



FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

JUNE – AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 12



In This Issue

- Editor's Letter
- Feature Story: EMPHNET Launches FETP Ambassador Program
- Country News
- Other News



Editor's Letter

We are delighted to bring you the twelfth issue of our Quarterly Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) Newsletter. This issue covers FETP news and events in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) from June 1 to August 31, 2022.

The news covered in this issue highlights the commitment and hard work of the region's FETP 'residents and graduates', as well as their valuable contributions to public health in their respective countries.

This newsletter highlights the graduations celebrated and the public health programs launched during this quarter. It also contains sections dedicated to the latest news from different country programs, while shedding light on the work done by FETPs on the re-emergence of some diseases following natural disasters, and investigations of new outbreaks, as well as presenting the achievements of several FETPs during the Intermediate and Advanced cohorts.

We hope you find an insightful reading experience in the pages that follow, and that they serve as a source of inspiration for you all.

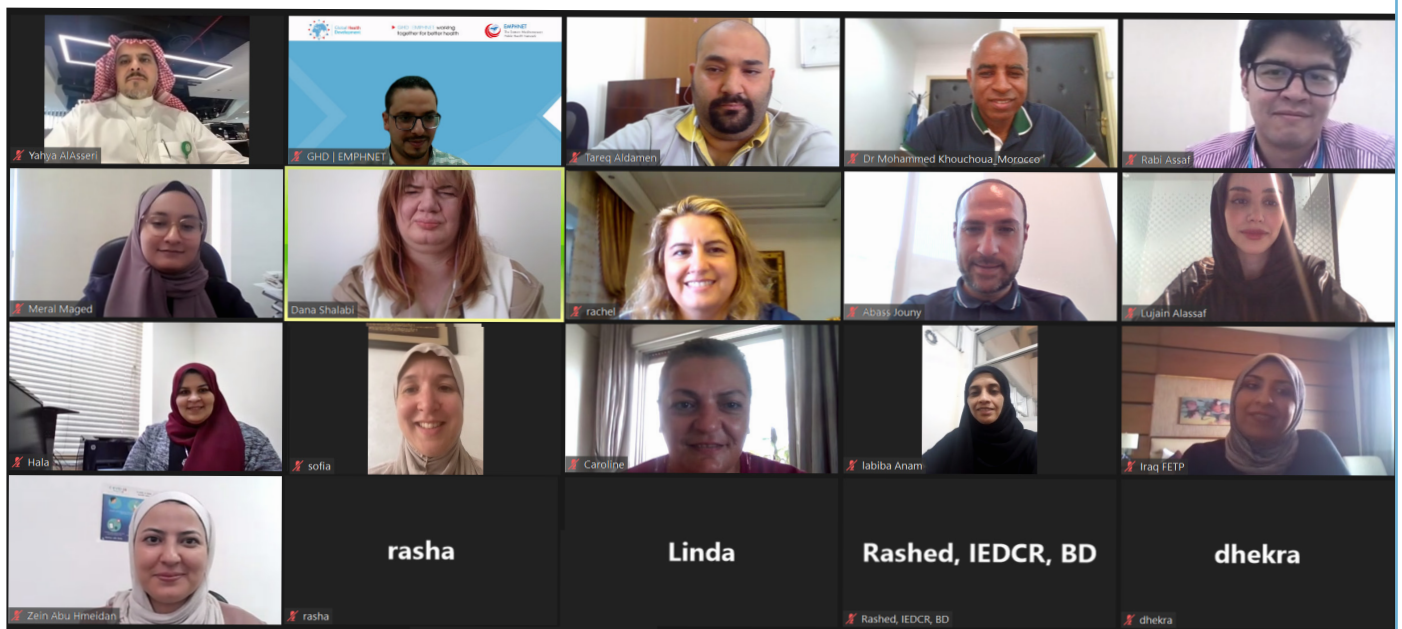
FETP Newsletter Editorial Team,

Feature Story

EMPHNET Launches FETP Ambassador Program

In line with its strategies for increasing visibility of the Eastern Mediterranean Region’s (EMR) Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs), EMPHNET recently launched the FETP Ambassador Program, a unique program designed to strengthen ties with the region’s FETP teams and to further highlight their achievements.

The Ambassador Program recruits a contact person or focal point from each FETP in the region to place the spotlight on the programs’ milestones, and contributions to their community. It also works to publish the achievements of FETP residents and graduates from the region in various communication channels. In doing so, the FETP Ambassador Program serves to increase engagement and knowledge sharing across the EMR region, while also seeking to attract partnerships within the countries.



The Win Win Scenario

FETP Ambassadors will not only act for the benefit of GHD|EMPHNET, but they will also be given the opportunity to benefit themselves. They will gain priority for attending regional and local public health events, and they will be able to gain skills that they could benefit from in their future careers. GHD|EMPHNET will also provide opportunities for Ambassadors to engage in communication training and internships. Moreover, the Ambassador who shows significant contribution within their role will be nominated to receive the Annual Ambassador Award. The holder of the Ambassador Award will be invited to attend the Bi-annual EMPHNET Regional Conference or any similar regional event, such as webinars, conferences, or symposiums, where they will be featured in a special session to talk about their experience as an ambassador in any of EMPHNET’s events.

Ambassador Training

To acquaint the Ambassadors with their role, the program commenced with a two-day virtual training session held on July 31 and August 1, 2022. The training was attended by 17 Ambassadors all of whom were nominated by their country program directors to serve as focal points or ambassadors linking the programs with EMPHNET. Ambassadors came from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, and Yemen FETPs.

The two-day training session included an introduction to the Knowledge Exchange and Networking Department, the Ambassadors' role within the Ambassador Program,

and a technical presentation on photo and video taking using mobile phones.

The agenda for the second training day included detailed sessions on media relations and news story writing. During these sessions, the ambassadors were also given general tips on news story telling. These tips highlighted the elements of a good news story, story structure, and general do's and don'ts for writing.

Upon the conclusion of the training, each ambassador is expected to share his/her program achievements with EMPHNET. Ambassadors serve for a period of one year, in order to pass on experiences to future residents and cohorts.

Next Steps - Ambassador's Activities:

Following the training, the program will continue to provide ambassadors with incentives to share their FETPs' achievements and demonstrate the skills they have acquired via their training. These incentives include:

- Bi-weekly meetings with the KEN team for the Ambassadors to present their news or ask questions.
- Courses to build their capacities. (Design courses, content writing, photography, how to take videos from the field).
- Best photo and best article contest.
- Training on how to use EMPHNET Electronic Library (EEL).
- Certificates of completion.

An ideal way to increase visibility for a program is to create an incentive for people to share their work, their knowledge, and their accomplishments. Thus, the program offers ambassadors a priority to attend events, and exclusive training sessions to enhance their communication skills, and an opportunity to compete for the annual Ambassador Award, amongst other incentives.



**Country
Program News**

This section highlights the region's FETPs' updates

AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan FETP Updates on Intermediate Cohorts

In August, the Afghanistan Field Epidemiology Training Program's (Afghanistan FETP's) third intermediate cohort held its second workshop in which residents were introduced to new concepts of epidemiology including analytical epidemiology, comprehensive discussions on study designs, as well as working with basic statistical and hypothesis features of Epi Info and research ethics. The open floor discussion was accompanied by case studies which served to enhance residents' understanding of learned concepts.

The Afghanistan FETP inaugurated the fourth cohort of its one-year Intermediate level. The inauguration ceremony was hosted on June 18, 2022, at the Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health (MoPH).

From another angle, residents of the Afghanistan FETP third and fourth cohorts were involved in the rotation program launched by Afghanistan FETP on July 20, 2022 within their respective provinces. The program was initiated to enhance residents' understanding and involvement in their country's public health system while further enhancing team spirit.

Afghanistan FETP Residents Support a Measles Campaign

The fourth cohort residents of the Afghanistan FETP contributed to a measles campaign for children aged six months to ten years. The campaign took place between July 23 to July 28, 2022 and covered earthquake affected areas within the Paktika province. It also focused on overcoming obstacles related to immunization and potential outbreak prevention.



Also in July, the residents of the fourth intermediate cohort of the Afghanistan FETP got to know their mentors and coaches in a hybrid session. The residents created an efficient and interactive contact channel and were assigned to technical officers of the program for further guidance and technical help.

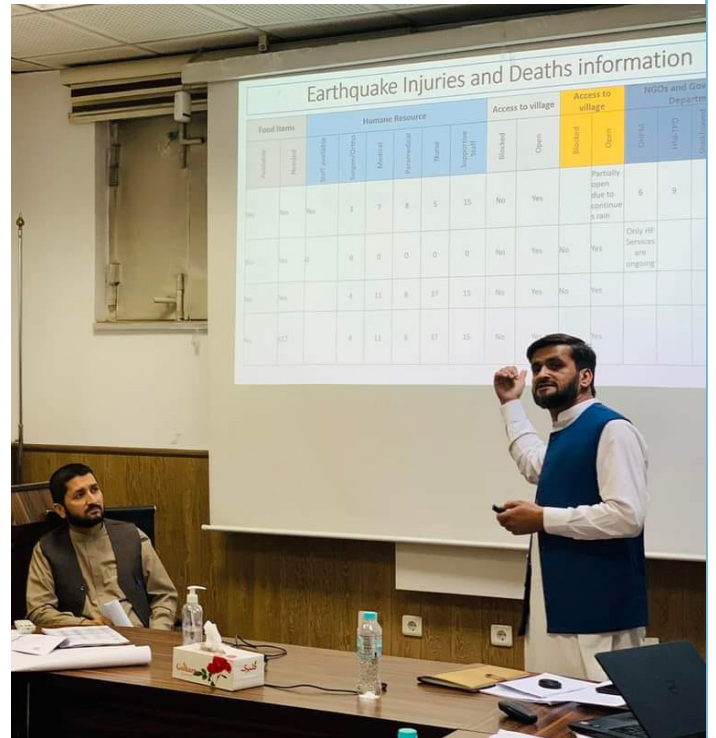
In addition, earlier in June, 2022, a resident of the third Intermediate cohort of the Afghanistan FETP, Dr. Nizamuddin Najam has been actively involved in investigations of a measles outbreak in Nooristan province.

An outbreak of food poisoning has been also identified and investigated in an adjacent village.

Afghanistan FETP Residents Attend a Session on Recent Earthquake

On May 9, 2022, Afghanistan FETP contributed to facilitating sessions within the Afghanistan National Public Health Institute (ANPHI). ANPHI is the academic and intellectual body of the Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). It contributes to developing public health workforce capacities across the country.

Afghanistan FETPs’ team developed and delivered a presentation on “Conflict Management” as part of a short course on Health Management and Ethics targeting both the newly recruited, and current technical and administrative staff within the Afghanistan MoPH.



Afghanistan FETP Residents Practice in the Field

In June 2022, Afghanistan FETP cohort resident, Dr. Khal Muhammad Bahram participated in an outbreak investigation of acute watery diarrhea (suspected cholera) in the Jangal Aregh village of Murdeyan District, Jawzjan province.

Field work is an integral part of the one-year training of the intermediate program. Taking part in outbreak investigations enables residents to enhance their practical capabilities beside the theoretical understanding learned during their training.



Afghanistan FETP Meets with WHO and the ANPHI

In June, 2022, the Afghanistan FETP and ANPHI hosted a delegation from the WHO Kabul office. During this meeting, the Afghanistan FETP Director and the program’s Technical Advisor introduced the areas of focus covered within the Afghanistan FETP Intermediate level.

They also presented the achievements made by the program’s last two cohorts. From their end, WHO office delegates extended their intentions for mutual collaboration in areas of capacity building, while also highlighting opportunities available for Afghanistan FETP Alumni within the WHO Kabul office.

BANGLADESH

Updates from Bangladesh FETP's First Intermediate Cohort

The Bangladesh Field Epidemiology Training Program's (Bangladesh FETP's) first Intermediate cohort residents attended their third workshop on July 2, 2022. This workshop forms part of the residents' one-year training.

The workshop's objectives were to provide an opportunity for participants to deliver presentations and share their field assignment findings with their classmates. One of the cohort residents gave a presentation on an Anthrax investigation the cohort took part in earlier.



Updates on EMPHNET Electronic Library (EEL)

The EMPHNET Electronic Library (EEL) serves as a resource for field epidemiologists and public health professionals in the EMR and beyond. It also provides its users with access to resources and tools that will advance their research and practice.

Since its launch in May, 2022, more than 400 users have registered, and more than 1000 search sessions were made. Furthermore, EEL has been logged into from more than 20 countries.

EGYPT

Egypt FETP Celebrate the Fifth PHEP Cohort Graduation

After the successful completion of a three-months in-service training in applied epidemiology, twenty sanitarians graduated from the Egypt Field Epidemiology Training Program (Egypt FETP) Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) On August 22, 2022, thus making up the program's fifth cohort.

The graduation ceremony was attended by the Chief of the Preventive Sector at the Egypt Ministry of Health and Population, Dr. Amr Kandeel; Director-General of the Egypt Ministry of Health and Population, Epidemiology and Surveillance Department, Dr. Manal Labib; and Egypt FETP Director, Dr. Sahar Sami.

During the ceremony, EMPHNET Workforce Capacity Team Leader, Dr. Haitham Bashier delivered a keynote speech in which he congratulated the program on this milestone. From his end, Dr. Kandeel gave a speech in which he stated that he expected the graduates to continue devoting themselves to public health practice by implementing the scientific and



epidemiological knowledge they have gained on the ground.

Members of the FETP steering committee, cohort mentors, and field site supervisors were thanked for the support and the guidance they provided the graduates throughout their PHEP training.

Egypt FETP Residents and Graduates Participate in a COVID-19 Survey

On July 19, 2022, the Egypt FETP residents and graduates participated in a survey conducted at Cairo and Alexandria airports to determine the prevalence of COVID-19 and seasonal influenza among returning Egyptian pilgrims following the 2022 Hajj season.

The data was collected from each pilgrim using a semi-structured questionnaire that includes pilgrim's demographics, clinical data, vaccination status, and exposure history.

Nasopharyngeal specimens were also collected from pilgrims and were tested.



Updates From the Egypt FETP Intermediate Cohort

On June 25, 2022, Egypt FETP commenced the first workshop for its second Intermediate cohort. The objective of this workshop was to introduce residents to the basics of epidemiology, public health surveillance, and outbreak investigation.

After they successfully complete their one-year training, the second Intermediate cohort graduates are expected to serve within the Egypt Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) to improve the health of the public, and to respond to public health challenges in the country. They are also expected to enhance the completion and accuracy of surveillance data reporting and analysis to facilitate the effective control of diseases.



Egypt FETP Releases its Bi-Annual Newsletter

Egypt FETP released the latest issue of its newsletter.

This issue of the newsletter covered the news of FETP residents and graduates from January to June, 2022, including FETP mentorship, field work, and the latest conferences and publications, as well as updates on Advanced and Intermediate Cohorts, in addition to basic level PHEP.

Read more [here](#)



IRAQ

Iraq FETP Celebrate the Graduation of its Second Intermediate Cohort

The Iraq Field Epidemiology Training Program (Iraq FETP) celebrated the graduation of its second Intermediate Cohort on Aug 23, 2022, in a ceremony held under the patronage of the Iraq Minister of Health H.E. Dr. Hani Moussa Bader and in the presence of the Director of the Public Health Directorate, Dr. Riyadh A.Alhilfiyas well as representatives of the Department of Applied Epidemiology in the Public Health Directorate, the Biological Threat Reduction Program (BTRP), the Iraq Ministry of Health, and other international organizations.

The ceremony saw the graduation of 33 public health professionals who completed the requirements of their one-year training.



Wishing FETPs Good luck

We wish FETP residents and graduates from the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) the best of luck in presenting their abstracts at the 11th TEPHINET Global Scientific Conference, set to be held in Panama City between September 4 and 9, 2022.

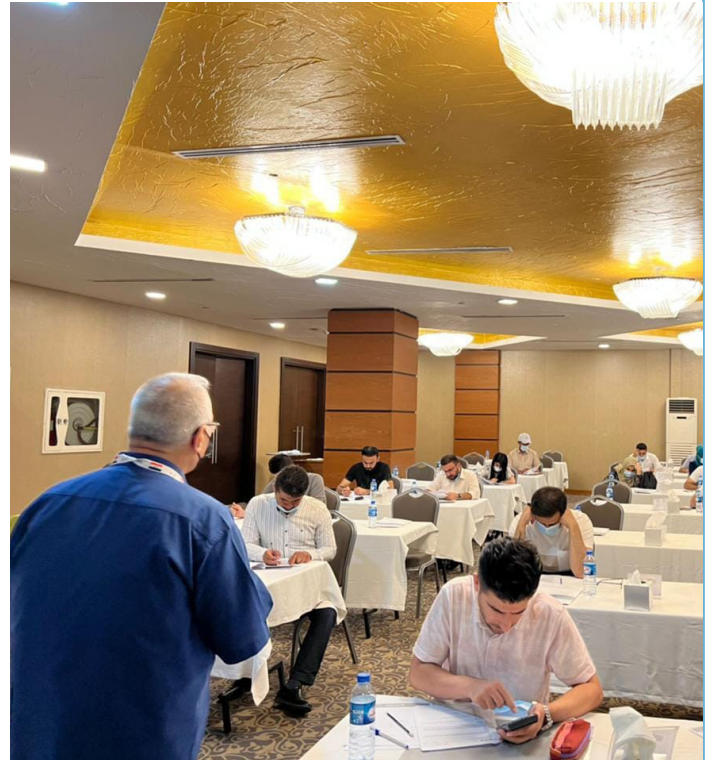
Noting that over thirty FETP residents and graduates from the EMR were accepted to present their abstracts at the conference.



Iraq FETP Commences Recruitment Process for its Third Intermediate Cohort

In August, Iraq FETP commenced the recruitment process for its third Intermediate cohort with an exam taken by candidates from Baghdad and Erbil .The exam saw representation from all health departments.

After they successfully complete their one-year training, the third Intermediate cohort graduates are expected to serve within the Iraq Ministry of Health (MoH) to improve health of the public, and to respond to public health challenges in the country. They are also expected to enhance the completion and accuracy of surveillance data reporting and analysis to facilitate the effective control of diseases.



Second Intermediate Cohort of Iraq FETP Assesses Haemorrhagic Fever Situation in Dhi Qar

In June 2022, the second Intermediate cohort of Iraq FETP held a field visit to the Dhi Qar Governorate. The purpose of the visit was to assess the preparations and response efforts made regarding the Haemorrhagic Fever epidemic, noting that this governorate recorded the highest percentage of Haemorrhagic Fever infection and death rates in comparison with other governorates across the country.



LEBANON

Lebanon FETP Celebrates its First PHEP Cohort Graduation

The Lebanon Field Epidemiology Training Program (Lebanon FETP) had their first Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) cohort graduation on July 19, 2022. The cohort included 15 public health professionals, all of whom completed a three-month in-service training that focused on the detection of and response to public health events.

Through this training, the participants learned and practiced the fundamental skills needed to perform efficiently in the areas of surveillance systems and principles of leadership and management.



MOROCCO

Morocco FETP Intermediate Cohort Residents Finish their One-Year Training

On July 6, 2022, the first Intermediate cohort residents of Morocco Field Epidemiology Training Program (Morocco FETP) completed their one-year training. The graduation ceremony is yet to be held in September.

The Intermediate FETP is a nine-month to one-year in-service training program that focuses on strengthening epidemiological capacity at the middle and national level of the health system. The Intermediate FETP is designed for government public health workers at the middle and national level of the health system who are responsible for: surveillance data completion, analysis, and reporting.



OMAN

Oman FETP Officially Launches its First Cohort

On August 21, 2022, the Oman Field Epidemiology Training Program (Oman FETP) was officially launched, with the first Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) cohort.

The launch was commemorated in a ceremony held under the patronage of the Director General of Financial, Administrative, and Planning Affairs at the Oman Ministry of Health (MoH), Dr. Fatima Bint Mohammad Al Ajamiya, and in the presence of WHO Representative, Dr. John Jaboor; CDC Regional Office Representative, Dr. Rachel Nelson; and Director of Disease Surveillance and Control at the Oman Ministry of Health, Dr. Saif Al Abiri.



Oman FETP Conducts its First PHEP Workshop

In September, The Oman FETP conducted its first PHEP workshop. PHEP is a three-month training program that focuses on detecting and responding to diseases and events of public health importance of international concern. Participants learn and practice fundamental skills used in surveillance at the local health system through educational and in-service training, which are directly related to the Ministry of Health’s (MoH) surveillance and outbreak response goals.

Prior to this workshop a mentorship training was conducted for 11 mentors .FETP Mentorship training is a step in establishing the new FETP program in any country, its main objective is to prepare the facilitators and mentors to support the training of FETP residents and equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills they need to better manage the field work of FETP residents.



PAKISTAN

Pakistan FELTP Residents and Graduates Respond to Floods

Flash floods caused by the current abnormally heavy monsoon rain across Pakistan have killed at least 550 people and injured hundreds, with the government issuing warnings of further extreme monsoon downpours in 14 more cities.

The country's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) stated that infrastructure, road networks and 5,600 homes had been damaged due to the floods. Furthermore, public services in the city have been suspended and businesses closed.

Pakistan FELTP residents and graduates participated in the response efforts to the flash floods in the country after health experts expressed concern over the consequences of the abundance of stagnant rainwater throughout all major cities of the country during the Monsoon season. Health experts worry that another viral outbreak amongst the citizens may put further stress on the country's healthcare system, especially after the re-emergence of some diseases such as, Cholera, Polio, Malaria, and Dengue.

Pakistan FELTP Guides Pilgrims on Disease Prevention Practices

Pakistan FELTP delegates Dr. Mumtaz Ali Khan and Dr. Ayaz Chohan for the hajj season.

Dr. Ali Khan and Dr. Chohan were both part of the Pakistan Hajj Medical Mission at Makkah where they guided Hajj pilgrims on disease prevention and control practices.

Part of their duties included delivering awareness lectures, promoting infection control practices, and supervising surveillance activities. They also provided medical care to patients at the Hajj Medical Mission Hospital in Makkah and Madina.



EMPHNET Celebrates Field Epidemiologists on WFED

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

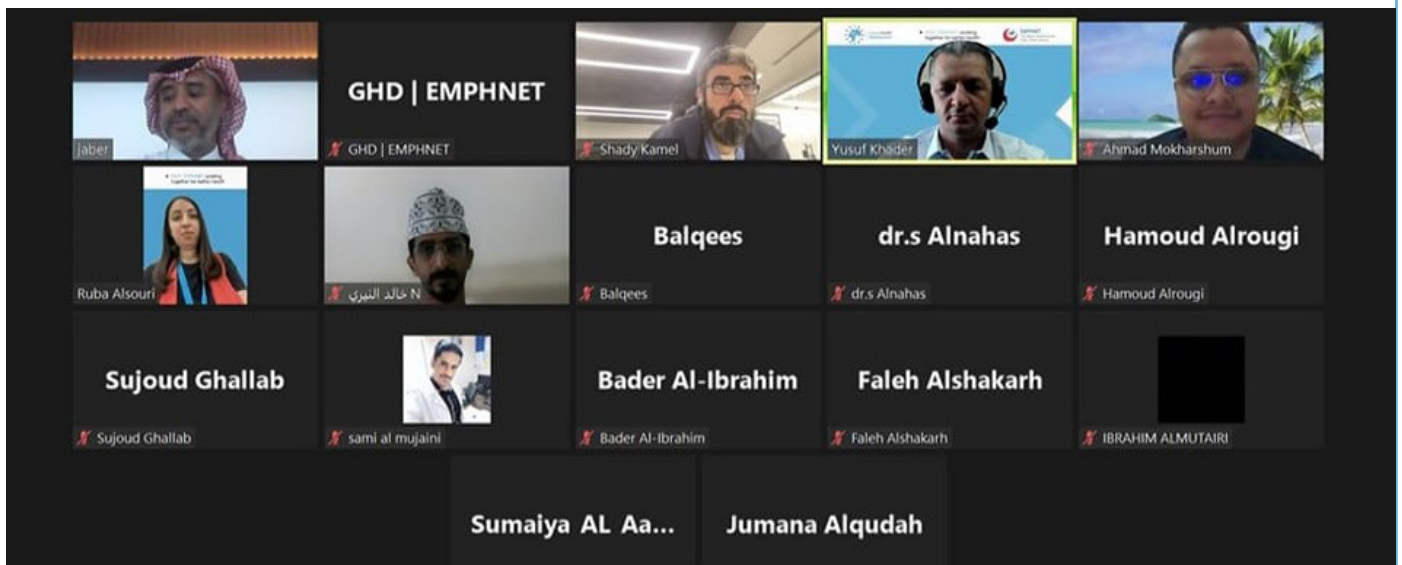
This webinar will bring together field epidemiologists to raise awareness of the impact field epidemiology has on people's health. It will also showcase the lessons learned from FETP residents and graduates' roles as front line responders to the COVID-19 pandemic.

So, mark your calendars for October 4, 2022 and stay tuned for the announcement and the registration link.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi FETP Residents and Graduates Sit for a Virtual Training on Case Studies’ Design and Development

Twenty Saudi Field Epidemiology Training Program (Saudi FETP) residents and graduates sat for a two-day virtual training on case studies’ design and development on July 19, 2022. The objectives of the training were to enable participants to design and develop case studies, and to learn relevant processes and guidelines. The session also offered a space for participants to increase their competencies in developing and writing their case studies.



Saudi FETP Residents Participate in Epidemiologic Investigation and Surveillance During Hajj

Hajj is one of the largest Mass Gathering events in the world. Every year, more than two million pilgrims from all over the world gather in the Holy city of Makkah, to perform Hajj. These pilgrims may be vulnerable to various health conditions as a result of close contact with others and crowdedness.

Since its launch, the Saudi FETP residents were part of the preventive medicine team that conducted field studies and participated in epidemiologic investigation and surveillance during Hajj.

Hajj studies are designed in line with the experiences acquired during previous Hajj seasons. The aim of these studies is to prevent the prevalence of certain epidemic diseases and to evaluate a



variety of preventive health services in Hajj.

This year, several epidemiological studies were conducted during the Hajj period and are currently being completed.

SUDAN

Sudan FETP Participates in an Outbreak Investigation After the First Monkeypox Case Detection in Darfour

The Sudan Field Epidemiology Training Program (Sudan FETP) residents participated in an outbreak investigation conducted after the first monkeypox case was detected in the West Darfour State. The team was sent on August 6, 2022, to apply the competencies of field epidemiology.

In a statement on July 31, 2022, the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) said that the first case was detected in a 16-year old student in West Darfour state, and was confirmed by the National Laboratory for Public Health in Khartoum.



Sudan FETP Second Intermediate Cohort Conducts its Second Workshop

Sudan FETP second Intermediate cohort conducted its second workshop on August, 2022 in Khartoum state. The first two days of the workshop aimed to evaluate the residents' fieldwork activities. The remaining days of the workshop focused on observational and cross-sectional studies, and sampling. Sessions on EPI Info were facilitated by the programs' Technical Advisor. After the completion of the workshop, residents returned to their states to fulfill fieldwork activities.



Sudan FETP Holds a Workshop with FMOH Colleagues

On August 7, 2022, Sudan FETP welcomed colleagues from the Geziera, Northern, River Nile states, and the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), who were recently assigned as the mentors for the third Intermediate cohort of the Sudan FETP.

They sat for a two-day workshop that covered the areas of mentoring, effective feedback, roles, and responsibilities of the mentor, among other areas.



Sudan FETP Commences its Third Intermediate Cohort

On 7 July, 2022, the Sudan FETP successfully conducted all required selection process activities regarding the third cohort of its Intermediate level. The selection process consisted of two rounds where the program selected residents making up this cohort.

Later in July 2022, Sudan FETP commenced its third Intermediate cohort with an orientation session. The purpose of the session was to introduce participants to the roles and responsibilities of mentors, as well as the characteristics and skills of effective mentorship.



The workshop also aimed to provide an opportunity for mentors to meet each other and for the Sudan FETP team to gain perspective and input on how to improve the program.

The session included welcoming remarks by the FETP Director and Head of the Emergency and Epidemic Control Directorate at the Federal Ministry of Health, Dr. Muntasir Osman; and the Country Director of EMPHNET's Sudan Office,

Dr. Ghada Shouna. At the end of the session, all residents registered in GHD|EMPHNET's Learning Management System (LMS). Between August 13 to 16, 2022, the Sudan FETP welcomed residents of the third Intermediate cohort. The residents attended the first face-to-face workshop. During which they had the opportunity to learn about case studies, learn more about Epi Info, and receive guidelines for their first fieldwork session.

Advanced Sudan FETP Cohort Concludes Exams for the Proposal Writing Module

Sudan FETP’s second Advanced cohort concluded exams for the proposal writing module, which took place in the Public Health Institute in Khartoum between June 1 to June 6, 2022.

The residents presented their proposals and were evaluated by a group of public health specialists namely, Public Health Specialist, and Head of the Research Committee at the Sudan Medical Specialization Board, Dr. Sumaia M. Al Fadil; Community Medicine Specialist, Dr. Dia Eldeen Mohamed; Disaster Management Specialist and Head of the Research Department at the Emergency and Epidemic Control Directorate, FMOH, Dr. Elfadel Mohamhed Mahmoud; and Country Director of EMPHNET’s Sudan Office, Dr. Ghada Shouna.



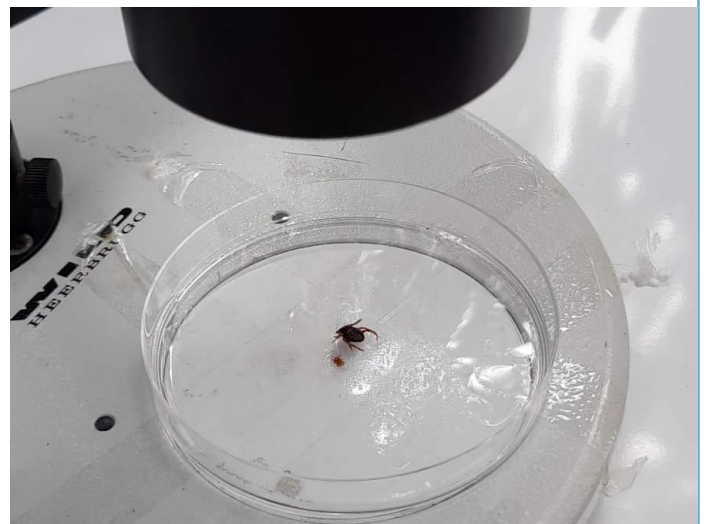
TUNISIA

Tunisia FETP Intermediate Cohort Updates

In July 2022, the Tunisia Field Epidemiology Training Program's (Tunisia FETP's) fourth Intermediate cohort were working in the field as part of their one-year training. The cohort comprises 14 participants, all working at the regional epidemiological surveillance units within the Tunisia Ministry of Public Health (MoPH).

The FETP Intermediate level is a nine-month to one-year in-service training program that focuses on improving the epidemiological capacity to evaluate and strengthen the public health surveillance system. It also focuses on building the participants' capacities to investigate and control outbreaks, as well as conducting field studies that address public priority issues in their countries.

Below are some scenes of the residents in the field.



YEMEN

Yemen FETP Launch a Training Program for the 18th PHEP Cohort

The Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program (Yemen FETP) launched a Training for the 18th cohort of the Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) in Sana'a.

A total of 35 residents make up this cohort. They come from both the governorates and the Yemen Ministry of Public Health and Population programs (MoPHP). This is the fourth PHEP cohort to be launched this year. Participants will sit for two weeks of in-class training which will be followed by four weeks of field work.



Yemen FETP First Intermediate Cohort in Sana'a Commences its Second Workshop

On August 7, 2022, Yemen FETP first Intermediate cohort in Sana'a commenced the second workshop forming part of their one-year training.

Twenty-five residents attended the training. Fifteen residents came from the governorates, and 10 from the MoPHP programs.

The two-week session covered topics related to outbreak investigations and the use of Epi Info. It will be followed by six weeks of field work.



Yemen FETP Holds a Two-Day Training Course for Mentors

On August 3, 2022, Yemen FETP held a two-day training course that targeted nine mentors who will be supervising the 25 residents forming the 16th cohort of the PHEP. The residents are from the Ibb and Mareb districts. In August, residents of this cohort started their first round of fieldwork which will last for four weeks. Each mentor supervises two to three residents in the field.



Yemen FETP Launches New Cohorts and Workshops

On July 23, 2022, Yemen FETP launched two events; a new cohort within the PHEP, and an outbreak investigation in Sana'a.

The new cohort includes 25 participants that represent the surveillance branches in the districts of the Ibb and Mareb governorates.

The second event is an outbreak investigation course which the sixth advanced cohort residents of Yemen FETP participated in. The course was attended by ten residents and five more participants from the Disease Control Programs at the Yemen Ministry Of Public Health and Population (MoPHP).



Yemen FETP Launches its First PHEP Cohort in Aden

After the first PHEP cohort of the year 2022 from the Yemen FETP in Aden was launched, the residents began their field work. The cohort comprises 22 residents, all of whom are public health professionals from surrounding governorates. As part of their journey and training, on June 20, 2022, the residents discussed case studies on Brucellosis, Measles, COVID-19, and H5N1.

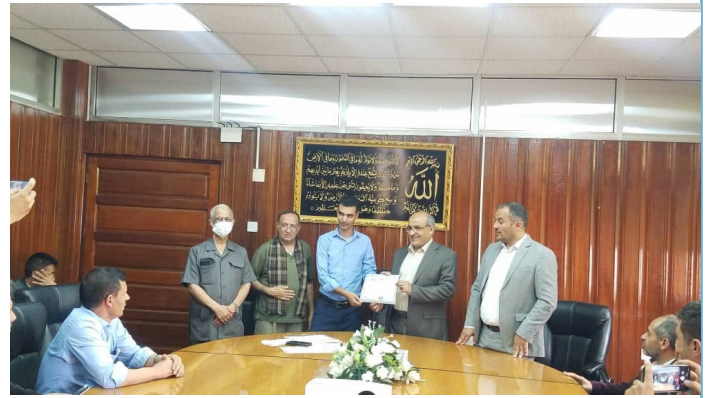
PHEP is a three-month training program that focuses on detecting and responding to diseases and events of public health importance of international concern. Participants learn and practice fundamental skills used in surveillance at the local health system through educational and in-service training, which are directly related to the MoPHP's surveillance and outbreak response goals.

On the other hand, the Yemen FETP's PHEP cohort in Mukalla prepared a short video highlighting cohort activities. To watch the video, click [here](#).



Yemen FETP Celebrate the Graduation of PHEP Cohort Participants

In July 2022 and after the completion of the three-month PHEP training, Yemen FETP celebrated the graduation of 25 participants from three governorates (Dhamar, Mahweet and Amran).



Yemen FETP Commences its First Intermediate Cohort

On June 19, 2022, Yemen FETP commenced the first Intermediate cohort after completing the screening course conducted three weeks earlier. Twenty-five applicants were accepted, out of which, fifteen are governorates’ surveillance officers or members of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs), while ten are from the national program in the Yemen MoPHP.



Yemen FETP Conducts its Second Mentorship Workshop in Sana’a

On June 15, 2022, Yemen FETP conducted its second mentorship workshop for the mentors of its sixth Advanced cohort residents in the city of Sana’a. More than 32 program directors attended the workshop. After the completion of this workshop, the sixth cohort residents commenced their training where they work towards developing “The Surveillance Analysis Report” which is considered their first deliverable.



Other News

This section covers regional news and success stories



OTHER NEWS

EMPHNET Trains FETP Master Mentors

In compliance with GHD|EMPHNET’s beliefs in the importance of mentorship for Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs), a regional five-day face-to-face workshop took place in Amman, Jordan from July 24- 28, 2022 titled “Training of Master Mentors”. The workshop was designed to qualify master mentors in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) with the needed training competencies to train FETP mentors in their countries.



FETPs competency-based service training programs focus on applied epidemiology and public health. The programs aim to develop the capacity of public health systems in the EMR countries by building competencies through on-the-job mentorship.

Mentorship, being a relationship between two parties, aims to facilitate personal and professional growth in an individual by sharing knowledge and insights that have been learned through experience. The “mentor” is usually an experienced individual who shares knowledge, experience, and advice with someone less experienced “mentee”.

FETP mentorship training is essential for every new FETP cohort in any country. Its main objective is to prepare the facilitators and mentors to support the training of the FETP

residents and to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills they need to better manage their field work. They also serve to enhance the quality of mentorship, and to empower mentors with the required competencies.

This regional workshop reinforced the integral role of mentors in an FETP, as residents of the program receive 75% of their learning through practical training in the field under the guidance of a mentor.

The “Training of Master Mentors” workshop trained 24 master mentors, and was facilitated by two international trainers. The workshop sessions focused on; training assessment and evaluation, an overview of mentoring, FETP mentor roles and responsibilities, tips for successful mentoring, effective feedback, problem solving, and surveillance analysis amongst other topics.



GHD|EMPHNET Holds Regional Workshop on Scientific Manuscript Writing and Publication

Stemming from GHD|EMPHNET's ongoing commitment to give Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) residents and graduates technical support in research methods, statistical analysis, and scientific writing, it held a regional five-day workshop titled "Scientific Manuscript Writing and Publication" in Amman, Jordan, from August 14 to 18, 2022. This activity primarily comes in response to the FETP Board of Directors unanimously emphasizing the importance of scientific publication for elevating levels of public health practice and promoting public health policy in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR).

Scientific publications can be seen as an asset that enables authors to gain recognition and acknowledgement as experts in a particular field at regional and international levels. This contributes to public health practice globally by putting the EMR on the map as a hub for public health knowledge.

The workshop sessions, facilitated by a team of experts, and attended by FETP residents and graduates from the EMR, focused on the organization and writing of scientific research papers. They also provided participants with tips and guidelines for writing the different sections making up scientific manuscripts, designing tables and figures, as well as writing clear and concise abstracts and cover letters for submission to scientific journals. The goal was to enable participants to contribute to improving the dissemination of research, enhancing knowledge sharing, and supporting EMPHNET research groups in the EMR with conducting their studies and publishing position papers on priority public health areas.

FETP residents and graduates who participated in this workshop were introduced to the process of publication from a scientific journal editor's perspective, along with choosing the



right scientific journal for their paper, as well as the skills needed to navigate peer review. They also received feedback on their writing from a group of mentors. Furthermore, they wrote draft research papers based on data generated from their current or previous studies.

After the workshop, participants were expected to publish at least 20 scientific manuscripts in different areas of Field Epidemiology including, but not limited to, outbreaks, surveillance systems and evaluation, communicable diseases, and non-communicable diseases. They were also given the opportunity to send their draft to the workshop mentors for direct feedback, and later submit the final versions for potential publication with ongoing technical support from GHD|EMPHNET.

This workshop serves as one of the many capacity building opportunities provided by GHD|EMPHNET to meet FETPs' learning needs and contribute effectively to enhancing public health practice and sharing knowledge. Nonetheless, the workshop was only the steppingstone for putting the participants on the right path towards a fruitful career in scientific publication and elevated public health practice.

The Public Health Community Celebrates the Second World Field Epidemiology Day

Arising from the need for field epidemiologists to gain prominence as frontline responders in the event of outbreaks, and public health adversaries, in 1980 the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) began supporting the development of Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs) in countries outside the USA. Accordingly, the International Health Regulations (IHR) and the Global Health Security Agenda (GHS) call for at least one trained field epidemiologist per 200,000 people in every country around the globe.

As public health workers worldwide have been involved in COVID-19 pandemic response efforts, field epidemiologists have been at the forefront of these efforts, more specifically involved in contact tracing, case investigations, community engagement, data collection, and analysis. This has helped increase the visibility of FETPs and it made them more involved in all the pillars of public health.

In light of these events, the Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET) commenced the first World Field Epidemiology Day (WFED). On September 7, 2021.

The goal of this global movement is to raise awareness of the vital role that field epidemiologists play in protecting the health of populations, training, and advancing global health security. It serves to advocate for increased investment in field epidemiology, research, and professionals, and it also recognizes the research conducted by FETPs as well as other public health professionals.

The occasion is observed on this particular day because it marks John Snow's presentation of his findings about the cholera outbreak to local authorities in London in 1854. His investigations led to the removal of the handle of a water pump that he had identified as a possible source of



the outbreak. This is considered a key event for modern epidemiology and public health. Today, there are 75 FETPs around the world, training field epidemiologists in more than 100 countries. Worldwide, more than 19,000 field epidemiologists have graduated from an FETP. The efforts the FETP residents and graduates made during the pandemic contributed to raising more awareness to the important role they play in elevating public health standards in their respective countries. However, this awareness did not translate into more funding for FETPs or the research of residents and graduates. This day serves to fill in gaps of visibility and to increase prominence of the role played by field epidemiologists in public health practice.

The Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) is an official partner to the WFED thus, it commits to using its platforms to promote WFED on September 7.

In 2021, In celebration of WFED, GHD|EMPHNET and various Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) FETPs organized and participated in events that focused on action, communication, and advocacy. Through these activities, they made a compelling case urging increased support and investment in field epidemiology for global health and security.

In commemoration of this day, GHD|EMPHNET conducted a webinar titled "The FETP Enterprise: An EMR Reflection." The session served to shed light on the concept and importance of the FETP enterprise, the FETP roadmap, and the work of the Strategic Leadership Group (SLG). You can watch the webinar [here](#).

GHD|EMPHNET also published a case study eBook titled “Case Studies in Field Epidemiology, an EMR Experience.” This book contains a variety of real-life examples of best practices in healthcare settings from different countries across the EMR region. This book is a valuable resource for public health professionals with diverse medical backgrounds, offering valuable information about field epidemiology in the context of the EMR and beyond. You can find the link of the e-Book [here](#).

In addition, GHD|EMPHNET Executive Director Dr. Mohannad Al Nsour participated in a special panel on TEPHINET’s Inaugural World Field Epidemiology Day’s virtual event. The panel saw participation from several regional

network directors who discussed the role of FETP networks in developing healthier regions.

Field epidemiology is the key to strengthening the epidemiologic and surveillance capacity at all levels of the health system, mitigating public health threats, and leading to reduced mortality. Learn more about World Field Epidemiology Day and how to be involved by following the links below:

- [WFED | WFED \(worldfieldepidemiology-day.org\)](#)
- [Get Involved | WFED \(worldfieldepidemiologyday.org\)](#)
- [The Global Field Epidemiology Roadmap | TEPHINET](#)

If You Are an FETP Ambassador Apply for the FETP Ambassador Award

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ambassador award is given once a year to the FETP Ambassador who has contributed significantly to increasing the visibility of his/her country program, the recipient of this award will be announced in September each year by email, and on social media.

In order to be eligible for the award, the ambassador must be an FETP resident or graduate, and an ambassador in the EMPHNET FETP Ambassador Program for that year. The nominated participants should submit a portfolio with evidence of achieving the mandatory criteria for evaluation.

The winner of the ambassador award will be able to attend the Bi-annual EMPHNET Regional Conference or any similar regional event and will be featured in a special session in which he/she gives a talk about his/her experience as an ambassador in any of EMPHNET’s events (Webinar, MTD, or Conference, or Symposium).

GHD|EMPHNET: Working Together for Better Health

Global Health Development (GHD) is a regional initiative created to support countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) and to strengthen their health systems to respond to public health challenges and threats. GHD was initiated to advance the work of the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) by building coordinating mechanisms with Ministries of Health, International Organizations and other institutions to improve population health outcomes. As an implementing arm to EMPHNET, GHD aligns its strategies with national policies and directions. Serving as a collaborative platform, GHD|EMPHNET is dedicated to serve the region by supporting national efforts to promote public health policies, strategic planning, sustainable financing, resource mobilization, public health programs, and other related services.

▶ Shmeisani, Abdallah Ben Abbas Street, Building No 42, ▶ Tel: +962-6-5519962 ▶ www.globalhealthdev.org
 P.O.Box: 963709, Postal Code: 11196 Amman, Jordan Fax: +962-6-5519963 info@globalhealthdev.org