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EMPHNET's Word By: Dr. Mohannad Al Nsour, Executive Director

EMPHNET is once again reaching out to you through its quarter newsletter. This 5th issue gives a picture for EMPHNET's and regional FETPs activities during the past three months, during which EMPHNET shaped many development opportunities for the regional FETPs. EMPHNET signed an agreement with CDC to support its activities through the coming years. This agreement states on supporting many projects that aimed at advancing the scope and impact of FETPs in the region. Many valuable workshops and training courses, interventional projects, TOT teams' specialization, learning and management capacities, as well other

objectives and operations will be considered during the agreement's implementation.

Another great opportunity that FETPs' residents and graduates can represent their research work and participate in two of the most important conferences in the field of public health and epidemiology; one is the regional 2nd EMPHNET/5th TEPHINET conference and the second is the 7th TEPHINET Global Scientific Conference.

We are pleased that you would like to read more about these interesting news as well other topics.

Your contributions are welcome!

If you like to share a paper, article, idea, or any another material with the readers, please do not hesitate to send it to: tech@emphnet.com

2nd EMPHNET / 5th TEPHINET Scientific Regional Conference

EMPHNET and TEPHINET are collaborating to organize the 2nd EMPHNET / 5th TEPHINET Scientific Regional Conference which will be held in Egypt, Sharm Al Sheikh from 6th to 9th of December, 2011. It is expected to include around 150 participants from the field of epidemiology and public health from the region and other countries.

The importance of the conference lies in the exchange of experiences between FETPs residents, graduates and experts in the region, the enhancement of FETPs capacity in the region, and the development and support of training courses and workshops for FETPs residents and graduates in the field of epidemiology and public health.

Also, EMPHNET, TEPHINET, and CDC have been arranging three pre-conference workshops:

1. Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).
2. Symposium on Pandemic and Emergencies: Ethics Planning and Response.
3. Epidemiological Methods in Humanitarian Emergencies.

The abstract submission by participants was end on 31st August, and now

the process of abstract revision and evaluation by the conference scientific committee is in progress. Also, late breaking abstract submission opened on 10th Sep till 30th Sep. Many abstracts were received in many various topics such as: communicable and non-communicable diseases, outbreak investigations, surveillance systems, zoonotic diseases, and public health emergencies and responses.

The conference organizing committee is working on arranging the logistics of the conference as hotels, tours, and travel arrangements. Also, the committee will finalize the schedule once the process of abstract evaluation and selection is completed. All related updates will be announced soon on EMPHNET conference website.

EMPHNET et TEPHINET collaborent dans l'organisation de la 2^{ème} EMPHNET / 5^{ème} TEPHINET conférence scientifique régionale qui aura lieu en Egypte, à Sharm Al sheikh du 6 au 9 décembre 2011. Pour plus d'information, nous vous invitons à visiter notre site web: www.emphnet.net

7th TEPHINET Global Conference 2012

TEPHINET va héberger la 7^{ème} conférence scientifique globale de la région de la Méditerranée orientale, en Jordanie en 2012. En collaboration avec FETP-Jordanie et EMPHNET.

TEPHINET decided to host its 7th global scientific conference in Eastern Mediterranean Region, Jordan, 2012, in collaboration with Jordan FETP and EMPHNET. Hosting such valuable event for the first time in the Eastern Mediterranean region is of a great worth since it will attract more efforts to be placed in the region from all around the world, as well as raising useful opportunities to the residents and graduates in the region.

TEPHINET supports the FETPs around the world to illustrate their activities and to gather the useful knowledge from different countries around the world. EMPHNET believes that this chance is a great challenge. FETPs in the region, EMPHNET, and all relevant regional teams will be brought into light by making this event obvious and successful. EMPHNET and its FETPs members; with the support of TEPHINET; will make this achievement a real reflection of the driving force in public health in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

CDC – EMPHNET Direct Agreement

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the availability of Fiscal Year FY 2011 funds for a cooperative agreement program for the strengthening and the development of applied epidemiology and sustainable public health capacity through collaboration, program design, development, implementation, communication, and information sharing. Target groups include Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programs (FELTPs) and other national, regional and global partners in Latin America and the Middle East.

EMPHNET applied for the fund and signed with the CDC a relevant agreement for 2011-2012. The agreement of fund states that EMPHNET plan for 2011-2012 will focus on the following projects:

1. EMPHNET strengthening: EMPHNET will strengthen its organization to meet the needs for achieving its objectives and implementing its coming plans.
2. Rapid Response: EMPHNET is planning to format TOT Epidemiological Rapid Response TOT Team through extensive training course for selected (10-15 FETP) graduates from the region. The selected candidates will be trained by subject matter experts to be ready to respond to any unexpected event in the region.
3. SMPD Management Capacity Development: We will use results of a global health management literature review we commissioned from George Washington University which examined the evidence linking management and leadership to improved organizational performance and health outcomes to design and test competency-based interventions.
4. Jordan NCD: Support the NCD pilot project in Jordan, examine possibilities to expand the pilot to other areas in the region and hold the EMPHNET Non- Communicable Diseases Workshop.
5. Morocco - Vital Statistics: Support the collection of vital statistics in Morocco. FETP students will support the collection and analysis of data. EMPHNET will use the lessons learned to support the increase of surveillance and data collection of health information for the region.

Le CDC a annoncé la disponibilité de fonds financiers relevant de l'exercice de l'année 2011 pour la mise en place d'un programme d'accord de coopération pour le renforcement de l'épidémiologie appliqué et la construction de capacités durables en santé publique. Et ce, à travers la collaboration, le développement des programmes, leur implementation, la communication, et le partage de l'information. Les fonds ont été accordé à EMPHNET et un accord pertinent a été signé avec le CDC pour l'année 2011-2012.

Arab Cancer Fund

Le Fond Arabe pour le Développement Economique et Social a accordé à EMPHNET des fonds pour ses projets de recherche (intitulés: Qualité de vie; les survivants au cancer dans la region MENA (Cancer du sein, Cancer Colorectal, et Leucémie)).

EMPHNET had been granted by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for its research project (titled: Quality of Life; Cancer Survivors in MENA Region (Breast Cancer, Colorectal Cancer, and Leukemia)).

The aim of the study is to assess health related quality of life of cancer patients, survivors in Jordan. Three cancers will be considered: Breast Cancer, Colorectal Cancer and blood Cancer-Leukaemia. This project will be a prospective cross-sectional study on patients diagnosed between January 2004 and December 2009 and registered in the cancer registry with histological proof of cancer (Breast, colorectal, and Leukaemia). Patients will be interviewed a minimum of 12 months after post diagnosis, and had undergone chemotherapy or radiotherapy at least once in their disease course. Patients will be personally interviewed by oncology trained nurses. Appropriate verified questionnaires will be prepared and a piloting of the study questionnaires will be performed testing it.

EMPHNET is looking to expand this research project to cover other countries of the region by conducting it in collaboration with the FETPs in the region.

NCD Project

EMPHNET, U.S CDC, and Jordanian MOH have been moving on conducting their collaborative interventional project in Ajloun about non-communicable diseases (NCDs). We are in the process of finalizing the questionnaire in both Arabic and English, and arranging for data collection. The project steering committee agreed on the following schedule:

- The data collection teams will be trained in September for two days; discussing the questionnaire, tasks and responsibilities, data gathering procedures...etc.
- The pilot testing will take place immediately after the training days.
- The survey will start on 1st/October.

EMPHNET, le CDC-US et le Ministère de la santé Jordanien ont progressé dans la conduite de leur projet de collaboration interventionnelle à Ajloun sur les maladies non transmissibles.



NCD Project Steering Committee Meeting

5th EMPHNET Board of Directors Meeting

EMPHNET Board of Directors meets at least two times annually. The 5th Board of Directors meeting will be conducted in 20th September, 2011, Lyon, France.

The Board will be discussing many areas to ensure the efficiency of EMPHNET's plans and current activities to meet the demands of FETPs in the region. The agenda of the meeting includes: EMPHNET's progress report, Work plan for the next year 2011-2012, networking and enhancing communication among FETPs in the region, the regional EMPHNET conference, hosting the Global TEPHINET conference; establishing an advisory committee, developing regional rapid response team; and the accreditation system of the FETPs.

La 5^{ème} réunion de conseil des directeurs aura lieu le 20 Septembre 2011 à Lyon, France. Le conseil discutera de divers domaines, afin d'assurer l'efficacité des plans d'EMPHNET et des activités en cours, pour répondre aux exigences du programme FETP de la région.

The Complex Management of Systems Failure in the Cardiac Patient Conference

The Complex Management of Systems Failure in the Cardiac Patient conference and a Workshop on Cardio Metabolic Syndrome (CMS) were held on 23rd-25th, June, 2011 in Amman, Jordan, at the University of Jordan.

This was the first international conference of the International Academy of Medicine. EMPHNET has participated in the conference with several internationally recognized health and education organizations.

EMPHNET is interested in such areas due to its major concerns regarding public health issues and the cardiac metabolic syndrome health impacts. EMPHNET has represented an overview about its role in building the epidemiological capacity as well controlling and preventing diseases in the region.

The lectures covered many interested topics in the area of Cardio Metabolic Syndrome such as Public health dimension of CMS in the Middle East and North Africa, critical care and physical assessment and examination, managing health nutrition and life style, patient monitoring and documentation, and impact of CMS on end organs.

For more information visit: www.intamed.org/?page_id=268

La conférence sur la gestion complexe des patients avec défaillance cardiaque fut la première conférence internationale de l'Académie Internationale de Médecine. EMPHNET a parrainé la conférence en collaboration avec plusieurs entités internationales et reconnues du secteur de la santé et de l'éducation.



EMPHNET presentation about its role & activities in the field of epidemiology during CMS



The Complex Management of Systems Failure in the Cardiac Patient conference audience

Joint ECDC/TEPHINET Expert Meeting on Accreditation of Field Epidemiology Training Programs worldwide.

An Expert Meeting on Accreditation of Field Epidemiology Training Programs worldwide was held from 07 to 09 July 2011 on Stockholm, Sweden.

Participants were representatives of some of FETP programs and regional Networks, CDC staff, ECDC staff, TEPHINET secretariat, External experts, WHO. EMPHNET was represented by its Executive Director; Dr. Mohannad Al Nsour.

The Expert Meeting aimed at discussing the priorities of accreditation and forming an agenda of discussion with the FETP / FELTP Directors. Specific objectives were achieved: confirming the reference documents and the proposed process for the Program Directors' Meeting to be held in September in Lyon, confirming the accreditation work group members (ECDC staff members are part of that WC) and role in the process, and defining road map (next steps).

During the expert meeting, many interesting areas were discussed:

- Summary of the reference documents,
- Proposals for the procedure and value of accreditation.
- Overall goal and objectives of accreditation and its value at the global, regional, program, and individual level.
- Minimum Requirements and indicators for accreditation.
- Levels, weights and values for indicators.
- Accreditation, next steps, and agenda for the director's meeting.

In addition to a preliminary work plan for accreditation process which has discussed and defined the activities, objectives, participants and the period of each activity.

Dr. Fariyal Deepa (Spotlight)

Dr. Fariyal Deepa, currently a fellow in the Pakistan FELTP's third cohort and a scientific officer in the Public Health Laboratories Division, National Institute of Health, Pakistan, is a driving force in the public health sector. As a doctor, Dr. Fariyal's motivation to help people led her to join the Pakistan FELTP. According to her, "The FELTP allows me to help more people by going into the field and doing the practical work." She believes the field work is like "being in the eye of the storm."

Dr. Fariyal recognizes that her training as a doctor is both helpful and challenging to her training as an epidemiologist. Whereas her focus as a doctor was on a single case, as an epidemiologist, she now has to focus on many cases at one time in order to see the whole picture. This shift in thinking has become easier for her, largely in part because of the design of the FELTP. Dr. Fariyal feels the FELTP "...hones the public health skills in an individual and makes one an epidemiologist."

One may assume that being a woman in the public health sector in Pakistan puts Dr. Fariyal at a disadvantage but she is quick to point out that in the Pakistani culture, women are not comfortable talking to unfamiliar men. As women and children are vulnerable groups in many of the cases, it is easier for her, as a female, to interact with the families and discover the true nature and origin of the problem.

A public health issue that is of particular importance to Dr. Fariyal is infertility. According to her, the prevalence of infertility in Pakistan is a staggering 21%. She sees the importance of addressing this issue now.

Dr. Fariyal sees the public health improvements in Pakistan first hand. In 2010, the country suffered the worst flood in history. Many provinces suffered huge socio-economic loss along with the internal migration of millions. The Pakistan FELTP



The Experts while discussing one of the meeting objectives

La réunion conjointe d'experts ECDC/TEPHINET d'accréditation des programmes FETP a eu lieu le 07-09 Juillet 2011, à Stockholm en Suède. Elle visait à discuter les priorités d'accréditation et d'établissement d'un agenda de discussion avec les directeurs FETP/FELTP.

fellows were instrumental in responding to the many outbreaks of infectious disease and setting up surveillance system in order to minimize the health impact of the disastrous floods.

In the year and a half that Dr. Fariyal has been a part of the Pakistan FELTP, she has developed new skills, strengthened existing skills, and formed new ways of thinking. As she describes herself as "one of those people who needs a calculator to add up 2+2," she now finds herself wondering about the odds ratio or the validity of the data and statistics of a study. This new way of thinking excites her as she asks "I have come a long way, don't you think?"

En tant que médecin, la motivation Dr Fariyal d'aider les gens l'a amené à rejoindre le FELTP Pakistan. Selon elle, « FELTP me permet d'aider plus de gens en allant sur le terrain et en effectuant un travail pratique." Elle croit que le travail sur le terrain est comme "être dans l'œil de la tempête."

New FETP Resident Advisor Orientation

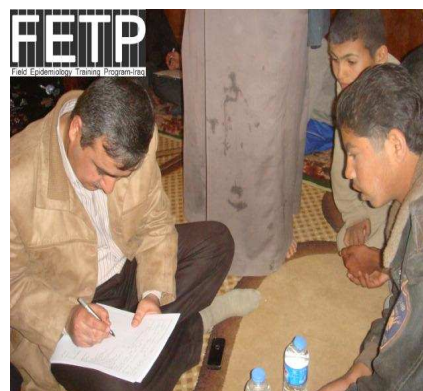
The Center for Disease Control and Prevention conducted the first New Field Epidemiology and Training programs (FETP) Resident Advisor (RAs) orientation in Atlanta on August 8th – 10th. Eleven recently hired RAs attended this orientation aimed at orienting them to such issues as FETP curriculums, effective mentoring and supervising, and logistics. Experienced Resident Advisors such as Bob Fontaine current RA China FETP, Henry Walke, former RA Jordan FETP, Russ Gerber, former RA of Jordan FETP, and Jeremy Sobel, former RA of Brazil FETP were on hand to share their experiences with the new RAs and answer their questions.

The significant FETP development in the Middle East North Africa region was evident as the MENA region had the most representation with five in attendance. New FETP Resident Advisors include Robert Bernstein, KSA FETP; Anna Likos, Morocco FETP; and Reinhard Kasier, Egypt FETP/MENA Regional Advisor. Faris Lama, Resident Advisor for the last year in Iraq and Aisha Jumaan, Team Lead for the Yemen FETP were also in attendance.

le CDC a conduit du 8 au 10 Aout, la première réunion d'orientation des résidents advisor au sujet du nouveau programme de formation en épidémiologie de terrain. (FETP). Onze résidents nouvellement recruté, on assisté à cette réunion, dont l'objectif était de les orienter par rapport aux programmes des études et du tutorat, ainsi que sur les aspects logistiques de la formation en épidémiologie de terrain.

Iraq FETP Activities

1. The residents participated in Water and Food Safety Workshop conducted by CRDF and Iraq -MOH during the period of 24-27/Jul/2011. The workshop included lectures and cases studies facilitated by a number of experts from CDC, Bahrain University and Jordan University of Science and Technology. One of the residents had a presentation on the health inspection activities in Diyala province.
2. Six residents participated in investigating three confirmed measles cases in three different provinces in Iraq. One of the cases was found to be MCV associated rash. Iraq is now in the elimination phase of measles, and all confirmed cases should be investigated to identify the source if possible, ensure no secondary or missed cases, and shade light on immunization activities.
3. The residents investigated a case of CCHF in a district south of Baghdad, and recommended preventive activities to MOH and veterinary authorities.
4. The residents investigated clustering of cases of hepatitis B, in a village nearby Baghdad. Preventive measures were recommended for the local health authorities and the EPI program.
5. The residents investigated food poisoning outbreak during Iftar in a village in Babel province.
6. The residents are requested by MOH and WHO to participate in monitoring of immunization status in Diyala province using the Data Quality Self-Assessment Tool (DQS).
7. The residents submitted 11 abstracts to the coming 2nd EMPHNET / 5th TEPHINET Scientific Regional Conference.
8. The residents participated in a training course on the role of lab in field epidemiology in CPHL. The training continued for one week and includes presentation and practical training in priority communicable diseases in the country.



Iraqi FETP residents during field investigations

Les résidents ont participé à :

1. L'atelier sur la sécurité l'eau et des aliments.
2. Une investigation de trois cas de rougeole confirmés dans trois provinces différentes en Irak.
3. Une enquête sur un cas de la fièvre hémorragique en crimée -congo dans un quartier sud de Bagdad.
4. Une enquêter sur le regroupement des cas d'hépatite B, dans un village voisin de Bagdad.
5. Une enquêter sur une intoxication alimentaire au cours épidémie de rupture du jeun dans un village de la province de Babel.
6. La surveillance du statut vaccinal de Diyala.
7. Un cours de formation sur le rôle du laboratoire dans l'épidémiologie de terrain dans la laboratoire central de santé publique .

