Trend of Coetaneous Leishmaniasis in Jordan, 2010- 2016, Epidemiological Profile of Human Brucellosis in Jordan, 2017, and Stillbirths in Jordan: rate, causes, and preventability.



## Updates from KSA

### The KSA Field Epidemiology Training Program Is Well Represented at the 68th Annual EIS Conference, Atlanta, USA

A team comprising eight residents and four

staff members attended the annual EIS conference held in May in Atlanta last year. The program was represented with one oral and two poster presentations.

### The KSA Field Epidemiology Training Program Is Well Represented at the 16th Conference of the International Society of Travel Medicine, Washington, USA

One of the program's residents presented a poster titled "Disability prevalence among

pilgrims and Common Barriers Affecting Their Hajj Performance. This presentation was made last June at the 16th Conference of the International Society of Travel Medicine, Washington, USA. Along with two poster presentations.

### The KSA Field Epidemiology Training Program Is Well Represented at the 10th TEPHINET Global Scientific Conference

A team comprising three residents and four Staff

members attended the 10th TEPHINET Global Scientific Conference which took place in Atlanta last October. The program was well represented with one poster and two oral presentations.



### The KSA Field Epidemiology Training Program Is Well Represented 2nd Scientific Conference on Acute Respiratory Infection in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and the 5th Meeting of the Eastern Mediterranean Acute Respiratory Infection Surveillance (EMARIS) Network

A team comprising three residents and three staff members attended the Second EMARIS

regional conference on Acute Respiratory Infection in Eastern Mediterranean Region. Influenza surveillance and MERS-CoV were among the major topics covered as part of the conference's agenda. More specifically the team gave presentations on the MERS-CoV outbreak in Wadi Aldawaser and H1N1 in Hajj 2019. The conference took place in November 2019.

### KSA Field Epidemiology Training Program Is Well Represented at the International Conference of Mass Gathering, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

A team comprising eight residents and four staff members attended the International Conference of Mass Gathering, which took place in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in December 2019. The program was well represented with oral and seven poster presentations.



## Updates from Morocco

### The Morocco Field Epidemiology Training Program Makes Notable Presence at Conferences Around the World

The residents of the program have been pre-

senting oral and poster presentations around the world. See below their extensive list of achievements.

#### Oral Presentations

- Conception of an epidemiological surveillance system at the point of entry, Morocco 2018 Morocco la Conférence Arabe de Santé Publique, 2019
- Determinants of loss to follow up of patients with breast or gynecological cancers, National Institute of Oncology la Conférence Arabe de Santé Publique, 2019
- Epidemiology of Viral Hepatitis C in Casablanca-Settat region; Morocco; 2012-2016. Doctor epidemiologist regional observatory of health in Casablanca- settat region, Morocco, la Conférence Arabe de Santé Publique, 2019
- Acute Bacterial Meningitis Surveillance Evaluation in Mediouna District, Casablanca- Morocco, 2008-2015, Conférence Arabe de Santé Publique, 2019
- leptospirosis among high-risk professionals Casablanca, Morocco 2014, Conférence Arabe de Santé Publique, 2019
- Epidemiological, clinical and biological profile of meningitis in Settat Province-Morocco, 2014-2018, Conférence Arabe de Santé Publique, 2019
- Determinants of diagnosis and treatment delays in patients with colorectal cancer at the National Institute of Oncology - Morocco, 2018. Conférence Arabe de Santé Publique, 2019
- Clinicopathological, therapeutic and prognostic features of the triple-negative Breast cancer in Morocco. Conférence Arabe de Santé Publique, 2019
- Human brucellosis outbreak, March to September 2017, South Morocco, TEPHINET 10th Global Conference, Atlanta, 2019
- Access to Public Health Care of refugees and migrants in Rabat, Morocco 2018. TEPHINET 10th Global Conference, Atlanta, 2019.

## Poster Presentations

- Childhood Cancer Survival Rate and Characteristics in Morocco; A Retrospective Cohort, Hospital based study. TEPHINET 10th Global Conference, Atlanta, 2019
- Seroprevalence and Risk Factors of Human Brucellosis Among Livestock Farmers and Their Entourage in Sidi Kacem, Morocco 2018: A Cross Sectional Study, TEPHINET 10th Global Conference, Atlanta, 2019
- Epidemiological, clinical and biological profile of meningitis in Settat province-Morocco, 2008-2018. TEPHINET 10th Global Conference, Atlanta, 2019
- Evaluation of surveillance system for measles – Morocco, 2017. TEPHINET 10th Global Conference, Atlanta, 2019.
- Evaluation of the Maternal Death Surveillance System in the Maritime Region, Togo, 2018. TEPHINET 10th Global Conference, Atlanta, 2019.
- Epidémiologie de la tuberculose dans la province de Skhirat-Témara entre l'année 2013 et 2017", la Conférence Arabe de Santé Publique, 2019
- Investigation of burned alcohol intoxication, Conférence in Beirut Liban, 2019
- Nadia Lahrimi, Epidemiological Profile of Diabetes in Kenitra province – Morocco, 2011-2015, MEDIPIET, 2017
- Nadia Lahrimi, Evaluation of Diabetes Surveillance System in the province of Kenitra – Morocco, 2016, MEDIPIET, 2017

## Updates from Pakistan

### Pakistan Field Epidemiology Laboratory Training Program Makes Notable Presence at Several Global Conferences

Pakistan FELTP presented two posters at the 68th EIS conference taking place at Atlanta, USA between April 28 and May 2, 2019. Dr. Munazza Fatima, and Dr. Anam Vighio, both residents of Cohort 10 presented their work on XDR Typhoid and for her work on XDR Typhoid, Dr. Munnaza Fatima was presented with the Jeffrey P. Coplan Award for Excellence in Poster Scientific Presentations. Her presentation was one of 30 posters presented at the conference. Furthermore, Dr. Sanam Rehan, also a resident of Cohort 10 won the best picture award at the 68th EIS. The picture reflected the resident's fieldwork during an outbreak investigation of chikungunya in District Tharparkar, Sindh, from the year 2018.

Residents also made their mark in the 10th TEPHINET Global Scientific Conference which took place in Atlanta last October. During this conference, Dr. Wasif Syed, Dr. Munnaza Fatima and Dr. Mudassar Hussain presented their work on Neonatal Tetanus, Leishmaniasis and XDR Typhoid respectively as oral presentations. From another angle, Dr. Mohammad Bashir, resident of the 11th cohort of Pakistan Laboratory training Program won the best picture award at the same conference. The picture reflected his fieldwork during an outbreak investigation of measles in District Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan he took

part in during the year 2018.

Also, during that same conference, the Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program was awarded accreditation by the TEPHINET Advisory Board/Global Accreditation Body. This designation was granted on account of the program's ability to demonstrate excellence in field epidemiology training. This recognition was granted in the fourth cycle of TEPHINET FETP Accreditation. The award was presented to the Program's Technical Coordinator during the awards ceremony held as part of the conference's agenda.

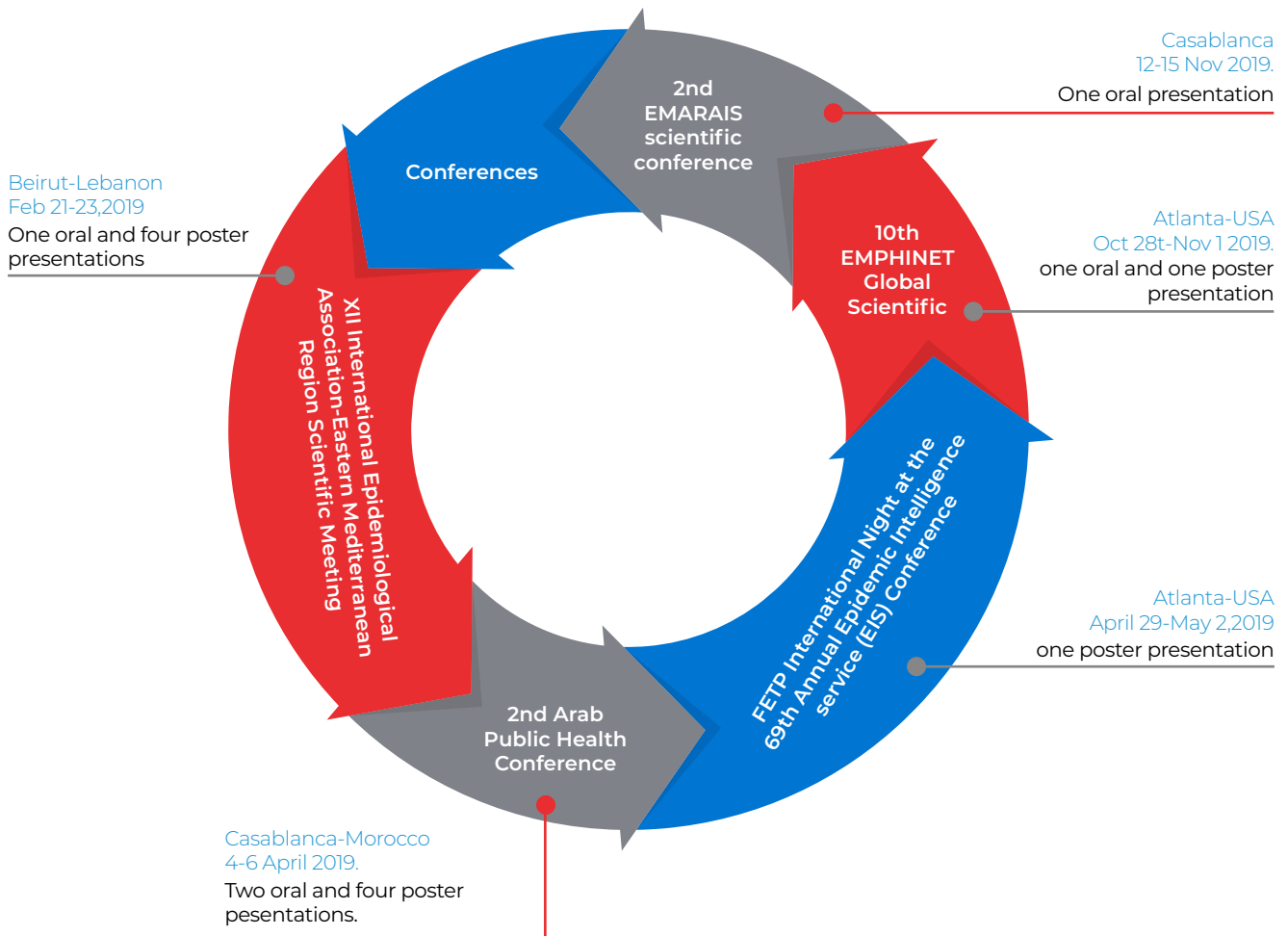
Ending the year on another high note, Dr. Jan Inayat Ullah a resident of the program's Cohort 12 was awarded best poster at the 10th Annual Public Health Conference of Islamabad, Pakistan. PSeven other residents showcased their work during that event.





## Updates from Yemen

### Yemen FETP Participates in the Following Conferences



## Contribute !

We welcome your feedback and contributions to our newsletter, so if you have anything to share in our upcoming issues please send an email to :

[dshalabi@globalhealthdev.org](mailto:dshalabi@globalhealthdev.org)

## Field Epidemiology Training Program Residents and Graduates Get Published

### The Morocco Field Epidemiology Training Program Makes its Mark in the Area of Publication

The work of residents and graduates has been published in several reputable journals as listed below :

Authors	Date of publication (year)	Title
Kenza Bennani	JMIR Public Health Surveill. 2019 Oct 9;5(4):e14252. doi: 10.2196/14252.	Evaluation of the Yield of Histopathology in the Diagnosis of Lymph Node Tuberculosis in Morocco, 2017: Cross-Sectional Study.
Touria Essayagh et al	Submission 2019	Epidemiological profile of viral hepatitis A in Meknes and its preventive risk factors
Touria Essayagh et al	2018 <a href="https://jmirpublications.com/">https://jmirpublications.com/</a> DOI: 10.2196/10614	Evaluation of the Meningitis Surveillance System in Meknes, Morocco
Touria Essayagh et al	2017 DOI: <a href="https://doi.org/10.4172/2329-891X.1000241">10.4172/2329-891X.1000241</a>	Foodborne Outbreak, Meknes, Morocco, June 2017: What We Need to Learn

### Pakistan Field Epidemiology Laboratory Training Program Makes Several Notable Publications

The work of residents from the program appeared in several notable publications listed as follows:

- **Title:** Assessment of Risk Factors and Determination of Vaccine Efficacy for Measles Outbreak During April 2017 in Dhok Kazin, Islamabad. Pakistan ( Pakistan Journal of Public Health)
- **Title:** Outbreak investigation of Hepatitis-E at boy's training center Karachi from March – April 2019, (Pakistan Armed Forces Medical Journal)
- **Title:** Epidemiological investigations of acute watery diarrhea outbreak during July-. 2017(Pakistan Journal of Public Health)
- **Title:** Evaluation of Lab-based Influenza Surveillance System in Pakistan, 2017 ([jglobalbiosecurity.com/articles/26/](http://jglobalbiosecurity.com/articles/26/))
- **Title:** Evaluation of Event Based Surveillance System of Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever in Balochistan Pakistan, 2017 (<https://jglobalbiosecurity.com/articles/34/>)

### The Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program Makes Its Mark in the World of Publications

With robust technical support from EMPHNET, the Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program successfully published the following ten manuscripts on surveillance systems analyses' and evaluations' in INQUIRY: Journal of Health Care Organization Provision & Financing, JMIR Public Health & Surveillance, and International Journal of Preventive Medicine:

1. An Electronic Disease Early Warning System in Sana'a Governorate, Yemen: Evaluation Study
2. Evaluation of Blood Transfusion Services in Public and Private Blood Bank Centers, Sana'a Capital, Yemen
3. Evaluation of Two Malaria Surveillance Systems in Yemen Using Updated CDC Guidelines: Lessons Learned and Future Perspectives

4. Performance of Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis Surveillance in Yemen: Interview Study
5. Risk Factors for End-Stage Renal Failure Among Patients on Hemodialysis in Aljomhory Hospital, Sa'adah Governorate, Yemen: Hospital-Based Case-Control Study
6. Risk Factors of Breast Cancer in Hadramout Valley and Desert, Yemen
7. Severe Acute Respiratory Infections with Influenza and Non influenza Respiratory Viruses: Yemen, 2011-2016
8. The Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) Surveillance System in Yemen, 2010-2015: Descriptive Study Based on Secondary Data Analysis
9. The Impact of War in Yemen on Immunization Coverage of Children Under One Year of Age: Descriptive Study
10. Unintentional Injuries in the Three References Laboratories: Sana'a, Yemen.



Seventh EMPHNET  
Regional Conference  
*Public Health Solutions  
for Sustainable Development*

## Mark Your Calendar for the Seventh EMHNET Regional Conference

It is our pleasure to announce that the Seventh EMPHNET Regional Conference will be held in Amman, Jordan between September 28 and 30, 2020 at the Grand Hyatt Amman Hotel, whereby the conference opening is being held on the evening of September 27, following a day of pre-conference workshops.

Held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Muna Al-Hussein, the conference will be held under the theme "Public Health Solutions for Sustainable Development." The conference will be up and running by February 10, 2020. Stay tuned for more updates.



## Other FETP News

### Egypt Field Epidemiology Training Program Launches Application for Cohort 21

While Cohort 19 residents were preparing for their graduation and Cohort 20 residents were still in their journey of learning, January 2019 also saw an announcement for the recruitment of a new cohort to commence within the Egypt FETP (Cohort 21). The announcement was made through circulars that were sent to all the Ministry of Public Health's sectors, health directorates, districts, and

General Organizations of Veterinary Services. Interested candidates were asked to fill an application on the FETP Egypt website. Following this process, 100 applicants were shortlisted and invited to attend a personal interview. The candidate evaluation process was web-based; it included measurements of skills, qualifications, and experience using the Likert scale.

### Iraq Field Epidemiology Training Program Sees Notable Increase in Number of Residents

After a slumber in 2018 and having no applicants for the 2018 round of advanced Field Epidemiology Cycle, and only two residents

in 2017, things are finally looking up with 10 residents being successfully involved in the program for the year just ended.

### Iraq Field Epidemiology Training Program Launches Intermediate Program

The Iraq Field epidemiology Training Program launches its Intermediate program , a one-year program in-service program focused on strengthening public health surveillance, outbreak investigation and response, and survey

data to use for decision making at the middle level of the health system, such as provinces, states, and governorates. 87 candidates applied for this program out of which 25 were selected after completing a screening process and exam.

### Jordan Field Epidemiology Training Program Participates in the Science Day, Jordanian National Micronutrients and nutrition survey

A plan was developed and agreed upon to hold a weekly "Science Day" in the Jordan Ministry of Health (MoH). The main aim of this activity is to update the residents with new topics in public health and to also present them with important

topics with a focus on presenting the theoretical background for practical activities. The topics are to be prepared and presented by the residents and are to be discussed with the ministry stakeholders.

### Jordan Field Epidemiology Training Program Residents Take Part in the Data Collection Process for the Jordanian National Micronutrients and Nutrition Survey

13 program residents were involved in the Jordanian National Micronutrients and nutrition survey. Prior to the commencement of this process, a two-week workshop was conducted for this national --survey. Field work regarding this survey took place March 1 2019 to April 25, 2019. This part of the process was completed in coordination with the Assistant Secretary General for Primary Health Care and the chief of community medicine specialty.



## Jordan Field Epidemiology Training Program Residents and Graduates Take Part in Stepwise Survey

A survey was conducted in Jordanian households by the Jordan Ministry of Health (MoH) in collaboration with the WHO and the center for scientific studies (University of Jordan). The survey collected data on risk factors for non-communicable diseases among adults between the ages of 18 of 69 years. This was a stepwise survey, in which 28 residents and graduates were involved in this national survey. They supervised the field teams to ensure that the standards of the household survey were applied according to WHO protocols. They also conducted on-spot blood testing for fasting blood glucose and lipid profile.



## Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program is Recognized as the Provincial Dengue Response Unit by Department of Health, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

In a notification by Department of Health of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, The Pakistan Field Epidemiology Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) was declared as the Provincial Dengue Response Unit. Within this designated role, the program's residents will coordinate activities for surveillance and response of dengue fever in the province. The Technical Support Officer and program residents conducted the dengue surveillance, response, data collection, analysis and community engagement activities along with dissemination of information to stakeholders. This designation was made in May 2019.

In September 2019, following a notification by Department of Health, Baluchistan, the program was also declared as the Provincial Dengue Response Unit for Baluchistan. Within this designation, the program is to coordinate activities for surveillance and response of dengue fever in the province. The Technical Support Officer . Consequently, the program residents conducted the dengue surveillance, response and data collection required. They also engaged in analysis activities along with dissemination of information to stakeholders.

## The Pakistan Field Epidemiology Laboratory Training Program Conducts Frontline Training Across Several Districts

The Pakistan Field Epidemiology Laboratory Training Program in collaboration with the Department of Health, Punjab, conducted a Frontline training session in Multan and Lahore. The training conducted in targeted the districts of South Punjab. Ten participants attended the training including surveillance coordinators and EPI managers from various districts. The objectives of the training were to enhance disease surveillance and outbreak investigation skills of the EPI staff in the said districts.

Lahore, the training targeted the districts of Central and North Punjab. This session was attended by 25 participants including surveillance coordinators and EPI managers from various districts. As is the case with the previously mentioned training, the session was designed to enhance disease surveillance and outbreak investigation skills of the EPI staff in the said districts. Both training sessions were conducted between June and August 2019.

A second Frontline training was conducted in

Later in the same year, between the months of October and December, the program col-



laborated with USAID, John Snow Inc, Contech International and the Department of Health, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to conduct a third Frontline training in the district Swat. The training was attended by 20 participants including surveillance coordinators and EPI managers from various districts.

Finally, during the month of November 2019,

the program collaborated with USAID, John Snow Inc, Contech International and Department of Health, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to conduct a third Frontline training. This time, the training took place in the district of Hyderabad. It was attended by 25 participants including surveillance coordinators and EPI Managers from various districts of Sindh. This session lasted from November 2019 to January 2020.



### The Morocco Field Epidemiology Training Program and Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programs Gain Accreditation

Due to the fact that both program have introduced the learning-through service concept in training, and have been involved in major collaborations on country and international levels, and have strengthened the workforce by introducing new approaches based on fieldwork, they have both been accredited at the TEPHINET 10th Global Scientific Conference. Other factors

contributing to this recognition include the fact that the FETP graduates have been fully been integrated into the public health system and different United Nations agencies , and thus they work at national, regional and province level in the MoH, and are playing an important role also in the development and follow up of work projects by providing evidence for decision-making.





## Sudan Field Epidemiology Training Program Evaluates its Performance

As the residents of First Cohort of the Sudan Field Epidemiology Training Program completed their graduation requirements last October, The Sudan Field Epidemiology Training program management conducted a review to identify strengths and weaknesses of the program based. The evaluation was conducted based on the experience of training the first batch and to provide recommendations to inform the way forward. The review used the Context/ Input/Process/Product (CIPP) Model which is known to focus on program

improvement as the main goal for conducting the review. Reviewers assessed the curriculum document and visited field work sites in Khartoum state, River Nile state, White Nile State and West Darfur State where they met with different stakeholders at the ministry including field supervisors and residents. The product of this review is expected to be disseminated and discussed at a dissemination workshop with all stakeholders early 2020, with aims to reflect points discussed when training residents of Cohort Two.

## Tunisia Field Epidemiology Training Program Integrates the Use of Technology

A collaboration has been formed between the T-FETP and the Virtual University of Tunisia (VUT) making it the first program of its kind to integrate the use of technology. This integration serves to enhance mentoring by facilitating field interaction between mentors and residents. Using its server, the VUT hosted a dedicated platform for the T-FETP that was

used by residents of Cohort 1 and Cohort 2. In order to evaluate the functionality of this platform regarding content, communication and management, a one-day workshop was held in the VUT on October 16th, 2019. The VUT technical team facilitated the workshop and it was attended by the T-FETP scientific coordinator and T-FETP Cohort 2 mentors.

## The Tunisia Field Epidemiology Training Program Calls Opens Application Process for Cohort Three

In October 2019, three calls for application for the T-FETP Cohort Three were made. The calls targeted participants, mentors and facilitators. The announcements were published through circulars disseminated across all human and veterinary health central and regional units

and directorates and through ONMNE website. The inclusion criteria were listed on the announcements based on T-FETP requirements. As an initial step, interested candidates were asked to fill an application form comprising open and closed ended questions.

## Tunisia Program Director and Coordinator Meet with Prospective Mentors

A meeting with pre-selected mentors for cohort 3 was held at the ONMNE, on November 21st 2019. During this meeting, the Program Director and the Scientific Coordinator presented the T-FETP curriculum and its ap-

proach; as well as the role and responsibilities of mentors with an overview regarding the two first cohorts' mentorship. The pre-selected mentors were also interviewed regarding their skills, qualifications and experience.

## Tunisia's Cohort Three Instructors and Facilitators Meet to Discuss Program Curriculum

A meeting with T-FETP Cohort Three instructors and facilitators was held at the ONMNE on November 25th 2019 and was facilitated by the T-FETP Director and Scientific Coordinator. During the meeting, attendees received an overview on the Cohort Three curriculum and exchanged experiences and ideas regarding

the priority areas of research and study that the T-FETP participants and graduates could conduct in the future. These areas highlight issues of relevance to the Tunisian regional and local health system, including challenges. They are designed to help create a better understanding of the health problems in Tunisia.

## Tunisia's Prospective Candidates for Cohort Three Sit for a Pre-Selection Meeting

The Tunisia Field Epidemiology Training Program received 26 completed application forms for Cohort Three, out of which, only 21 met the selection criteria and thus were invited to participate to the information meeting that took place at the ONMNE on December 4th 2019. During this meeting, the program's technical team introduced the audience to the FETP approach and structure, and they oriented them about the T-FETP objectives, rules, reporting requirements, and deliverables. Candidates were also updated

on the curriculum, the schedule of the different modules, the topics expected to be covered by the five field activities and the evaluation criteria adopted by the program. After this meeting, participants took a test on biostatistics, public health surveillance, and field epidemiology and computer skills. They then sat for an interview with program directors. The 16 candidates (10 physicians and 6 Veterinarians) who got the highest overall score were officially accepted as the residents of Cohort Three.

## Residents from Yemen Participate in Nationwide Measles and Rubella Immunization Campaign in Yemen

Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program residents participated efficiently in a nationwide Measles and Rubella Immunization Campaign. Their role involved the provision of training, supervision and support to vaccinators in different parts of the country. They also participated in awareness campaign to encourage parents to vaccinate their children, this feature came in response to increasing rumors and widespread hesitance. They were involved in this campaign between February 18 and 22, 2019.



## The Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program Establishes Surveillance System Databases

As a part of their commitment to strengthening health systems through generating and disseminating evidence-based data, residents of the Y-FETP supported various health programs within the Ministry of Public Health and Population, by updating and improving the quality of surveillance conducted. The Y-FETP resi-

dents achieved this goal through establishing automated database to be used by these programs. Systems administrators and users have also been trained on how to use the developed databases, thus adding to the residents' experiences. This initiative took place from March 1 to April 19, 2019.



# SPOTLIGHT STORY





## EMR Makes Notable Presence at the TEPHINET 10th Global Scientific Conference

At the TEPHINET 10th Global Scientific Conference a total of **98** abstracts were selected for poster presentations and another **96** were selected for oral presentations. Additionally, **six** abstracts were selected for poster presentations and another **six** were selected for oral presentations to be presented within a special session for Frontline (PHEP) FETPs, and finally a special session for FETP Alumni was also held as part of the event, where **six more** abstracts were selected for oral presentations. **Twenty-Eight** of these abstracts came from FETPs in the EMR namely from country programs in: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and Yemen.

**V-FETP Bangladesh** contributed to the conference with one oral presentation titled "The Analysis of Measles surveillance data Bangladesh, 2013-2017". Similarly, **FETP Egypt** contributed with **two** oral and two poster presentations. The oral presentations from Egypt's country program were titled "An Outbreak of Hemorrhagic Symptoms –Behira Governorate, Egypt, 2018" and "A Large Staph aureus Food Poisoning Outbreak among Hotel Guests, Sharkia Governorate, Egypt- July 2018" respectively. Poster presentations presented by FETP Egypt residents were titled "Knowledge, Attitude and Practice regarding Antimicrobials Misuse in Egypt: A Cross-Sectional National Survey

of Community Pharmacy Staff, 2018" and "Risk factors and genomic investigation of a cluster of Carbapenemase producing Klebsiella Pneumoniae at a tertiary hospital ICUs-Egypt, 2016-2017".

**FETP Iraq** was also represented at the conference with one poster presentation titled "Postpartum Depression among Mothers Attending Primary Health Care Centers in Baghdad, Iraq, 2018", while **FETP Jordan** had **three** poster presentations on display in the conference titled "Trend of Cutaneous Leishmaniasis in Jordan, 2010- 2016", "Epidemiological Profile of Human Brucellosis in Jordan, 2017", and "Stillbirths in Jordan: rate, causes"

Also, from our region, **FETP Morocco** showed a very active presence with **two** oral and **four** poster presentations. The oral presentation from **FETP Morocco** was titled "Access for Public Health Care of refugees and migrants in Rabat, Morocco 2018" and "Seroprevalence and risk factors of Human Brucellosis among livestock farmers and their entourage in Sidi Kacem, Morocco 2018: A Cross Sectional Study" respectively.

The poster presentations on display from **FETP Morocco** were titled "Evaluation of the Maternal Death Surveillance System in the Maritime Region, Togo, 2018.", "Epidemiological, clinical and biological profile of meningitis in Settat

province-Morocco, 2008- 2018”, “Evaluation of surveillance system for measles – Morocco, 2017”, and last but not least “Childhood cancer in Morocco: Patients characteristic’s and survival rate; Retrospective Cohort Study”

**FELTP Pakistan** also contributed to the conference with three oral presentations titled “An Outbreak of Fever and Death in a Training Camp for Young Men – Kohat, Pakistan 2018”, “Outbreak Investigation of viral hepatitis E – Landikotal, Pakistan 2017”, and “Outbreak Investigation of Extensive Drug Resistant Typhoid Fever - Hyderabad, Pakistan 2017”. The program also had one oral presentation featured in the special alumni session titled “Epidemiology, Risk Factors and Clinical presentation of Neonatal Tetanus (NNT) cases admitted at Sifat Ghayur Shaheed Memorial Infectious Diseases Children (SGSMIDC) Hospital, Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) January-April 2019”

**FETP Saudi Arabia** was also well represented in the conference with **two** oral and one poster presentation. The oral presentations were titled “Outbreak investigation of Salmonella:

ALshenan Saudi Arabia, 2018. A case-control study” and “Prevalence of Pre-Diabetes among Saudi Male Adults Attending Primary Health Care Centers- Makkah City Saudi Arabia, 2019”. The poster presentation from FETP Saudi Arabia was titled “Measles outbreak in Jeddah city, KSA 2017-2018: Matched Case-Control Study” FETP Tunisia was present at the conference with two oral presentations titled “Measles outbreak investigation and public health response in Kasserine district. Tunisia, 2019” and “A Case control study of Human Brucellosis in Douz District. Tunisia,2018”, and last but not least FETP Yemen contributed to the agenda with one oral and one poster presentation titled “Dengue Fever Outbreak - Al Qahirah and Al Mudhaffar Districts, Taiz Governorate, Yemen, November 2018” and “Diphtheria Epidemic Yemen, June 2017-August 2018”

**FETP Afghanistan** had one oral presentation abstract accepted, yet it was not presented at the conference. The was abstract titled “Investigation and control of Measles Outbreak in Dehdadi district, Balkh Province, Afghanistan, 2017”





## Just for fun, we would like to test your knowledge

\_\_\_\_\_ is the cause or set of causes of a disease and/ or condition

- Education
- Epidemiology
- Etiology
- Viruse

### Mass Screening is

- The proportion of people screened positive by a test and actually have the disease, this is the + value
- The standards of care, anyone that could be at risk should be screend
- The screening of people who are at high risk of disease



**TEST YOUR  
KNOWLEDGE**

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