



**EMPHNET**  
The Eastern Mediterranean  
Public Health Network

# PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH

► GHD | EMPHNET: working  
together for better health





# OUR APPROACH



## Identifying Research Priorities

Engaging in discussions with stakeholders across the region, collaboratively analyzing data, and conducting thorough studies to identify and prioritize key research areas



## Building Capacities of Researchers

Conducting in-person training and offering self-paced online courses on various research topics, while empowering the public health workforce in utilizing technology and statistical software.



## Providing Technical Support to Researchers

Sponsoring targeted mini-grant programs and providing both technical and logistical support for research activities



## Prioritizing Knowledge Dissemination

Developing and utilizing knowledge transfer tools to facilitate evidence-based dialogue between researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders



## Generating Our Own Research

Conducting diverse types of research and publishing findings in peer-reviewed journals, while also implementing research-based projects that produce documented outcomes to inform decision-makers



## Translating Research into Real-World Impact

Applying implementation science to apply interventions across various health sectors.





# WHY EMPHNET IS INVOLVED



The 1990 Commission on Health Research for Development notes that public health research in **low and middle-income countries** (LMICs) is “one of the **most powerful, cost-effective** and **sustainable** means of advancing health and development.”



Research from LMICs remains underrepresented, highlighting the **need to increase** the representation of studies conducted by experts from these countries ([Woods et al., 2021](#)).



Several barriers stand in the way of research efforts in LMICs, such as **insufficient human resource capacity** regarding research skills and competencies; **limited collaboration** among research institutions at the national, regional, and international levels; and **ineffective knowledge** transfer to policy and practice ([AlHamawi et al., 2023](#)).

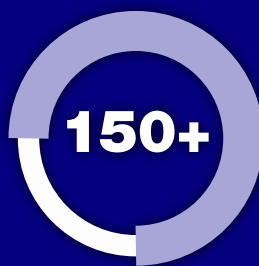


There is a **global call** for improved reporting of **implementation research** (IR) studies in LMICs and implementation science as an innovative way to implement interventions ([Alonge et al., 2019](#)).





# ACCELERATING RESEARCH PRODUCTION



**PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

## | Topics Covered

- ✓ NCDs
- ✓ Surveillance
- ✓ Infectious Diseases
- ✓ Polio
- ✓ Emerging and Re-emerging Infections
- ✓ COVID-19
- ✓ Field Epidemiology
- ✓ Mass Gatherings
- ✓ Reproductive Health
- ✓ Mental Health
- ✓ Others

## | Research Published

- ✓ Epidemiological
- ✓ Hospital-Based
- ✓ Cross-Sectional
- ✓ Case-Control
- ✓ Retrospective Analysis
- ✓ Descriptive
- ✓ Observational
- ✓ Systematic Review
- ✓ Scoping Review
- ✓ Interventional
- ✓ Case
- ✓ Study Protocol
- ✓ Prospective
- ✓ Cohort
- ✓ Impact Evaluation
- ✓ Analytical Review
- ✓ Bibliometric Analysis

*Editorial and Position Papers published as well*





## RESEARCH-BASED PROJECTS

### Topics Covered

- ✓ Primary Health Care
- ✓ NCDs
- ✓ Mental Health
- ✓ Infectious Diseases
- ✓ One Health
- ✓ Program Evaluations
- ✓ Surveillance
- ✓ Maternal and Child Health
- ✓ Immunization
- ✓ Mass Gatherings

### Type of Research Conducted

- ✓ Surveys and Assessments
- ✓ Evaluation studies
- ✓ Operational and Implementation Research
- ✓ Laboratory Studies

### Entities Collaborated with

- ✓ Universities
- ✓ Research Institutions
- ✓ International Organizations
- ✓ Non-governmental Organizations
- ✓ Private Sector
- ✓ Community Organizations



# BUILDING CAPACITIES IN RESEARCH



- Conducting **10+** face-to-face scientific writing training workshops
- **200+** professionals and Field Epidemiology Training Programs residents and graduates trained



- Launching **6** self-paced courses available on EMPHNET's Learning Management System
- Launching **20+** relevant research-focused short courses, along with **3** programs and **2** fields of study, by the International Academy of Public Health (IAPH), EMPHNET's academic arm
- Courses cover research methods, fundamentals of research, statistical software, biostatistics, stakeholder mapping, documentation and referencing, technology tools, and applied research
- Launching the EMPHNET Electronic Library (EEL) as a resource for researchers to offer:

24

Databases

22

E-Journals

28

E-books

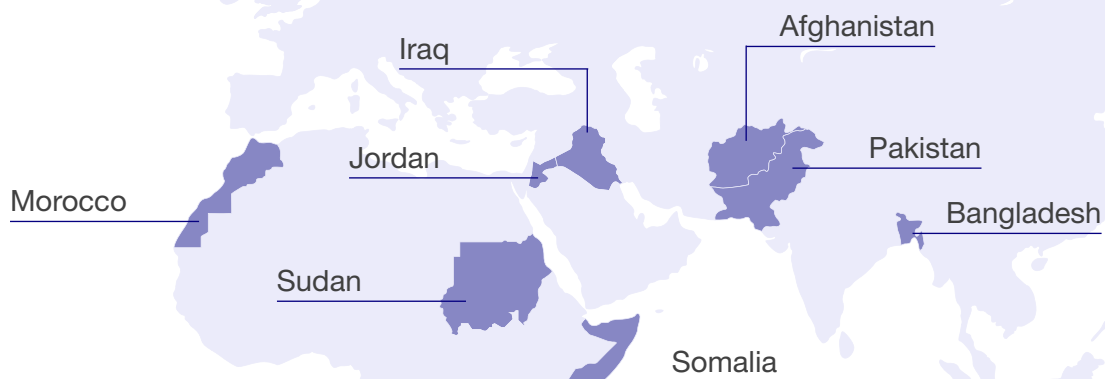


- Launching multiple calls for Operational Research mini-grants focused on Polio and Immunization, NCDs, and COVID-19 response, and sponsoring **30+** mini-grant proposals.



# BUILDING CAPACITIES IN RESEARCH

EMPHNET supported young researchers through grants for operational and implementation research, while also assisting in the development of research papers that were subsequently published.



EMPHNET has supported the publication of over **150** articles covering a wide range of topics:

- Case Studies
- COVID-19
- Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETP)
- Infectious Diseases
- Mass Gatherings
- Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs)
- Reproductive Health
- Surveillance



# DRIVING MULTI-SECTORAL COLLABORATION

## OUR PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS IN RESEARCH

- American University of Beirut
- World Health Organization
- International Association of Public Health Institutes
- UNHCR
- Forearms of Change to Enable Community
- LINKS Community
- Institute of Family Health (IFH)
- Save the Children
- Field Epidemiology Training Programs
- International Development Research Center
- Electronic Health Solutions
- UNAIDS

- Jordan University of Science and Technology
- Resolve to Save Lives
- UNRWA
- Royal Health Awareness Society
- FETP Networks, TEPHINET and African Field Epidemiology Network
- Japan International Cooperation Agency
- Vital Strategies
- Global Fund
- USCDC
- Caritas Jordan
- Deakin University
- IOM

## ENHANCING RESEARCH COLLABORATION THROUGH GROUPS

Awareness and Preparedness of FETP Graduates in Responding to COVID-19 the EMR: A Cross-section Study

Role of GHD|EMPHNET and the Eastern Mediterranean FETPs in Preparedness for COVID-19

Mental Health Support in Jordan for the General Population and for the Refugees in the Zaatari Camp during the Period of COVID-19 Lockdown

### Publications of the EMPHNET Supported Regional COVID-19 Research Group

COVID-19 Crisis in Jordan: Response, Scenarios, Strategies, and Recommendations

Dentists' Awareness, Perception, and Attitude Regarding COVID-19 and Infection Control: Cross-Sectional Study among Jordanian Dentists

Public Health Strategies for the Gradual Lifting of the Public Sector Lockdown in Jordan and the United Arab Emirates During the COVID-19 Crisis





# ADVANCING NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASE RESEARCH AND PREVENTION

EMPHNET established the Eastern Mediterranean Noncommunicable Disease Research and Prevention Center (NCDsRC) to enhance efforts in preventing and controlling NCDs across the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR). The center focuses on generating evidence-based research, promoting effective interventions, and supporting policy development to address the growing burden of NCDs.



Fostering multi-sectoral, multidisciplinary collaboration in research, training, and evidence-based decision-making.



Harnessing a research team with extensive skills and expertise in designing and conducting epidemiologic and implementation research on NCDs.



Providing support and consultancy to NCD researchers in the region, along with training on rigorous NCD research skills.

## The NCDsRC's Contributions





# SOME NOTABLE EXAMPLES FROM OPERATIONAL AND IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH

## Bridging the Gap Between Theory and Practice Through Operational and Implementation Research



### Hypertension Management in Northern Jordan (2021)

EMPHNET supported the implementation of the HEARTS technical package in 25 primary health care centers in northern Jordan. The protocol improved blood pressure control in patients after four months of application.



### Family Health Team (FHT) Enhancement and Roadmap Development (2021)

A comprehensive assessment identified gaps and opportunities in the Primary Health Care system in Jordan. This led to the development of a roadmap to modernize primary health care services in the country, emphasizing human resources, training, and collaboration between healthcare providers. Restrengthening Primary Health Care- EMPHNET Roadmap , designed to be applied in broader contexts for strengthening primary healthcare systems.



### Qualitative and Quantitative Assessments for NCDs-Humanitarian Response (2021-2024)

EMPHNET conducted qualitative assessments (FDGs and interviews) and quantitative analyses through pre/post-intervention questionnaires to evaluate knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) of healthcare workers, volunteers, and beneficiaries in the Jordan Integrated NCDs-Humanitarian Response project. These efforts targeted gaps in training and service delivery.



### Establishing the harmonized Reproductive Health Registry (hRHR) (2019-2021)

EMPHNET supported the Jordan Ministry of Health in digitizing existing mother and child healthcare records to ensure that the registry is synchronized and interoperable with the Ministry's information system, along with including a non-digital human-readable health record (hRHR) to extend accessibility.



## SOME NOTABLE EXAMPLES FROM OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

### National Study for Mental Health Status among Children and Adolescents in Jordan (2024)

This survey aimed to provide **robust evidence** regarding **child and adolescent mental health** situations to facilitate effective national policymaking in Jordan.



A large-scale national school-based cross-sectional survey was conducted among children and adolescents in Jordan.



The target population included Jordanian children and adolescents as well as those of other nationalities and groups such as Syrian and Palestinian refugees, all in grades 3 to 12.



Recommendations proposed adopting coordinated plans and programs to address multiple factors affecting children's and adolescents' mental health, while aligning with the prevailing culture.

### HIV/AIDS and TB Surveillance in Northern Jordan (2021)

EMPHNET supported operational research studies in **Amman, Irbid, Mafraq, and Zarqa** to assess knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to HIV/AIDS and TB. The study aimed to **evaluate disease surveillance systems** and provide evidence-based recommendations to **improve the National TB Program and HIV/AIDS management**. This resulted in:



Recommendations to enhance the National TB Program and improve KAP among healthcare providers, patients, and communities.



Recommendations for interventions to strengthen HIV/AIDS-related KAP, surveillance systems, and healthcare capacities.





# BUILDING TECHNICAL CAPACITIES IN IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

## Organizational

EMPHNET launched the Non-Communicable Disease Implementation Research toolkit and a corresponding freely accessible online training program. The comprehensive toolkit and self-paced online training offer a structured approach to implementation research, helping users understand essential concepts and frameworks.



## Individual

EMPHNET supported mini-grants for operational and implementation research to strengthen the technical and research capacities of young researchers. By offering these grants, EMPHNET equips researchers with the tools and expertise needed to conduct impactful, field-based studies.



# FACILITATING PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH BY SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS

EMPHNET facilitated the work of organizations conducting public health research by **providing logistical support** across countries, including **Jordan, Sudan, Lebanon, and Pakistan**, ensuring the smooth execution of studies in diverse national contexts.



# IDENTIFYING RESEARCH PRIORITIES

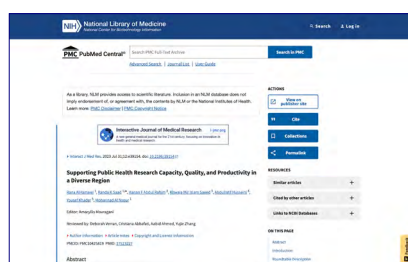
## GLOBAL LEVEL

EMPHNET supported a consortium from Deakin University and the American University of Beirut in regional and national consultations with diverse stakeholders to identify humanitarian research and innovation priorities in West Asia and North Africa. As lead advisor for the prioritization exercises, EMPHNET also provided guidance to consortium members and partners across all regions.

As a result of these consultations, recommendations were released calling for strengthened coordination at national, regional, and global levels, guided by ethical frameworks, while emphasizing collaboration, knowledge exchange, and increased donor support.



## REGIONAL LEVEL



[Strengthening Public Health Research Capacity, Quality, and Productivity](#)



[Published Research on COVID-19 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: A Bibliometric Analysis](#)



[Public Health Surveillance Systems in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: Bibliometric Analysis of Scientific Literature](#)

# STRENGTHENING SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS

EMPHNET plays a key role in **strengthening surveillance systems** and **health registries**, recognizing them as vital sources of data for evidence-based research. By improving the accuracy and accessibility of these data systems, EMPHNET supports informed decision-making and enhances public health outcomes.

# KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION AND POLICY ADVOCACY

- **8 EMPHNET Regional Conferences** held where **1000+** abstracts were presented.
- Holding the **Regional COVID-19 Operational Research Symposium**, with **20** out of **80** submitted abstracts accepted and presented.
- Holding the **Regional Symposium on Advancing Public Health Research: Showcasing FETP Projects and NCD-Focused Mini-grant Initiatives**.