



EMPHNET
The Eastern Mediterranean
Public Health Network

EMPHNET IN SUDAN





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

EMPHNET's engagement in Sudan is grounded in mutual trust, shared responsibility, and a unified commitment to building a stronger and more resilient public health system. Over time, this collaboration has evolved from targeted technical assistance and workforce development efforts into a comprehensive and strategic partnership addressing a wide range of national public health priorities. Today, EMPHNET's work in Sudan is closely aligned with national health strategies, reflecting a coordinated approach that supports system strengthening, preparedness, and sustainable impact.

This partnership also extends to supporting public health advancement through health system strengthening, workforce capacity building, knowledge exchange, technical cooperation, and support for programs that enhance disease prevention, immunization, health promotion, and overall population health. Importantly, EMPHNET has remained a committed partner during periods of instability and crisis, adapting its support to respond to emerging needs and ensuring continuity of essential public health functions. Through sustained collaboration, EMPHNET continues to stand alongside Sudan in navigating challenges while reinforcing the foundations of a resilient health system.

أيد على أيد تجدد بعيد

**“TOGETHER WE CAN
GO FAR.”**

Sudanese Proverb





TIMELINE OF OUR WORK WITH SUDAN

LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR STRATEGIC COLLABORATION

2009-2012

Establishing collaborative ties with the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) and key national stakeholders to jointly identify priority public health needs and shape strategic areas of cooperation, while engaging and hosting Sudanese public health professionals in regional workshops and knowledge-exchange platforms.

FORMALIZING PARTNERSHIP AND ADVANCING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

2013-2018

By formalizing collaboration with the FMOH through the signing of two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in 2013 and 2018, the partnership strengthened support for the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) and maternal and child health services, while establishing a strong foundation for workforce development through key capacity-building initiatives, including the launch of the Sudan Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) and the Public Health Empowerment Program – Surveillance for Polio Officers (PHEP-SPO) in 2017.

ENHANCING PARTNERSHIP AND EXPANDING TECHNICAL SUPPORT

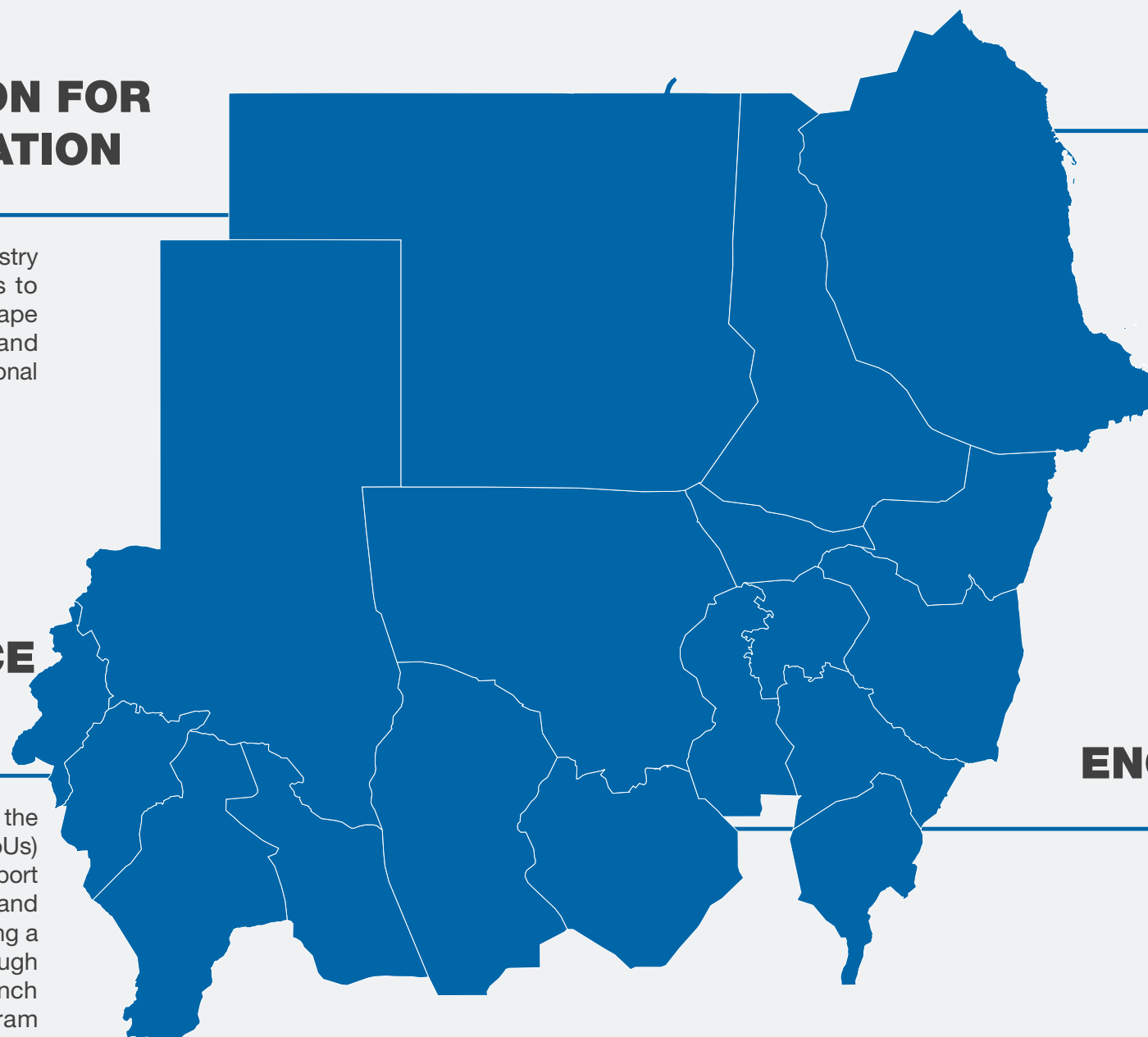
2019-2022

Strengthening public health workforce capacity through the launch of specialized Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs), including the Public Health Empowerment Program – Nutrition (PHEP-Nutrition), while supporting routine immunization delivery during COVID-19 through improvements in data accuracy and demand generation, and strengthening vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) surveillance. EMPHNET also worked to enhance emergency preparedness and response through data-driven COVID-19 interventions, and advance event-based surveillance (EBS) through a nationwide assessment across Sudan.

RENEWING COLLABORATION AND ENGAGING AMID CONFLICT

2023-Present

Signing a new MoU in 2023, EMPHNET expanded its in-country presence and continued to support health system strengthening, with a focus on immunization system across multiple levels, including governance and planning, alongside broader efforts in disease prevention and control such as malaria-related interventions. In emergency contexts, it also worked with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to support coordination, response, and resource mobilization.





STRENGTHENING THE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE IN SUDAN

MARKING A MILESTONE WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM (FETP)

In 2017, EMPHNET, in collaboration with the FMoH, launched the Sudan FETP, setting a new benchmark for public health workforce development in the country by building expertise in applied epidemiology, surveillance, outbreak investigation, and emergency response. Over the years, the program has become a cornerstone for strengthening the skills and capacities of Sudan’s health professionals in tackling pressing public health priorities.

2017 - 2019
Modality
Outcomes
Modality
Outcomes
Modality
Outcomes

Establishing the FETP in Different Modalities

Advanced FETP (1 cohort, 2-year program)
14 field epidemiologists graduated, strengthening technical capacity in surveillance, outbreak investigation, and evidence-based decision-making.
PHEP-SPO (4 cohorts, 3-month program)
112 surveillance officers graduated, covering 50% of Sudan’s localities and serving in 16 of 18 states, expanding frontline surveillance and polio detection capacity. Graduates were also supported to implement their training projects, with 18 initiatives implemented across 18 localities, strengthening surveillance at the subnational level.
PHEP-Nutrition (1 cohort, 3-month program)
28 nutrition officers equipped to strengthen nutrition interventions and support improved maternal and child health outcomes.



2020
What was Done?
Outcomes

Evaluating the Impact of the Four PHEP-SPO Cohorts on the National Health System

An independent evaluation was supported to assess the four PHEP-SPO cohorts using multiple performance indicators. Building on the 2018 assessment of the first cohort, which demonstrated improved surveillance officer performance, the evaluation examined training effectiveness, the impact of PHEP-SPO on EPI officers’ performance, and improvements in the quality of surveillance at the locality level.

The evaluation showed that the PHEP-SPO training was generally effective, improving participants’ skills and supporting better performance in their work. It helped strengthen surveillance practices at the local level and created opportunities for learning and experience sharing among participants. However, the impact was affected by staff turnover and the reliance on financial incentives, pointing to the need for stronger retention measures and more sustainable ways to support continued professional development.

2020
-
2026

Launching the Intermediate Program
and Growing the FETP Network

- Modality** Launched the Intermediate FETP (blended model, 4 cohorts, 1-year program)
- Outcomes** **42** health professionals graduated, strengthening their capacity to investigate, and respond to public health threats at middle and national levels.

Despite armed conflict and natural disasters, graduates of the second and third Intermediate FETP cohorts demonstrated remarkable resilience by responding to crises, supporting internally displaced populations, conducting outbreak investigations in hard-to-reach areas, and successfully completing their graduation requirements.



- Modality** Established a new Advanced FETP cohort
- Outcomes** **10** graduates joining the growing pool of professionals reinforcing national capacity in epidemiology, surveillance, and leadership and management.
- Modality** Introduced four PHEP-EPI cohorts within the emergency context
- Outcomes** **128** EPI officers were trained from northern, eastern, central, western, and southern states, including hard-to-reach areas, strengthening community-level surveillance and improving response to polio and vaccine-preventable diseases during Sudan’s ongoing conflict.

2026 In 2026, Sudan is also expected to participate in the upcoming regional FETP–Mental Health cohorts, an initiative led by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and EMPHNET. This engagement will further strengthen the integration of mental health within field epidemiology training, and enhance workforce capacity to address psychosocial and mental health needs.



2025

Assessing PHEP-SPO Cohorts
Launched During the Conflict

- What was Done?** Conducted another evaluation that guided evidence-based improvements for the three PHEP-SPO cohorts launched during the conflict.
- Outcomes** Identified key needs, including expanding trainee coverage, more practical training, use of blended and accessible training methods, ongoing mentorship, and improved collaboration with local health authorities.

FROM TRAINING TO IMPACT: SUDAN FETP RESIDENTS AND GRADUATES ON THE GROUND

Since its establishment, the Sudan FETP has translated learning into action by equipping residents and graduates with the competencies needed to respond effectively to public health emergencies. Over the years, FETP residents have consistently been deployed to the field, supporting outbreak detection, surveillance strengthening, risk communication, and emergency coordination. Their contributions reflect the program's sustained impact on enhancing Sudan's public health response capacity during outbreaks, pandemics, and conflict-related crises.

2020

FETP residents were deployed to the Northern state to respond to a hemorrhagic disease outbreak, conducting assessments of the surveillance system at the locality level and supporting outbreak detection and control.

2021

FETP residents and graduates played a key role in the COVID-19 response by delivering training on clinical management and prevention, supporting outbreak surveillance and rapid response for infectious diseases such as measles, cholera, and dengue, and leading risk communication efforts to protect communities.

2023

During the onset of the conflict, FETP residents and graduates worked jointly with the Health Emergencies and Epidemics Control General Directorate (HEEC) in Gezira state, actively supporting the public health response through epidemic case investigations at IDPs gathering points, assisting in adapting and testing IDP shelter assessment tools, contributing to a surveillance strengthening plan, and participating in health cluster coordination meetings to enhance data flow and reporting.



2024

20 FETP fellows supported public health emergency response at the state level during the armed conflict.

Blue Nile state:

Providing case treatment and therapeutic nutrition.

Red Sea state:

Strengthening cholera outbreak surveillance and emergency response.

Gadarif state:

Evaluating cholera vaccination coverage and recommending sanitation improvements.

Northern state

AlBarqi:

Conducting vaccination center evaluations and community health education

Merowe:

Implementing a vector control and environmental sanitation campaign

2025

PHEP-EPI residents made significant contributions despite the conflict by analyzing immunization data, and conducting surveillance audits and reports, training focal points at Community-Based Surveillance (CBS) sites on the identification and reporting of VPDs, supporting the polio outbreak response, as well as addressing malnutrition among IDPs who are especially vulnerable in crisis settings.



ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND ADVOCACY FOR SUDAN

EMPHNET has worked to enhance knowledge sharing, advocacy, and visibility in support of Sudan's public health priorities. Through webinars, publications, and conference sessions, the organization has addressed a wide range of public health challenges, advocated for emergency response efforts, and promoted public health initiatives to improve health outcomes.



4 webinars were conducted to advocate for Sudan and address its public health challenges, particularly during times of crisis. (Topics covered: **the health impact of conflict, emergency response and humanitarian needs, opportunities for health system support, and lessons from regional public health experiences.**)



Launching the International Campaign to **Support the Health Sector in Sudan** to catalyze meaningful and sustained action in response to the country's ongoing crisis, bringing together diverse stakeholders in a forum that encourages collective efforts to provide immediate relief, rebuild the health infrastructure, and establish a resilient health system for the future.



Advancing health promotion and advocacy through digital campaigns that raise public awareness on preventive health measures, such as malaria prevention and vaccination, encouraging communities to adopt healthy practices and increase vaccine uptake.



Several research papers were published, covering a range of critical public health topics in Sudan, including health system priorities and resilience, the epidemiology of infectious diseases, and strategies for strengthening immunization and surveillance, among others.



Engaging Sudanese experts as speakers and participants to contribute to knowledge-sharing and discussions at EMPHNET conferences, with dedicated sessions organized to specifically address Sudan's public health challenges and response priorities during the recent conflict.



13+ emergency bulletins were issued highlighting the crisis in Sudan, presenting key figures and developments, and advocating for urgent action. Such efforts were reinforced by **2** official statements and 1 formal petition calling on the international community to provide an immediate, coordinated, and comprehensive response to meet the pressing health needs of the Sudanese people.

Published Papers



Investigation of diphtheria outbreak in Al-Sunta locality in South Darfur State - Sudan, 2019/2020: a teaching case-study

Sustaining Immunization Under the Roar of Cannons: Lessons Learned from Sudan, June 2023 to December 2024

Structure, functions, performance and gaps of event-based surveillance (EBS) in Sudan, 2021: a cross-sectional review

Epidemiology of COVID-19 among Children and Adolescents in Sudan 2020–2021

Public health in Sudan: priorities, challenges, and pathways to resilience in crisis

Event-Based surveillance (EBS) implementation in unstable and conflict settings: lessons learned from Sudan

Suboptimal uptake of the malaria vaccine in Sudan: what's behind the blinds?

Dedicated Sessions



Public Health in Sudan Forum – Priorities and Solutions

The Health System in Sudan, from Fragility to Resilience Session – The Impact of Conflict

Abstracts Accepted from Sudan During EMPHNET Conferences

Evaluation of Communicable Diseases Sentinel-Based Surveillance System in Greater Wad Madani Locality- of Gezira State (October 2022)

Field Investigation for Cluster of Human Brucellosis Suspected Cases - Shargelneel Locality, Khartoum State, Sudan, February 2016

The Carriage Rate of Neisseria Meningitides, Serotypes and Risk Factors in Children 1- 15 years, Khartoum State, Sudan, 2016

Analysis of COVID-19 Pandemic Data in Omdurman Locality, Khartoum State between July 2020 to March 2021



REINFORCING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE

CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS

Over the years, EMPHNET has supported national preparedness efforts by strengthening rapid response capacities and reinforcing surveillance, preparedness planning, and coordinated response mechanisms. These initiatives aim to build sustainable national capacity to anticipate, detect, and respond effectively to public health risks.

2018

Contributed to developing an accountability framework for health emergency operations and state-level health emergency plans.

2019

Collaborated with the FMoH to strengthen the capacity of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) at national and subnational levels. Through training-of-trainers workshops, targeted RRT training, and ongoing capacity-building initiatives, these teams have been equipped to respond effectively to disease outbreaks, public health emergencies, and pandemic threats, including cholera, malaria, dengue, and COVID-19.

2020

Building capacities through targeted training sessions in surveillance, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), enabling faster detection and more effective response to health threats.

2022 - 2023

Strengthening EBS with a focus on COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases, through comprehensive support that included:

- Developing EBS guidelines, SOPs, and monitoring & evaluation tools.
- Building capacity by training **40** EBS focal points and **80** frontline personnel in Khartoum and White Nile states.
- Conducting supervisory visits and monitoring generated surveillance reports to ensure data quality and timely response.

2023

Supporting the strengthening of polio and vaccine-preventable disease (VPD) outbreak preparedness and response plans in Sudan, an initiative officially endorsed by stakeholders and aligned with national public health policies to enhance timely and effective outbreak response.

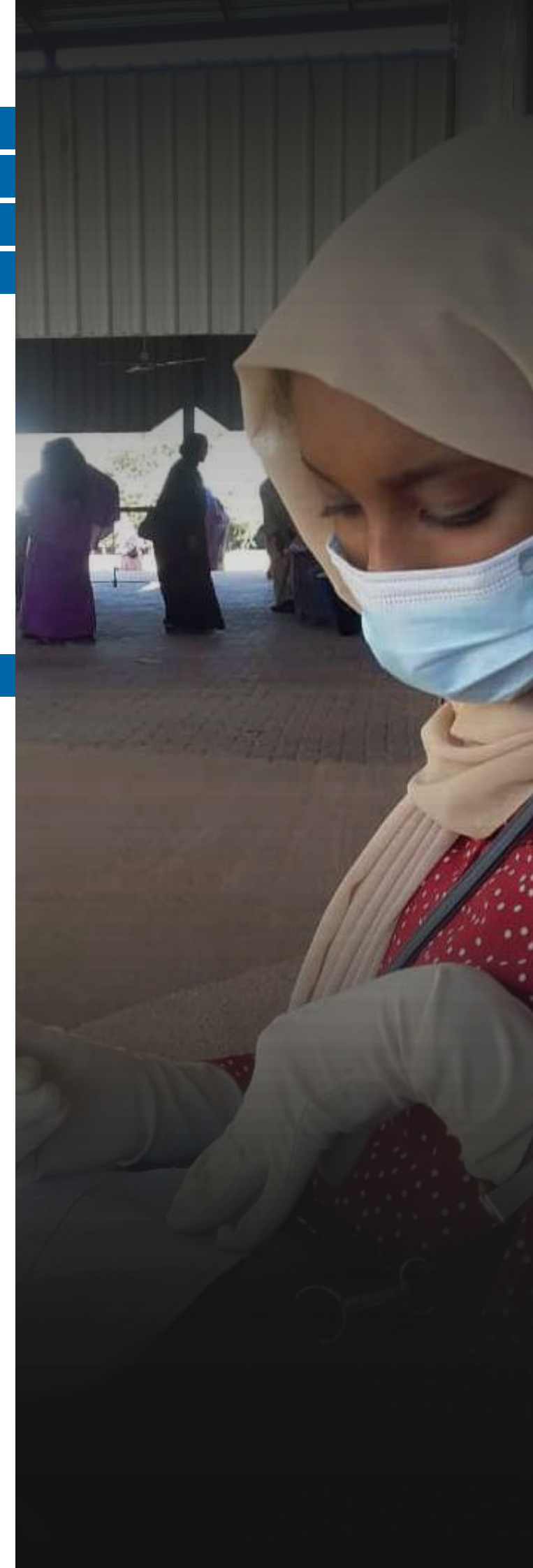
ADVANCING EFFECTIVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

EMPHNET has been working to strengthen effective emergency response efforts in Sudan. This commitment has been evident across several outbreaks and public health emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic, where coordinated action and field-based support played a critical role in mitigating impact and reinforcing national response systems.

COVID-19 Response

Starting in 2019, EMPHNET strengthened Sudan's frontline COVID-19 response capacity by supporting RRT training for staff at points of entry. In collaboration with the FMoH and under the Partnership for COVID-19 Response and Capacity Strengthening (PACT) initiative, which focused on contact tracing and community awareness about COVID-19, EMPHNET's efforts included:

- **200** Community Health Workers/Volunteers (CHW/Vs) were identified, oriented, and deployed, with 10 national supervisors trained to cascade the training to these CHW/Vs in targeted districts.
- **83,037** households were reached by the deployed CHW/Vs between 2020 and 2021, supporting the overall surveillance efforts.





TRANSFORMING SUDAN'S IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM ACROSS ALL LEVELS THROUGH SUSTAINED STRATEGIC AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

EMPHNET played a central role in advancing Sudan's immunization efforts, driving initiatives that reinforced vaccination services, trained health workers, enhanced surveillance, supported immunization data quality and microplanning, and ensured that immunization programs continued effectively across the country, among other key areas.

POLICY AND EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING



Strengthening the Governance and Functionality of NITAG

Over the years, EMPHNET has supported Sudan's NITAG in its role as an independent body of technical experts providing evidence-based guidance to the FMoH and the immunization program. By engaging NITAG members in regional capacity-building and in-country training on Evidence to Recommendation (EtR), EMPHNET strengthened their ability to inform immunization policies.

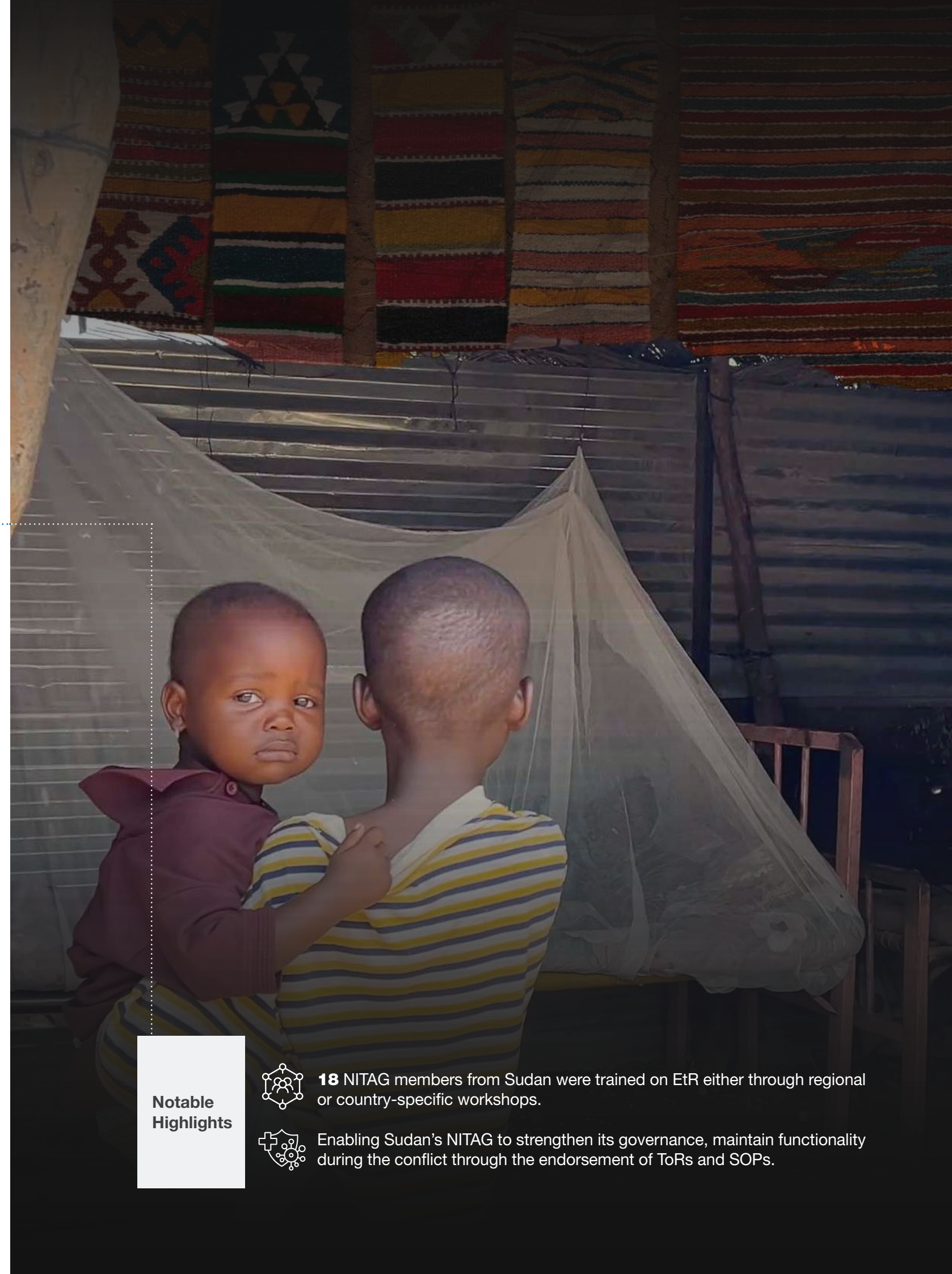
During the conflict, EMPHNET also supported the NITAG by sustaining its functionality and ensuring continued evidence-informed decision-making during the emergency. This support included revising and updating the NITAG operational manual, TORs, and SOPs to adapt to the emergency context and clarify roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes.

In 2025, EMPHNET also supported the newly reconstituted NITAG through a workshop focused on members' roles and responsibilities, finalization of the NITAG maturity improvement plan, and review and refinement of the TOR and SOPs. In addition, NITAG members were trained on applying the EtR framework to address specific policy questions, strengthening their capacity to develop transparent and evidence-based recommendations.



Enhancing Coordination for Improved Decision Making

In 2024, EMPHNET supported the development of a web-based coordination platform to strengthen Sudan's immunization program, enabling transparent, equitable, and timely decision-making. Through multiple review meetings, the platform's functionality was optimized, facilitating effective information sharing and empowering stakeholders to make informed decisions and take timely action.



Notable Highlights



18 NITAG members from Sudan were trained on EtR either through regional or country-specific workshops.



Enabling Sudan's NITAG to strengthen its governance, maintain functionality during the conflict through the endorsement of ToRs and SOPs.

IMPROVING DATA QUALITY AND MICROPLANNING FOR AN EFFECTIVE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

In this area, various efforts were undertaken to enhance data quality through regular review meetings, ensuring accurate and reliable information for targeted immunization interventions. Separately, support for routine immunization (RI) microplanning improved the implementation and targeting of vaccination activities, contributing to more effective and efficient service delivery across the country.



Optimizing Microplanning for Better Immunization Outcomes



Conducting situational analysis



Identifying high-risk districts



Delivering national ToT on RI microplanning



Training district-level EPI staff



Operationalizing microplans



Assessing their implementation

2021-2023



Geographical Expanse: **188** localities in **18** states.



415 immunization officers trained in ToT workshops, enabling them to plan comprehensive immunization services using appropriate strategies in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.



500+ EPI district officers were targeted for review meetings.

2024-2025

EMPHNET has advanced microplanning by leveraging data-driven digital tools that streamline operations, support state-level monitoring, produce accurate performance indicators, and track VPDs.



EMPHNET's Support in Action

Digitalized GIS Micro-planning Tool

- Mapping service delivery points
- Collecting geographic data
- Improving coverage analysis
- Strengthening planning and data-driven decision making

Digitalized M&E Tool

Supporting the oversight and performance tracking of vaccination services across all administrative levels.

Capacity Building

- Development of operational guide and training material for effective digital tools' use and data entry
- Guidance on interpreting visualized data for decision-making



Ensuring Immunization Quality

In 2022, efforts have been made to enhance the accuracy and improvement of routine immunization data at the subnational level in Sudan

- State review meetings conducted for **18** states
- Field visits were conducted to **600** health facilities

Simultaneously, in 2024-2025, EMPHNET has maintained ongoing support for the EPI in Sudan to enhance vaccination quality by:

- Organizing **4** mid-year national EPI review meetings to evaluate progress and inform future strategies
- Supporting **3** annual EPI planning meetings to date, ensuring results-based microplanning aligned with overall program goals, especially in challenging contexts
- Implementing supportive supervision visits across **15** states and **42** localities, with **109** fixed EPI centers visited, to identify areas for improvement and provide technical support for staff to perform according to national and international EPI standards

ENHANCING COMMUNICATION AND HEALTH PROMOTION TO STRENGTHEN IMMUNIZATION UPTAKE

EMPHNET recognizes the critical role of communication in improving immunization outcomes. Its support in Sudan focused on a structured, stepwise approach:



Effective Communication Strategy Development: collaborating with the Sudan FMoH to develop an innovative communication strategy for the EPI, serving to increase public access to vaccine information and adapted for conflict-affected settings.



Sustaining Risk Communication Committees: **12** national and state-level RCCE committees were established, supported by targeted operational manuals, TORs, and M&E tools.

STRENGTHENING IMMUNIZATION, VPD RESPONSE, AND SURVEILLANCE IN THE COVID-19 ERA AND BEYOND

In **2021**, as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to spread, Sudan faced an urgent need to sustain essential health services while enhancing its capacity to prepare for and respond to VPDs outbreaks. During this critical period, EMPHNET provided support across several key areas, including:



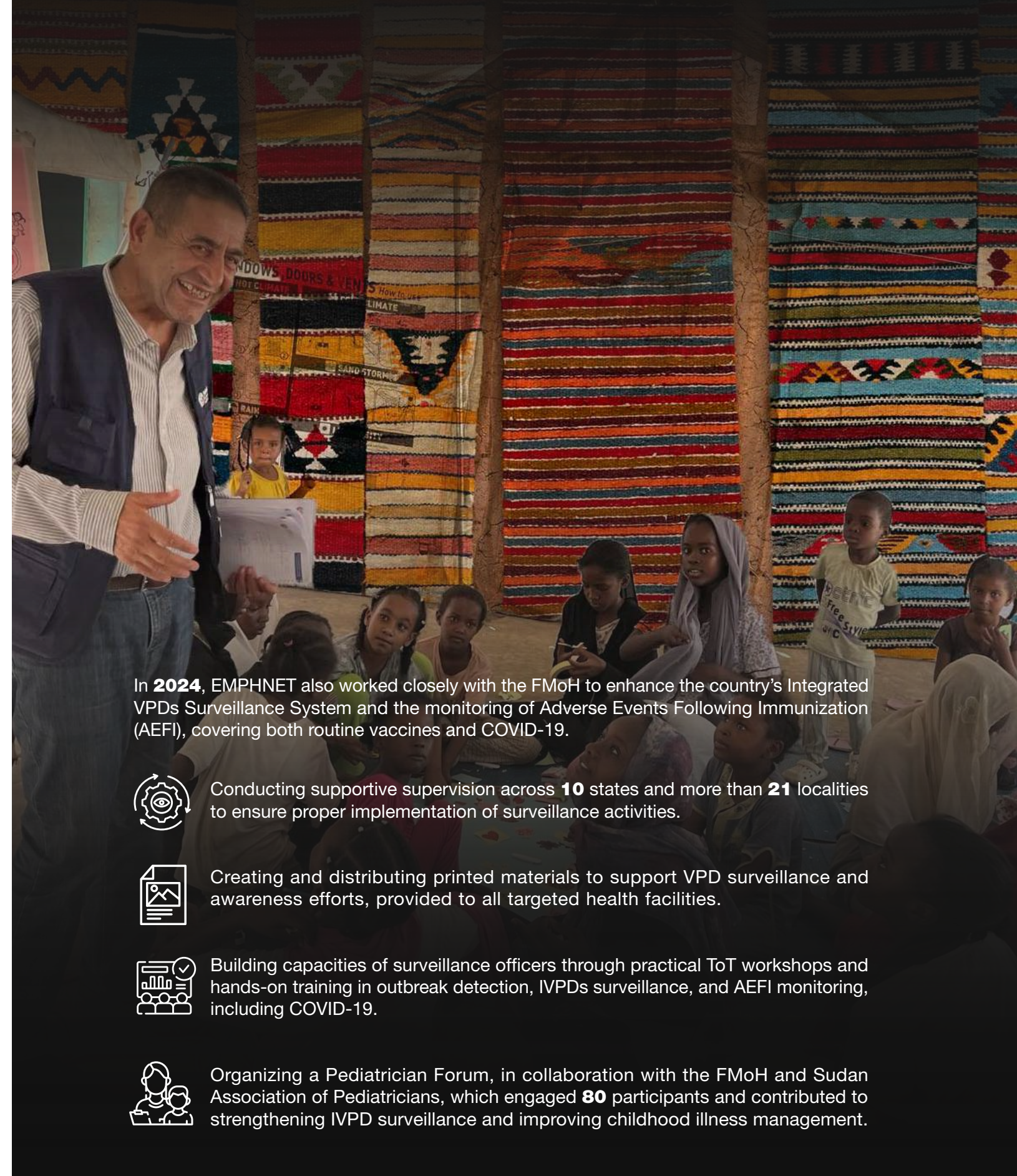
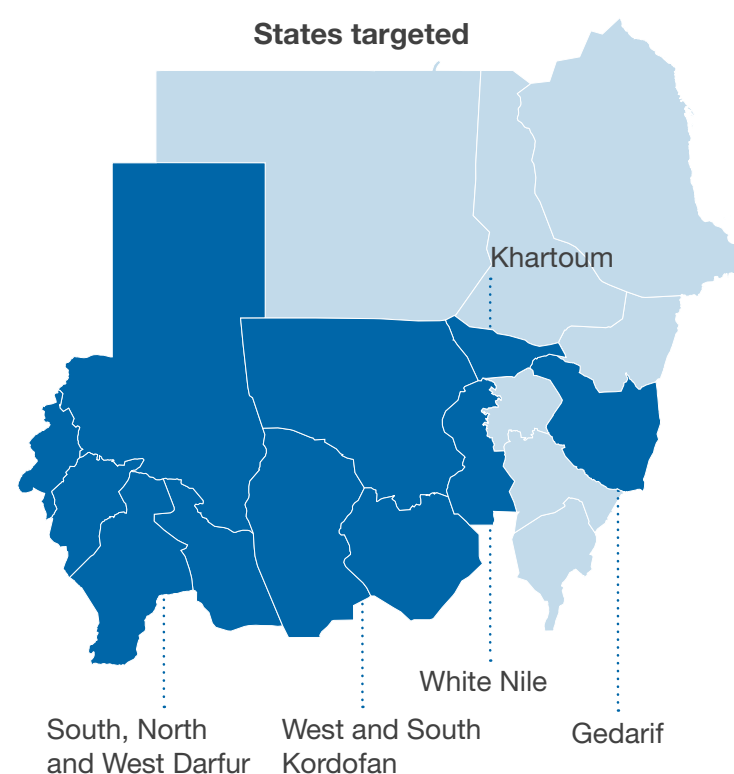
Supporting the preparation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of all Polio Supplemental Immunization Activities (SIAs) campaigns.



Conducting supportive supervision and on-the-job training for state and locality EPI teams.



Reviewing and updating training plans while providing capacity-building support to both state and locality teams.



In **2024**, EMPHNET also worked closely with the FMoH to enhance the country's Integrated VPDs Surveillance System and the monitoring of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI), covering both routine vaccines and COVID-19.



Conducting supportive supervision across **10** states and more than **21** localities to ensure proper implementation of surveillance activities.



Creating and distributing printed materials to support VPD surveillance and awareness efforts, provided to all targeted health facilities.



Building capacities of surveillance officers through practical ToT workshops and hands-on training in outbreak detection, IVPDs surveillance, and AEFI monitoring, including COVID-19.



Organizing a Pediatrician Forum, in collaboration with the FMoH and Sudan Association of Pediatricians, which engaged **80** participants and contributed to strengthening IVPD surveillance and improving childhood illness management.

In **2026**, EMPHNET, in collaboration with the FMoH, is working to strengthen Sudan's capacity to manage and respond to measles and rubella outbreaks by enhancing the capacity of FETPs and RRTs in data management and outbreak investigation. This involves the development of a dedicated training curriculum, alongside a national-level ToT.

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF CONFLICT ON IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE AND HEALTH FACILITY READINESS

In **2025**, in the post-conflict period, EMPHNET worked with the FMoH to conduct a coverage survey to evaluate the impact of the conflict on immunization services. The assessment provided critical evidence to guide recovery efforts and inform strategies for restoring and strengthening routine immunization delivery across affected areas.

Survey Objectives



To assess the availability of essential infrastructure and human resources at vaccination centers to support the resumption of immunization services.



To evaluate the readiness of state and locality health teams to restore routine immunization activities.



To estimate vaccination coverage among children and pregnant women across the surveyed areas.



To assess caregivers' knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding immunization for children and women.

Outcomes and Recommendations

The findings highlight key areas for action to support the recovery and strengthening of immunization services. They provide evidence to guide targeted efforts aimed at improving system performance and ensuring equitable access to vaccination.



Rehabilitating vaccination centers, including infrastructure and solar power systems.



Strengthening cold chain systems and re-equip facilities with essential supplies.



Addressing zero-dose children, defaulters, and missed opportunities through targeted actions.



Scaling up training and making basic and refresher training mandatory, using the PHEP approach to strengthen implementation.



Sustaining positive vaccination practices through knowledge enhancement, counselling and communication training, and healthcare provider accountability.



Improving the supply of sample collection and transport kits to ensure timely laboratory support for VPD surveillance.



Digitalizing EPI data to improve data triangulation and support timely decision-making.

What's Next?

The initiative is also planned for expansion to additional states to scale up recovery efforts, strengthen health system capacity, and ensure sustained improvements in routine immunization delivery across affected regions.



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR ACTION AND IMPACT

In Sudan, EMPHNET leverages its distinctive, context-sensitive approach to empower communities in fragile, conflict-affected areas, transforming them from passive recipients into proactive drivers of health outcomes. Through this approach, communities are empowered and strengthened to enhance VPD surveillance, combat vector-borne diseases, and support reaching zero-dose children while increasing vaccination coverage.

Community-Led Surveillance for Polio, Measles, and VPDs

Over the years, EMPHNET supported the enhancement and strengthening of Community-Based Surveillance (CBS) through the engagement with MoH staff and local communities to upgrade AFP surveillance, and address measles and other VPDs. Through continuous training, supportive supervision, and sustained engagement of community informants, the system has strengthened the capacity for the detection and reporting of suspected cases and enabled timely triggering of investigations. These efforts have enhanced surveillance sensitivity and early warning functions, particularly in conflict-affected and hard-to-reach areas where routine health information systems are weakened or disrupted. CBS has therefore played a critical role in complementing facility-based surveillance, strengthening outbreak alert systems, and supporting more timely public health responses across multiple states in Sudan.

2019-2021	2024-2025
218 EPI officers, state and locality surveillance officers were trained across 18 targeted states, achieving a 72% VPD reporting rate.	434 sites in 11 states received supportive supervision. 278 informants across 7 states were targeted through on-the-job coaching visits.

Community Health Promoters Network in Sudan

In **2025**, EMPHNET supported the FMoH in establishing a network of community health promoters and volunteers to identify and reach zero-dose children and dropouts, address vaccine hesitancy, and raise community awareness, with the overall goal of increasing vaccination coverage. This effort included developing culturally relevant guidelines, training materials, a guidebook, and monitoring tools tailored to the network's needs, and building the capacities of volunteers through targeted training on these resources and their practical application.

Highlights	 100 volunteers trained	 207 awareness sessions delivered
	 120 supportive supervision visits conducted	 53 zero-dose and 855 under-immunized children identified
	 22,594 households reached through home visits	 985 zero-dose and under-immunized children referred to health clinics for vaccination



Volunteers for Vector Control (V4V)

In an urgent response to the rising threat of mosquito-borne diseases, EMPHNET, in partnership with Sudan FMoH and the Kassala State Ministry of Health (MoH), has launched the V4V initiative to control mosquito populations through Larval Source Management and a unique model engaging household members to conduct indoor mosquito breeding control within their own homes.

Highlights	 300 volunteers trained
	 Volunteer-led indoor control guidelines developed
	 Digital reporting tool developed to enable real-time data collection and communication

Integrated Community-Based Model for Controlling Mosquito-Borne Diseases

Building on the success of the 2024 V4V initiative, EMPHNET, in collaboration with the FMoH, launched a new initiative in 2026 aimed at strengthening and institutionalizing an integrated community-health system approach to reduce mosquito breeding sites, prevent disease outbreaks, and enhance community resilience against mosquito-borne diseases in Kassala State.

Highlights	 Conducted a baseline survey on community knowledge of mosquito-borne diseases in Kassala State, including training 30 enumerators and data collection supervision.
	 Evidence-based communication strategy and training package co-developed with experts and communication specialists.
	 Trained 30 health promoters and community volunteers on risk communication and community-based vector control, based on the developed communication strategy, to strengthen preparedness for upcoming awareness and vector control activities.



ADVANCING DISEASE PREVENTION EFFORTS

As part of its commitment to reducing the burden of vaccine-preventable and endemic diseases, EMPHNET supported the introduction and scale-up of innovative immunization interventions aimed at protecting vulnerable populations and strengthening disease prevention efforts. A key milestone was supporting Sudan's introduction of the malaria vaccine into its routine immunization program.

SUPPORTING THE INTRODUCTION AND SCALE-UP OF THE MALARIA IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

In **2024**, EMPHNET, together with WHO, UNICEF, and Gavi, and in close collaboration with Sudan's FMoH, supported Sudan in becoming the first country in the region to introduce the malaria vaccine into its routine immunization program, marking a major milestone, especially in the context of the conflict that has disrupted health services across the country. Throughout the process, EMPHNET contributed across multiple phases by facilitating coordination, supporting the development of malaria vaccine implementation plans and communication strategies, and integrating digital tools to guide planning and implementation.

In 2025, it supported efforts to scale up the rollout by:



Equipping facility-level service providers: trained **1,025** healthcare staff in Blue Nile and Gedaref States to ensure effective malaria vaccine delivery.



Generating Evidence through Research: addressing barriers to malaria vaccine uptake, conducting a KAP study of caregivers on multiple injections, and documenting best practices to guide scale-up and replication.



Supporting Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) plans development and implementation: assisted the FMoH in developing targeted communication materials, including audio messages broadcast through radio and roving megaphones, as well as printed training resources to promote public confidence in the newly introduced malaria vaccine



Providing post-introduction support and evidence generation: conducted a post-introduction evaluation study, recommending strengthened planning and coordination across all levels, enhanced training for vaccinators and service providers, improved cold chain and logistics management, and expanded community engagement to support successful scale-up.



Supporting the second phase of vaccine introduction: contributed to the second phase implementation in White Nile and Sennar States, and the remaining governorates of Blue Nile State, complemented by a social media campaign to promote vaccine uptake and public confidence.



LOCAL PRESENCE AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

EMPHNET maintains a dedicated office in Sudan, providing sustained, on-the-ground support for public health initiatives and fostering close engagement with local stakeholders. Over the years, it has built strong partnerships with key national academic, professional, governmental, and international organizations:

National Partners

Sudan Federal Ministry of Health
State Ministries of Health
Sudan Medical Specialization Board
The Blue Nile National Institute for Communicable Diseases (BNNICD), through EMPHNET’s training arm, the International Academy of Public Health (IAPH)
University of Health Sciences
Ahfad University for Women
University of Medical Sciences and Technology (UMST)

International Partners and Collaborators

WHO
US CDC
GAVI
UNICEF
GLIDE
Africa CDC

Other Humanitarian Actors

Sudanese American Physicians Association (SAPA)
Save the Children International
International Medical Corps
International Rescue Committee
CADUS, International Disease Response



Types of Collaboration



Implementation of Public Health Projects



Working Groups and Coordination Mechanisms



Technical Collaboration



Joint Reviews, Assessments, and Missions



WORKING TOGETHER FOR BETTER HEALTH.



EMPHNET
The Eastern Mediterranean
Public Health Network

EMPHNET IN SUDAN

