

# FETP NEWSLETTER

January - March, 2021

## Sixth Edition

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Dear Readers,

We are pleased to present the sixth issue of our Quarterly FETP Newsletter, which covers news of the region's FETPs from January to March 2021. This issue also highlights EMPHNET's First Regional COVID-19 Operational Research Symposium, which was held in April 2021.

The news covered in this issue attests to the region's FETP residents and graduates' hard work, dedication, and commitment, as well as their valuable contributions to public health in their countries. Their contributions are more apparent today than ever before, especially within the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, and particularly countries' involvements in vaccine introduction.

In this issue, we dedicate sections to news from different country programs, the graduation of several FETP cohorts in the region, and we also shed light on several success stories from FETP residents and graduates.

We hope you find this issue to be a valuable reading experience and a source of knowledge and inspiration for you all. We also wish the FETPs in our region further success and growth.

FETP Newsletter Editorial Team,



# Voices from the Field

## EMPHNET 2021 WRITING CONTEST FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

*Participation is now open*



Your story as a Field Epidemiologist and a public health professional in the EMR is worth telling. You played a crucial role in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

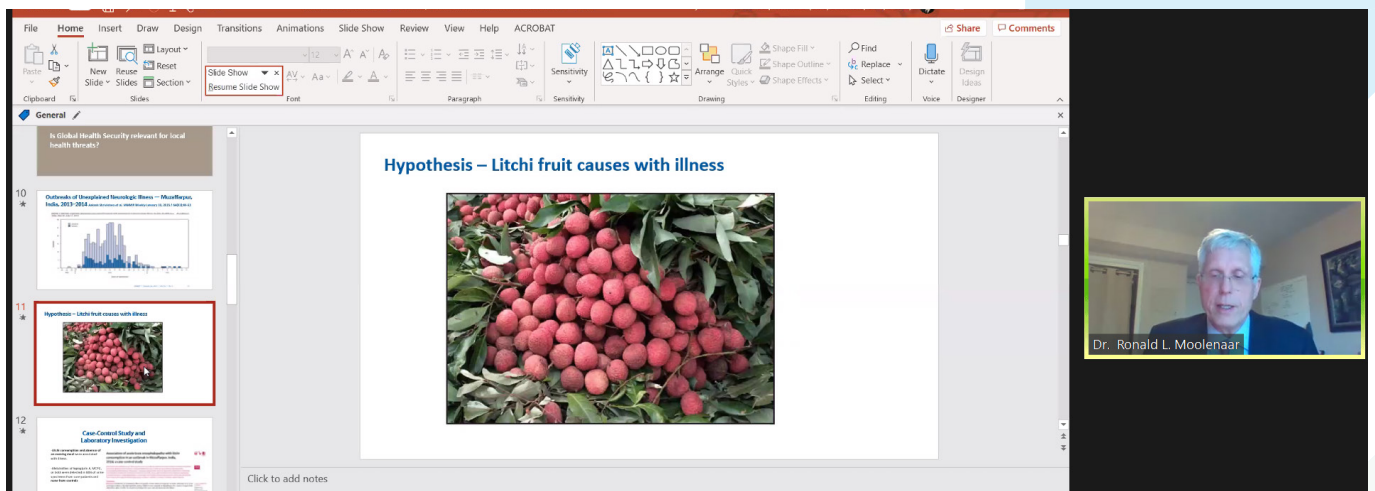
“Voices from the field” wants to share your story with the world and show the challenges faced, lessons learned, and achievements made during the field work in response to the pandemic.

For more details about eligibility, and application requirements please visit:  
<https://bit.ly/3e7U99g>

# Feature Story

## FETP Residents and Graduates Highlight their Work During EMPHNET’s Regional COVID-19 Operational Research Symposium

After meticulous preparations spanning the months of January, February, and March, the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) recently held its Regional COVID-19 Operational Research Symposium, the first of its kind to be hosted virtually in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR). Taking place between April 7 and 8, 2021, the symposium’s sessions offered a space for Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) residents and graduates as well as other public health professionals to bring to the forefront the research they had conducted on COVID-19. The event was attended by over 200 public health experts from the region and beyond. Holding the theme “COVID-19 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: Epidemiology, Impact, and Lessons Learned”, its agenda saw two days of keynote addresses, abstract presentations, and valuable opportunities for discussions and networking.



## Hosting Distinguished Keynote Speakers

The symposium featured two keynote speakers, one speaking on each of its days. On the first day of the event, Associate Director for Science, Division of Global Health Protection, CGH, CDC, Dr. Ronald L. Moolenaar highlighted the role of implementation science in global health security, while on the second day, Director of Information, Evidence and Research, World Health Organization (WHO), Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO), Dr. Arash Rashidian shed light on research and COVID-19: expectations, achievements, and lessons learned.

Both keynote addresses were followed by Q&A sessions facilitated by Public Health Expert, and Associate Professor at the Department of Community and Family Medicine, at the College of Medicine, Baghdad University in Iraq, Dr. Faris Lami.

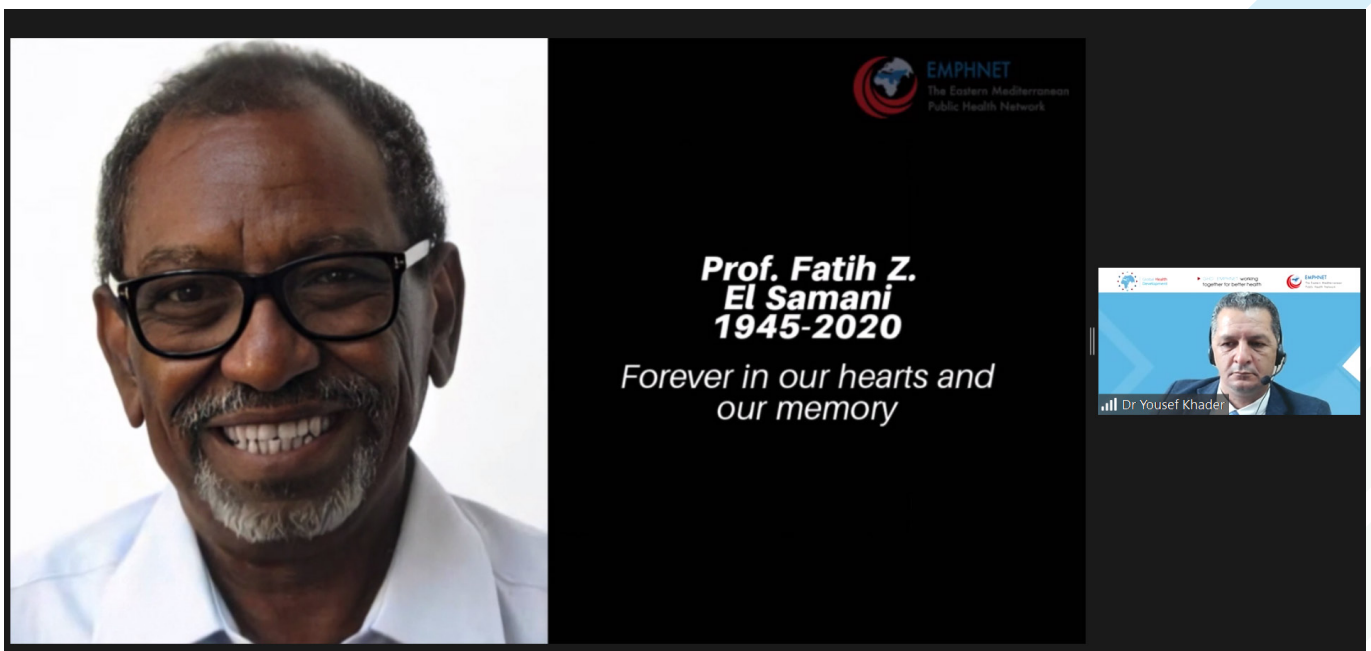
## Hosting a Variety of Abstract Presentations

The symposium also included four sessions of abstract presentations. These presentations were given by FETP residents, graduates, advisors, and other public health professionals from the EMR. The presenters came from Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Yemen, amongst other countries. These sessions provided a space for participants to present and discuss their work findings, and lessons learned, thus offering a prelude to the improvement of operational research in the region.

The first abstract presentation session focused on descriptive studies, showcasing several descriptive studies conducted from the region. The second abstract presentation session showcased studies on the impact and consequences of COVID-19. The third session shed light on methodology, modelling, and the study of comorbidities, while the fourth focused on communities and health systems.

A total of 84 abstracts were submitted to be presented at the symposium, with 20 of them being accepted for presentation at the event, after being reviewed by the Symposium's Scientific Committee. Out of these 20 abstract presentations, 16 were presented at the symposium.

The presented abstracts covered a wide range of interesting topics including but not limited to the epidemiology of COVID-19, interventions at national and subnational levels, the work of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs), COVID-19 Case Studies, the impact of COVID-19 on communicable and non-communicable diseases, and health promotion during the COVID-19 pandemic.





In his welcoming remarks, EMPHNET's Executive Director, Dr. Mohannad Al Nsour expressed pride in kicking off EMPHNET's Regional COVID-19 Operational research symposium, especially under the extraordinary circumstances of COVID-19. He confirmed that EMPHNET will continue to invest in collaborations and partnerships, and that this event will be the prelude to more fruitful collaborations to come. He then concluded his remarks by thanking and greeting the participants and audience.

Following Dr. Al Nsour's speech, a short movie titled "FETPs in the EMR and Their Journey through COVID-19" was shown. The movie, produced by EMPHNET, highlighted the region's FETPs' hard work and dedication towards their countries.

In the closing ceremony, the Director of the Center of Excellence for Applied Epidemiology at EMPHNET, Dr. Yousef Khader, presented a tribute video honoring the late Prof. El-Fatih Z. El-Samani. After showing this video he introduced the El-Fatih Z. El-Samani Best Abstract Award. This prestigious award was granted to FETP Egypt Graduate, Dr. Shereen Elghazaly for her presentation titled "The Impact of Comorbidities on COVID -19 Severity and Mortality in Egypt" and to a Public Health Professional from Jordan, Dr. Yousef Zawaneh for his presentation titled "Between Herd immunity and Suppression: A Modelling Study Assessing Alternative Policy Responses to COVID 19 in Jordan."



The symposium presented itself as a milestone highlighting the region's operational research. It created an invaluable networking opportunity geared towards improving public health practice in the region, and it served as an encouragement to hold more similar events to come.

Watch [Day one](#) and [Day two](#) of the symposium.

## A TRIBUTE TO PROF. ALI AL-SABRI

It is with deep sorrow that the region's public health community has learned of the passing away of Professor Ali Mohammad Al-Sabri on March 15, 2021.

The late Prof. Al-Sabri was a distinguished scholar and a highly respected tutor in Community Medicine. He spent most of his life as a researcher, teacher, and trainer. He specialized in the fields of medical education and other public health areas.

He was a Professor of Community Medicine, at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, at Sana'a University, Yemen. He was also the Chairperson of the Yemeni Council for Medical Specializations.

Prof. Al-Sabri made remarkable contributions that extended beyond Yemen as he left his mark on Field Epidemiology in the entire Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR).

He will always be remembered for his contributions to public health.



## COUNTRY PROGRAM NEWS

### Afghanistan

#### AFGHANISTAN FETP RESIDENTS PRESENT AT THE HEALTH RESULT CONFERENCE (HRC)

Residents and graduates of Afghanistan's Field Epidemiology Training Program (AFETP) presented nine abstracts at the Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health's (MoPH) Ninth Health Results Conference (HRC), which was held on March 28, 2021 in Kabul.

At the event, AFETP residents delivered five oral abstract presentations and four poster presentations. The abstracts focused on COVID-19, measles, and Polio and Immunization activities.

Following this notable presence, AFETP received a letter of appreciation from the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) for their significant contribution to the scientific conference. As they submitted and presented a comparatively large number of health research studies, causing their entries to make up (15%) to the Scientific Conference.



## AFGHANISTAN FETP RESIDENTS AND GRADUATES TAKE PART IN STRENGTHENING RAPID RESPONSE TEAMS

After taking the online course on “Rapid Response Teams” launched by EMPHNET, a group of residents and graduates of the Field Epidemiology Training Program of Afghanistan (AFETP) actively took part in strengthening the capacity of the Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) in their country.

The AFETP residents and graduates were deployed in the field for two weeks. This activity provided an excellent opportunity for them to learn from one another.

This online training program has been designed by EMPHNET as a response to the COVID-19 outbreak, and similar events. The program aims to train public health professionals at the national and sub-national levels. It ensures that trainees are equipped with the core competencies needed to manage public health threats of international concern, and it adopts adult learning approaches and is based on case studies and exercises as well as instructor-led sessions. The general objective of this training program is to strengthen RRTs’ capacities to early detect and effectively respond to a COVID-19 outbreak.



## AFGHANISTAN FETP CONCLUDES THE THIRD FETP WORKSHOP IN KABUL

On February 6, 2021, the Field Epidemiology Training Program of Afghanistan (AFETP) launched its third workshop for the second AFETP cohort at the National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) for Polio Eradication in Kabul.

The purpose of the workshop was to bring together the second cohort of intermediate AFETP residents in Kabul, to implement the training agenda, and to provide didactic and practical sessions on key topics. These topics included a comprehensive review of the second workshop, basics of management, time management, and communication to technical and non-technical audiences.

Other topics covered included abstract writing principles, and the writing of executive summaries, briefs, reports, and literature review, alongside teaching and mentoring, and immunization protocols.

The training methodology consisted of PowerPoint presentations and group work. The workshop also focused on class evaluation and assessment in terms of learning, logistics, administration, teaching, and environment. In order to assess trainees’ learning, daily quizzes, home assignments, and pre and post-tests were used.



Building on their capacities, residents were encouraged to take all [online courses](#) developed by GHD|EMPHNET, particularly the Risk Communication online course which was incorporated in the training workshop.

The workshop was attended by 27 residents, during the workshop they worked on protocols for their field group projects. With the help of their mentors, the residents also designed and developed their field projects.

On the final day of the workshop, the Head of the NEOC and the National Focal Point for the Polio program, Dr. Mohammad Khakerah Rashidi addressed the residents and emphasized the importance of their training in strengthening the country's emergency response and health system.

After completing the in-class sessions, the residents committed to work on their field projects in groups and to contact their mentors accordingly while they are in the field.



## AFGHANISTAN FETP CONDUCTS ITS 12TH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

On January 4, 2021, The Field Epidemiology Training Program of Afghanistan (AFETP) conducted its 12th steering committee meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Minister for Policy and Planning, Dr. Bashir Noormal. During its proceedings, the members discussed important issues such as the report from the second AFETP workshop, residents' field projects and work, and the outcomes of some conference calls.

They also discussed developments pertaining to the third AFETP cohort, and more specifically the challenges they are facing and suggested solutions, and the possibility of supporting new activities. The committee also discussed mentors and mentorship, as well as the preparations for the conduction of the third AFETP workshop for the second cohort.

The AFETP committee's role is to provide advice, ensure the delivery of the program outputs, and ensure the achievement of program outcomes. It also provides support, guidance, and oversight of program progress.





## BANGLADESH

### BANGLADESH FETPV RESIDENTS CONDUCT INTERVIEWS WITH FARMERS

The residents of the Field Epidemiology Training Program of Bangladesh for Veterinarians (FETPV) conducted interviews with farmers as part of their fieldwork. See this activity in photos.







## EGYPT

### EGYPT FETP RESIDENTS AND GRADUATES PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL POLIO CAMPAIGN IN EGYPT

Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious viral disease that used to be the leading cause of paralysis among children all over the world. Furthermore, polio-affected communities are among the most marginalized and underserved communities in the world, with many lacking access to basic services such as water and health care.

To counter this disease and its consequences, Egypt's Ministry of Health launched a nationwide polio vaccination campaign that targeted all children living in Egypt, both Egyptian and non-Egyptian children, aged one day to five years old (more than 13 million children) on February 28, 2021.

The vaccination was administered in health offices, units, and health centers, as well as major squares, train and subway stations, mosques, and churches, clubs, markets, bus and car stops. Moreover, medical personnel participating in this campaign visited houses in the villages to ensure that all children were reached.

The participants included residents and graduates from the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) of Egypt of both advanced program and the Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP).

The National Polio Campaign, which was implemented in all Egyptian governorates, ended on March 3, 2021. Within the framework of President Abdel Fattah El Sisi's vision to promote public health and achieve sustainable development goals, the campaign is carried out on an annual basis to keep Egypt disease-free.

## **EGYPT FETP HOLDS AN ORIENTATION WORKSHOP FOR THE THIRD COHORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM- BASIC FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY (PHEP- BFE)**

The Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) of Egypt held an orientation workshop for the third cohort of the Public Health Empowerment Program- Basic Field Epidemiology (PHEP-BFE) on February 8, 2021, with the support of EMPHNET.

The workshop saw the participation of 28 public health professionals coming from Cairo, Giza, and the Qalyubia governorate. The participants were introduced to the program's requirements and to EMPHNET's Learning Management System (LMS), an online application supported by Global Health Development| Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (GHD|EMPHNET).

By the end of the day, all participants registered in the application and were oriented on the online training modules, workshops, and fieldwork.



## **EGYPT FETP CONDUCTS MENTORSHIP WORKSHOP IN PREPARATION FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM- BASIC FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY (PHEP- BFE) COURSE ONLINE**

On February 3, 2021, the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) of Egypt conducted a mentorship workshop in preparation for launching the online course for the third cohort of the Public Health Empowerment Program- Basic Field Epidemiology (PHEP-BFE).

During the workshop, cohort mentors were introduced to EMPHNET's Learning Management System (LMS) online application. The topics covered during the workshop included: training materials, fieldwork, a program timeline for the third cohort, and lessons learned from the graduation of the two past PHEP-BFE cohorts. A week after the mentorship workshop, the participants of the third cohort of PHEP-BFE were introduced to the program.





## EGYPT FETP PARTICIPATES IN THE 27TH EDITION OF THE MEN'S HANDBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN EGYPT

The 27th edition of the Men's Handball World Championship for 2021 took place in Egypt from January 13 to January 31, 2021. The matches were held across four venues within the Cairo and Alexandria governorates. In this event, the residents and graduates of the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) of Egypt played a key role in protecting the health of the participants.

They participated in the implementation of preventive measures inside the full bubble zone, in which anyone inside the bubble was restricted from having any social contact with anyone outside the bubble. This served to protect the health of the players and stakeholders, while reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission during the tournament.



A few months prior to this event, FETP graduates assisted in the development of the COVID-19 Medical Precaution Plan. The plan included a full bubble concept with hotels exclusively reserved for World Championship stakeholders, as well as different zones inside the arenas (bubble zone and safety zone) that strictly separate stakeholders staying within the bubble from any external participants.

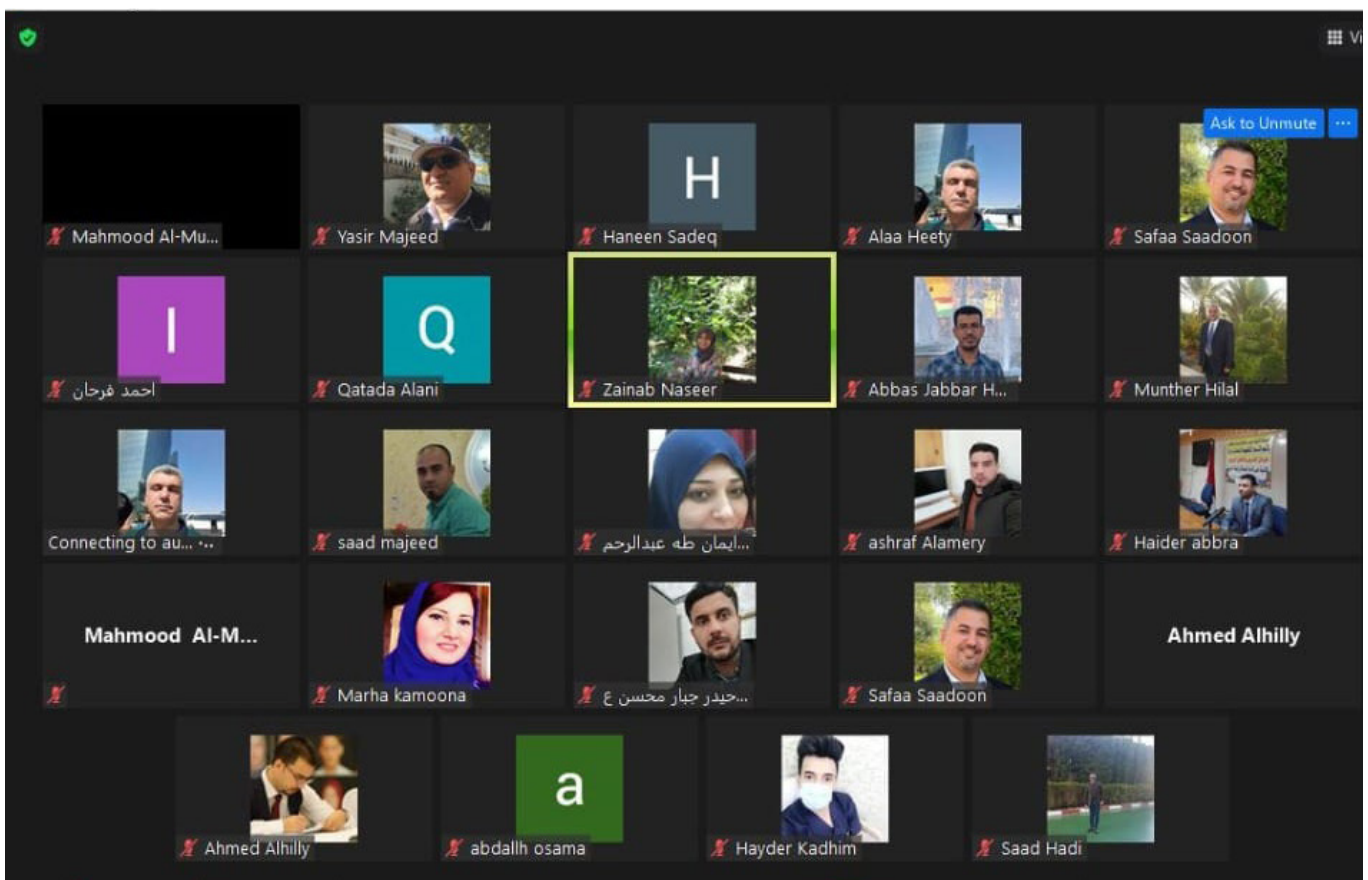


## IRAQ

### THE IRAQ PUBLIC HEALTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (PHEP) HOLDS A TWO-DAY ONLINE MENTORSHIP WORKSHOP

In March, the Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) of Iraq successfully held a two-day mentorship workshop for health professionals.

The workshop focused on the teaching versus mentoring concepts, mentorship aspects, and the program's coursework. During the workshop, participants were also introduced to a set of successful mentoring tips, a mentorship roadmap, and a mentorship management guide. Further, the workshop highlighted the mentorship evaluation approach, the mentor's role and competencies, as well as some time management tips. The trained mentors will be available to help the mentees complete their program requirements in order to graduate.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2021, WE WILL CELEBRATE  
THE FIRST WORLD FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY DAY.



## IRAQ FETP CELEBRATES THE GRADUATION OF ITS FIRST FETP INTERMEDIATE COHORT

The Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) of Iraq celebrated the graduation of its first FETP Intermediate cohort on January 16, 2021. This event was observed in a ceremony attended by His Excellency the Iraq Minister of Health, Dr. Hassan Mohammed Al-Tamimi.



## JORDAN

### JORDAN FETP CELEBRATES THE GRADUATION OF ITS 15TH AND 16TH COHORTS

On Saturday, February 6, 2021, both the 15th and 16th cohorts of the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) of Jordan celebrated their graduation in a ceremonial event.

The ceremony took place at the Jordan Ministry of Health (MoH), under the patronage of His Excellency the past Secretary-General for Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases, Prof. Wael Al Hayajneh, and Executive Director of EMPHNET Dr. Mohannad Al Nsour.

Each of the two cohorts had 11 graduates, making a total of 22 graduates. The graduates had completed the two-year advanced FETP curriculum requirements and had broadened their knowledge and expertise in areas of field epidemiology such as outbreak investigation, emergency response, surveillance, and biosafety and biosecurity, among others.

The ceremony was attended by the Assistant Secretary-General for Primary Healthcare Dr. Ghazi Sharkas; and Director of the Communicable Diseases Directorate, Dr. Sami Al-Sheikh; and Head of Community Medicine, Jordan FETP Director, Dr. Majid Asaad, as well as FETP mentors and graduates.

Jordan FETP Coordinator, Dr. Ashraf Agel gave a speech in which he expressed his pride in the program's achievements to date, thanking residents and graduates of the program for their efforts in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and implementing the scientific and epidemiological methods they learned on the ground.

He also stated that 98 medical doctors have graduated from the program since its inception, and that they have all contributed to surveillance activities throughout the Kingdom.

From his end, H.E Prof. Al Hayajneh congratulated the graduates on completing their graduation requirements. He highlighted the significance of having such a program while fighting a ferocious enemy such as COVID-19. He concluded his speech by thanking EMPHNET for its support of the program, and praised its unwavering commitment to the public health community.

Dr. Al Nsour, who spoke at the ceremony, said FETP Jordan has been taking on a leading program since its inception 22 years ago. He said that COVID-19 presented an opportunity for youth engagement, and opened the door for a multi-sectoral approach in which multiple parties collaborated to combat COVID-19. He stressed that with all of the program's current strengths, the program is self-sufficient.

He ended his speech by thanking everyone who contributed to the program's success, including technical advisors, mentors, and managing personal. Dr. Al Nsour also reiterated EMPHNET's commitment to supporting the program and its needs.

Both Prof. Al Hayajneh, representing the Ministry of Health, and Dr. Al Nsour, representing EMPHNET, received recognitions for their contributions and support to the program's progress during the ceremony.

This graduation ceremony is a milestone for Jordan FETP, as these graduates will be the driving force behind serving their communities, and it will be with these bright minds and future cohorts that they will contribute to the strengthening of the health systems in Jordan and the region.





## MOROCCO

### THE NATIONAL FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY ASSOCIATION OF MOROCCO (ANET) HOLDS ITS FIRST SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE



The National Field Epidemiology Association of Morocco (ANET) organized its first scientific conference, titled “Field Epidemiology in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic”. The conference was held virtually from January 28 to January 30, 2021.

The conference started with opening remarks delivered by the President of the National Field Epidemiology Association in Morocco (ANET), Dr. Mouad Merbat; Director of Epidemiology and Disease Control Directorate and Founding Member of ANET, Dr. Mohammad Youbi; and Executive Director of GHD|EMPHNET, Dr. Mohannad Al-Nsour; World Health Organization (WHO) Representative to Morocco, Dr. Maryam Bigdeli; and Director of the Institute Pasteur of Morocco and former Director Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) in Morocco, Prof. Abderrahmane Maaroufi.

Following the welcome of attendees and participants by the organizers. The keynote speakers congratulated the organizers on hosting such an important event. They emphasized the critical role that such events play in providing a space for knowledge exchange amongst different health professionals, and in particular, a place where they can share field experience in the context of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The conference addressed the roles that need to be played towards the advancement of epidemiology in Morocco, while also highlighting the active contributions that should be made to improve the monitoring and response to public health emergencies under the leadership of Morocco’s MoH.

During the conference sessions, it was stated that such objectives may be achieved by investing in the skills and experience of FETP Morocco’s residents and graduates, as well as expanding their scientific and field knowledge.

In order to achieve these goals, the conference brought together a diverse group of public health professionals and experts from the region and around the world, including representatives from China, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Korea, Mali, and the United States. Participating in the conference, FETP residents and graduates from various regions of Morocco presented their abstracts.



As a result of the presentations and talks, the participants discussed a variety of COVID-19-related topics, including “COVID-19: Epidemiological Situation and Response Globally and Nationally,” “FETP- Morocco and COVID-19,” “Pandemic Management Experiences,” and “Research and COVID-19,” among other topics.

Representing GHD|EMPEHNT, Public Health Programs Director, Dr. Magid Al-Gunaid, gave a presentation on Surveillance, Community Transmission and GHD|EMPHNET’s Role in Combating COVID-19. In his presentation, Dr. Al-Gunaid also shed light on how EMR countries have adopted strategies to combat the pandemic while also sharing important surveillance considerations.

He also highlighted the role of GHD|EMPHNET in providing technical and logistic support to countries, stating that this support is used to strengthen their health systems. From another angle, he spoke about the organization’s role in supporting FETPs in the region, confirming that their epidemiological capacities are crucial to the fight against the pandemic.

During the conference’s closing session, the organizers thanked all supporting entities for their contribution to the event’s success. They also stated that this event serves as a prelude for many other similar activities to be conducted in the future.


The organizers emphasized the importance of such activities in bringing health professionals together for fruitful discussions, which can lead to better public health practices.

## PAKISTAN

### PAKISTAN FELTP PUBLICATIONS DURING THE LAST QUARTER

During the last quarter, several articles and research papers have been published by the Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) of Pakistan.


These papers and articles cover topics such as outbreak and disease investigations, COVID-19 rapid diagnostic test results, environmental factors in COVID-19 cases and mortalities, the impact of COVID-19 on surveillance, and the future of public health services post COVID-19.



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

## Journal of Biosafety and Biosecurity

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/jobb](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jobb)




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Research Article

### Impact of environmental factors on COVID-19 cases and mortalities in major cities of Pakistan

Rabia Basray\*, Amber Malik, Wajiha Waqar, Ambreen Chaudhry, Muhammad Wasif Malik, Mumtaz Ali Khan, Jamil A. Ansari, Aamir Ikram



> [JMIR Public Health Surveill.](#) 2021 Feb 9. doi: 10.2196/26267. Online ahead of print.

## Anticipated future of public health services post COVID-19: a viewpoint

Haitham Bashier<sup>1</sup>, Aamer Ikram<sup>2</sup>, Mumtaz Khan<sup>2</sup>, Mirza Baig<sup>2</sup>, Magid Al Gunaid<sup>1</sup>,  
Mohannad Al Nsour<sup>1</sup>, Yousef Khader<sup>3</sup>

## Research Articles

An Outbreak of Gastroenteritis among students of a religious boarding school, district Islamabad: A Retrospective Cohort Study.

**Authors:** Khurram Shahzad Akram ✉, Mirza Amir Baig, Zakir Hussain, Ambreen Chaudhry, Mirza Zeeshan Iqbal Baig, Abid Saeed, Fawad Khalid Khan, Amir Badar

**Outbreak investigation and a case control study of Dengue fever at Rawalpindi, Pakistan during July to September 2019**

S. Saeed<sup>1,\*</sup>, A. Chaudhry<sup>2</sup>, M.A. Baig<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> FELTP, Pakistan, Health, Islamabad, Pakistan

<sup>2</sup> Field Epidemiology and Laboratory training Program, Public Health, Islamabad, Pakistan

<sup>3</sup> FELTP, Health, Islamabad, 34450, Pakistan

## Correspondence

**Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on surveillance of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) in Pakistan**

Waqar Ahmed, Muhammad Wasif Malik, Muhammad Muhsan Wattoo, Fatima Nadeem, Muhammad Sohail Ahmed Chaudhry, Muhammad Sohail Afzal, Aisha Khan, Anna Durrance-Bagale, Haroon Ahmed ✉

## PAKISTAN FELTP GRADUATES PARTICIPATE IN MEASLES OUTBREAK INVESTIGATIONS

Graduates of Pakistan's Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) participated in several measles outbreak investigation and response activities over the last quarter.

### In Bolan, Baluchistan:

FELTP graduates were deployed to investigate a measles outbreak in Union Council Bhag, Baluchistan, from March 1st to March 16th, 2021. A total of 15 cases were identified, with males being more affected. The median age was three years. All cases had not been immunized against measles 1, and all samples tested positive for measles IgM.

### In Dera Allah Yar, Baluchistan:

FELTP graduates investigated a measles outbreak in Bagan Baba Colony Dera Allah Yar Town District Jaffarabad from December 25, 2020 to January 23, 2021. A total of 24 cases were discovered. Males were found to be more affected than females. The median age was two years, and the age group most affected was 5 to 9 years. Twenty-two cases were not immunized against measles 1. All samples were positive for measles IgM.

### In a Cluster of UK variant:

FELTP graduates also participated in measles outbreak investigation and response activities in Dera Murad Jamali, Baluchistan, between January 15 and February 3, 2021. A total of 33 cases, including one death, were found, with females being more affected than males. Three years was the median age. It was discovered that all 33 cases were unimmunized for measles 1, and 50% were unimmunized for any antigen. Out of nine, seven samples were positive for measles IgM.

### Other Measles Outbreak Investigations:

1. In Jafferabad, Nasirabad, Bolan regions of Baluchistan Province.
2. In District Larkana, Sindh.
3. In Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
4. In UC 13-D District Quetta.



## NIH ISSUES ITS QUARTERLY AMR NEWSLETTER VOL- 4

The National Institute of Health (NIH) of Pakistan in collaboration with the Fleming Fund Country Grant Pakistan issued its Quarterly Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Newsletter Volume 4.

You can read the newsletter [Here](#).

## SAUDI ARABIA

### SAUDI ARABIA FETP DISSEMINATES INFORMATION

During this quarter, the Field Epidemiology Training Program of Saudi Arabia published three Monthly Epidemiology Reports, which shared the distribution of diseases by region, distribution of diseases by demographics (gender, age, nationality), and the national surveillance data trends with disease rates.

You can check [January's](#), [February's](#), and [March's](#) Epidemiology reports.

## SUDAN

### SUDAN FETP RESIDENTS COMPLETE THEIR FIRST FIELDWORK ACTIVITIES AND START THEIR SECOND SEMESTER SUCCESSFULLY

After completing their first semester on December 11, 2020, residents of the Field Epidemiology Training Program of Sudan (SFETP) second cohort completed their first fieldwork on March 12, 2021.

During their first fieldwork, the residents managed to participate in multiple surveillance and outbreak activities including COVID-19, Whooping Cough, Hepatitis E, Hemorrhagic Fever, and others. After partaking in this activity, an oral assessment will take place after the holy month of Ramadan.

Furthermore, the residents started their second semester with their second fieldwork on March 21, 2021.



## SUDAN FETP ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF ITS INTERMEDIATE FETP

The Field Epidemiology Training Program of Sudan (SFETP) announced through the Directorate of Human Resources for Health and the Directorate of Health Emergencies and Epidemic Control that applications to Intermediate FETP are open.

Furthermore, the first round of the intermediate program targets the states of Gazira and Khartoum, as well as mid-level health professionals at the federal level.

The applications were open from the 7th of March to the 15th of March 2021, after which the deadline was extended to the 1st of April 2021.

## SUDAN FETP TO LAUNCH ITS WEBSITE AND E-PORTFOLIO

The Sudan Field Epidemiology Training Program, with the support from the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET), agreed to design a website and include an e-portfolio in it using Moodle. The purpose is to create a tool for residents to use during their field activities.

The website is planned to be officially launched in April. However, the e-portfolio is ready and can be accessed through a link. Using the e-portfolio and website, the residents are expected to upload their field activities to it.

Going forward, a short training session will be conducted for the residents in May by an IT developer from EMPHNET in order to familiarize them with Moodle.

## TUNISIA

### TUNISIA FETP TECHNICAL STAFF AND GRADUATES GET INVOLVED IN THE NATIONAL COVID-19 SEROPREVALENCE SURVEY

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in Tunisia, technical staff, graduates, and residents of the Field Epidemiology Training Program of Tunisia (T-FETP) have been applying their expertise in outbreak detection and response to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the country.



In March 2021, the Ministry of Health, represented by the National Observatory of New and Emerging Diseases (ONMNE), has planned and launched a national survey to estimate the seroprevalence of COVID-19 in the country. Tunisia FETP graduates, and technical staff were involved in designing the protocol, conducting training for investigators, and the data collection process for this survey. They were also involved as supervisors of the data collection process at central and regional levels.

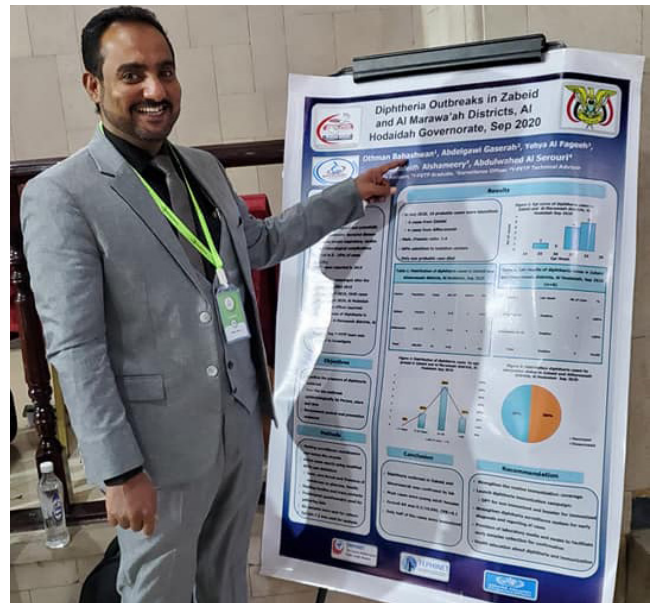


## YEMEN

### YEMEN FETP RESIDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND YEMEN LABORATORY MEDICINE CONFERENCE

Residents of the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) of Yemen participated in the Second Yemen Laboratory Medicine Conference held between March 20 and March 23, 2021.

Two residents from the fifth cohort of the FETP Yemen gave oral presentations while three others presented their posters. A total of 11 YFETP residents were in attendance.



## DURING THIS QUARTER YEMEN FETP HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN TRAINING SESSIONS

### Five-day Training on Scientific Writing

The Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) of Yemen began a five-day scientific writing training on March 6, 2021. Residents from the fifth cohort as well as public health specialists from various governorates attended the session.



### The 11th Cohort of the Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) Concludes its Training

On March 17, 2021, the eleventh cohort of the Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) completed its three-month training. The training took place in Al-Ghaydah, the capital of Al-Mahra Governorate, Yemen.

This cohort consists of 23 public health professionals, including surveillance coordinators from the Al-Mahra Health Directorate and YFETP graduates.







## DURING THIS QUARTER YEMEN FETP HAS BEEN ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN AND CONDUCTING COURSES

### Two Courses on Surveillance and International Health Regulations

On February 7, 2021, the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) started two courses. The first course targeted the surveillance officers of the 12th cohort in the Hajjah governorate. The second course focused on International Health Regulations (IHR2005) and strategic planning, and was attended by 25 participants from disease control and surveillance programs across different governorates. The courses concluded on February 11, 2021.



### Two Courses to Enhance Rapid Response Capacities of its Residents

On February 14, 2021, the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) of Yemen commenced two courses aimed at enhancing residents' rapid response capacities. The courses focused on the COVID-19 context. The participants included residents of the fifth cohort and a number of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) from different governorates across Yemen. These training sessions were followed by field visits.



## Course on Outbreak Investigation

On February 28, 2021, the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) of Yemen organized a course on outbreak investigation. The course targeted the fifth cohort residents and was attended by 11 FETP residents and 14 participants from different governorates.



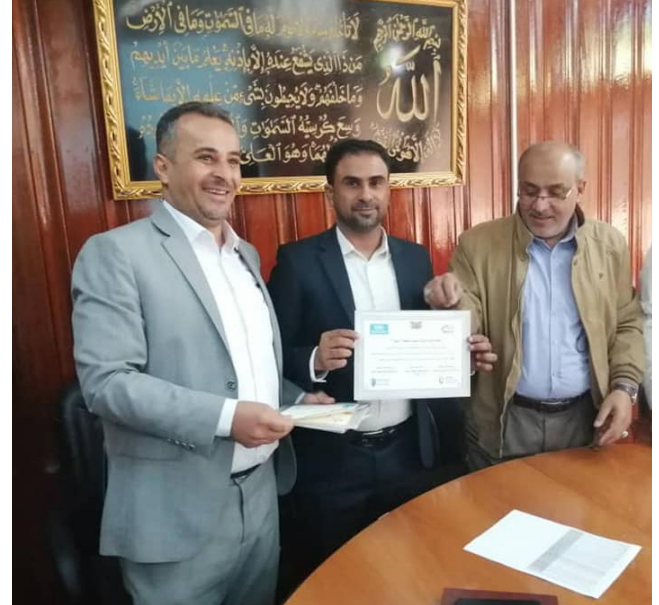
## YEMEN FETP CELEBRATES THE GRADUATION OF ITS 9TH AND 10TH COHORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (PHEP) BASIC EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING

On January 6, 2021, the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) of Yemen celebrated the graduation of the 9th cohort of the Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) Basic Epidemiology training which started in November 2020.

The 9th cohort consists of 25 graduates from governorates of the Hudaidah and Sadah governorates, both of which have been severely affected by the war.

On January 13, 2021, FETP Yemen also celebrated the graduation of the 10th cohort of the PHEP. The graduates of this cohort represent districts from Hudaidah and Raymah governorates.





The Public Health in the Arab World (PHAW) is one of the largest electronic health networks in the region with over 2000 members who use it as forum for information exchange and as a platform for mobilization. PHAW was launched by the Faculty of Health Sciences - AUB as part of its efforts to promote dialogue and collaboration on regional health issues.

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Tel: +962-6-5519962

Fax: +962-6-5519963

Email: info@emphnet.net