



FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

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From the Sudan FETP in the Field

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Editor's Letter

Dear Reader,

We are thrilled to present the latest issue of EMPHNET's Quarterly Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) Newsletter, which highlights notable updates and achievements from FETPs in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) and beyond.

This issue showcases the commitment and hard work of the region's FETP residents and graduates, as well as their valuable contributions to public health in their respective countries. It also features the graduations celebrated, the cohorts launched, as well as the workshops undergone by various country programs.

As you explore the pages that follow, we trust that you will find not only valuable insights, but also a source of inspiration.



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Feature Stories

Celebrating a Year of Epidemiological Excellence

As another year concludes, we take a moment to reflect on the progress made by the region's FETPs in public health. The year 2023 stands out as a period of substantial achievements for the region's country programs, characterized by significant milestones and the dedication of health professionals in navigating different health challenges.

Throughout the year, FETPs have focused on enhancing epidemiological capacities, from improving disease surveillance systems to effectively controlling outbreaks. These efforts have been crucial in strengthening health infrastructures across participating countries and in developing a skilled network of epidemiologists. These professionals are essential in their respective countries' ongoing efforts to address and manage health threats.

Notably, this year has witnessed the launch of new cohorts within the FETPs, marking a significant expansion in our efforts to build a robust epidemiological workforce. Additionally, this year we have welcomed Libya and Qatar into the EMR network of FETPs, broadening our scope and strengthening our collaborative endeavors.

The story of FETPs in 2023 is one of collaboration and resilience. Each program, with its specific context and challenges, has pursued the common objective of equipping health professionals with essential skills and knowledge. This has been vital in conducting research, influencing health policies, and preparing the healthcare sector for current and future challenges.

This year for FETPs was not just about building capabilities, but also about facing and overcoming real-world challenges. Our region has witnessed a range of natural disasters and public health emergencies that tested the



resilience of these training programs and their cohorts.

Natural disasters struck with little warning, bringing both immediate crises and long-term public health challenges. Earthquakes in Syria, Morocco, and Afghanistan caused widespread devastation. Similarly, the floods in Pakistan and Libya resulted in significant public health concerns, where frontline responders played a critical role in disease surveillance and coordinating response efforts.

Conflict, a persistent issue in several countries in the region, added another layer of complexity. The escalation of conflict in many parts of the region led to further strain on health systems already grappling with natural disasters. FETPs found themselves at the forefront, not just in responding to the immediate needs, but also in planning for the long-term public health implications.

2023 also saw an increase in disease outbreaks, driven by the aforementioned factors. FETPs were quick to adapt, implementing strategies to control these outbreaks, and to prevent future health crises. This proactive and responsive

approach in managing disease outbreaks highlighted the significance of having a well-prepared workforce.

The resilience and adaptability of FETPs have been more evident than ever this year. In facing adversities, these programs have not only managed immediate concerns, but also laid the groundwork for more robust health systems. By training health professionals capable of responding to a range of public health challenges, FETPs have ensured that our region has a dependable first line of defense in public health.

As we look ahead, the experiences and achievements of FETPs in 2023 will undoubtedly continue to inspire and influence future public health initiatives. The dedication and efforts of these programs and their professionals are essential for building a healthier future.

The legacy of FETPs in 2023 is one of strength, collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to public health excellence. Their contributions provide a blueprint for future efforts in building resilient health systems, capable of overcoming the public health challenges of tomorrow.

Egypt FETP Plays a Key Role in Egypt's Path to WHO Gold Tier Status for Hepatitis C Elimination

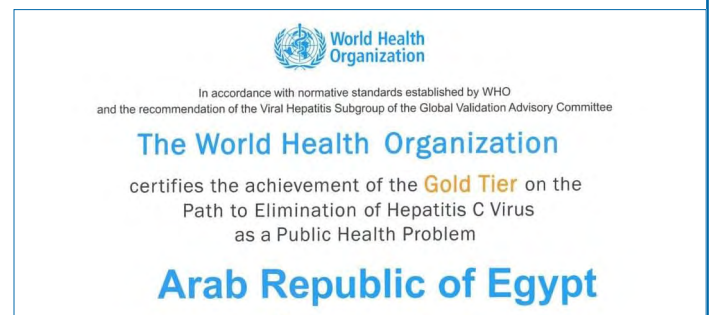
Egypt has become the world's first country to achieve the World Health Organization's (WHO) gold-tier status on the path towards eliminating Hepatitis C, and was awarded a certificate for this significant milestone on October 9, 2023. This certificate was handed by the WHO Director General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom to the Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi in Cairo.

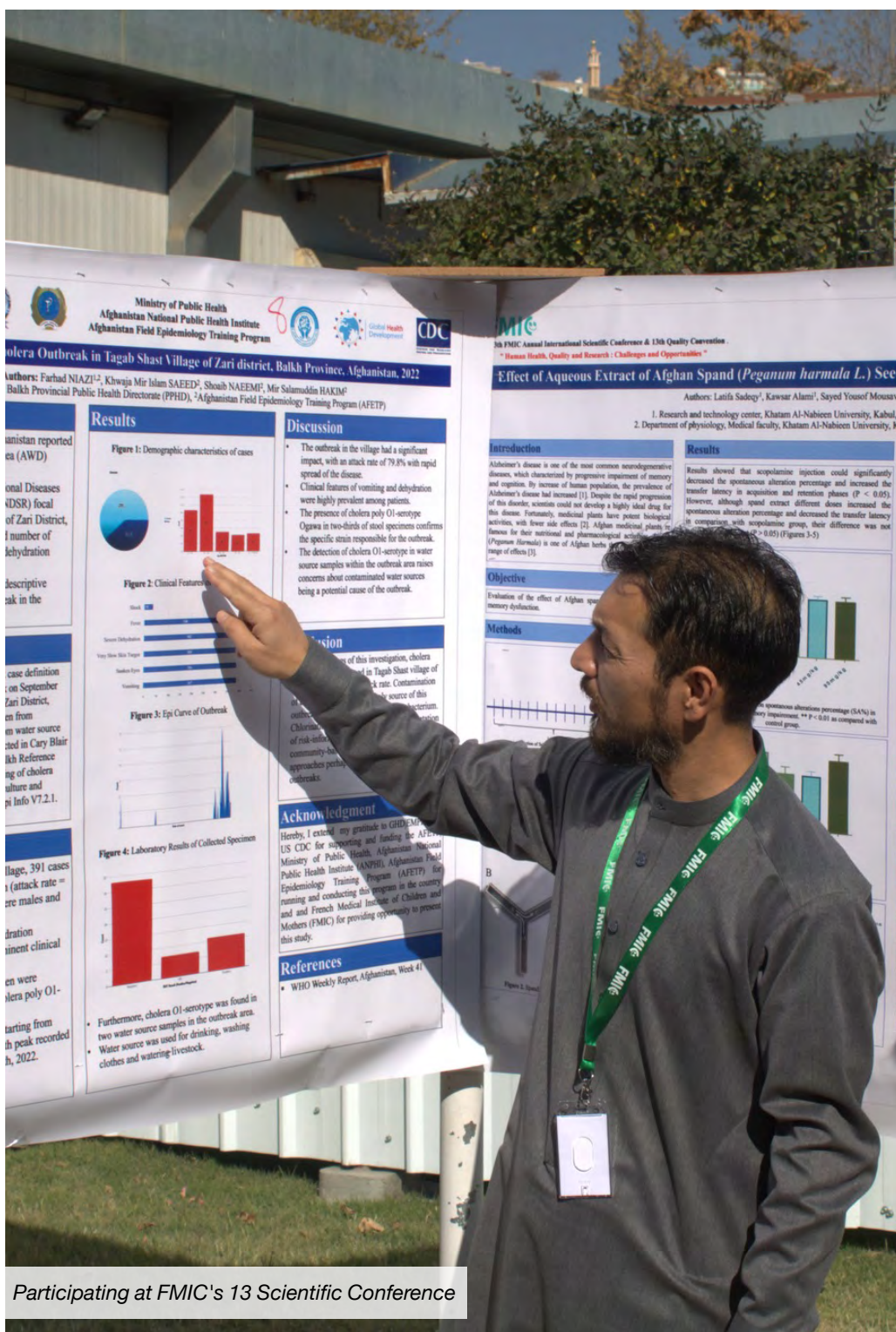
As Egypt had one of the highest Hepatitis C prevalence rates in the world, its journey towards this achievement was guided by the tireless efforts of its health workforce, including the Egypt FETP graduates. Their contribution was significant, as they played vital roles in providing essential services to Hepatitis C patients, including screening, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up care. They were also actively involved in research and in the formulation of new strategies for its treatment, as well as enhancing the public awareness regarding the importance of the preventive measures.

Furthermore, Egypt FETP graduates' contributions extended to designing and implementing the Egyptian national Hepatitis C elimination plan, and implementing different

innovative prevention programs such as community-based screening and treatment campaigns. They also played a pivotal role in knowledge dissemination by training healthcare professionals in essential areas, including Hepatitis C screening, diagnosis, and treatment. Thus, their advocacy efforts are essential to Egypt's ongoing success in eliminating it.

In conclusion, this achievement signifies that Egypt has successfully met the WHO's programmatic coverage targets that will set up the country to reduce the number of cases and deaths caused by Hepatitis C, and to eradicate it completely by 2030. This success must give all countries hope and motivation to eliminate hepatitis C everywhere.





Participating at FMIC's 13 Scientific Conference

Country Program News

This section highlights the region's FETPs' updates

AFGHANISTAN

In this quarter, the Afghanistan Field Epidemiology Training Program (Afghanistan FETP) celebrated the graduation of two cohorts, marked the launch of a new cohort, and showcased success at scientific conferences. The program's residents also demonstrated their invaluable impact by playing a pivotal role in emergency response efforts.

Milestone: The Third and Fourth Intermediate Cohorts Graduation Ceremony

Early in the quarter, the Afghanistan FETP celebrated the graduation of the third and fourth Intermediate cohorts in a ceremony hosted at the Ministry of Public Health. This graduation ceremony was attended by the Minister of Public Health, H.E. Dr. Qalandar Ebad, who conveyed his sincere gratitude for the residents' commitment and hard work. These two cohorts comprise 49 residents who successfully completed their one-year training, marking a significant milestone in their careers, and in the advancement of public health in Afghanistan.



The Fifth Intermediate Cohort Embarks on their One-Year Training

In a remarkable event held at the Afghanistan National Public Health Institute (ANPHI), the Afghanistan FETP inaugurated its fifth Intermediate cohort. This event also marked the launch of their first workshop, which focused on essential aspects of epidemiology. During the first week of the workshop, the residents were exposed to the vital role of surveillance in public health, and they learned how to assess the effectiveness of surveillance systems within the country. The second week of the workshop witnessed the Mentor-Meeting Interaction Session, where residents had the opportunity to choose their mentors, interact with them, and formalize their commitment through a signed agreement. In addition, within this workshop, the residents presented their fieldwork plans and projects, which were implemented between the first and second workshops.



Subsequently, these residents also attended their second workshop, and were actively engaged in group activities, as well as working on case studies that not only enhanced their theoretical knowledge, but also fostered practical skills. This workshop also provided the residents with opportunities to gain insights into epidemiological study design, and to develop research protocols.

Participating in Diverse Workshops

In November, the program also organized a one-week workshop for ANPHI’s team, focusing on enhancing essential skills for project execution, including concept note development, project implementation, and donor search strategies. In addition, the program, supported by the World Health Organization, held a three-day "Research Grant Proposal Writing" workshop. It aimed to empower the residents to draft proposals for the "EMR Operational and Implementation Research Studies" Mini-grants Opportunity, offered by the Eastern Mediterranean Non-Communicable Disease Research and Prevention Center at EMPHNET. These workshops demonstrated the program’s dedication toward advancing skills and knowledge.



Afghanistan FETP Residents Shine at FMIC’s 13 Scientific Conference

Residents of the Afghanistan FETP achieved remarkable milestones at the French Medical Institute for Mother and Children’s (FMIC) 13th Scientific Conference. Ten residents gave oral presentations, in which they shared their findings on communicable diseases epidemiology, and outbreak investigations. Also, the residents showcased five poster presentations that highlighted the program’s ongoing research and dedication to public health, one of which earned the second spot in the top three poster presentations.



Contributing to Emergency Response Efforts

In response to the tragic earthquake that occurred in the Herat province in Afghanistan, Afghanistan FETP graduates played a vital role in providing technical support, and ensuring the safety of those affected by this disaster. They took a leading position in the response efforts, showcasing their dedication to community welfare and emergency response.



BANGLADESH

The Bangladesh Field Epidemiology Training Program (Bangladesh FETP) and the Bangladesh Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (Bangladesh FETPV) showed remarkable dedication and efficacy in equipping public health and veterinary professionals with essential skills. They achieved this goal by conducting different workshops. Both Bangladesh FETP and FETPV actively conducted fieldwork, ensuring that residents got the hands-on experience they need to thrive in their careers.

Bangladesh FETP: An Insight on the Intermediate Level

This quarter marks the graduation of the first and second Intermediate cohorts of Bangladesh FETP. As these cohorts embark on their professional journeys, the insightful words shared by esteemed speakers at the graduation ceremonies set the tone for a future of impactful contributions to public health in Bangladesh. Simultaneously, the Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) launched the third Intermediate cohort, supported by EMPHNET.



The FETP Intermediate level aims to equip residents with advanced skills in epidemiology and disease surveillance, arming them with the necessary tools to investigate and respond to public health threats at the national level, thus contributing to the enhancement of epidemiological capacity within the healthcare system.



Building the Capacities of FETPV in Epi Info and STATE Training

The inaugural blended workshop, titled "Database Design and Management Using Epi Info Program," was organized by the One Health Institute at Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, and the Department of Livestock Services, in collaboration with EMPHNET. This workshop catered to five residents of the second FETPV cohort. Its sessions focused on enhancing their practical skills in utilizing Epi Info software. The training session covered essential aspects such as data management, database construction, questionnaire design, data entry, and basic data analysis, providing valuable hands-on experience for field applications.

Furthermore, this cohort actively engaged in a recent workshop that focused on survey data management and analysis. Its goal was to enhance the residents' skills in proficiently utilizing the STATA software for data analysis. Notably, the workshop included an earlier online session, introducing the STATA software to ensure a comprehensive learning experience for the residents.

Collaborative Fieldwork

In a joint effort, the graduates of Intermediate FETP, along with Bangladesh FETP and FETPV residents led an investigation of Anthrax cases in the Southern region of Bangladesh. This investigation, launched on December 11th, began by tracing back a case identified at the Infectious Disease Hospital in Dhaka. Simultaneously, additional cases were detected in Meherpur District. This joint investigation highlights the effectiveness of the One Health approach in comprehensively addressing the Anthrax outbreak.



ANNOUNCEMENT



Check out the latest e-courses that are now available on EMPHNET's Learning Management System (LMS):

- Case Study: "[Acute Flaccid Paralysis Surveillance System Performance in Jordan \(2012- 2016\)](#)." This is a self-paced case study that is designed to build the capacity of trainees in the evaluation of Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance system.
- Simulation: "[Foodborne Outbreak Investigation and Response](#)" This simulation will help you understand how foodborne outbreak investigation and response are conducted in an interactive scenario.

EGYPT

The Egypt Field Epidemiology Training Program (Egypt FETP) has been actively engaged in initiatives that aimed to enhance public health. From the training of the sixth PHEP cohort, to the impactful contributions of FETP graduates, and the achievement of WHO Gold Tier Status for Hepatitis C elimination, the program stands as a symbol of excellence.

Journey of the Sixth PHEP Cohort: Empowering Public Health in Egypt

The sixth Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) cohort of Egypt's FETP showcased their dedication and expertise through a dynamic six-day workshop on outbreak investigations. Throughout the workshop, the residents were given a hypothetical outbreak scenario, allowing them to engage in the practical application of outbreak investigation steps. Their task also involved identifying the cause of the hypothetical outbreak, and developing appropriate control measures. Then, they shared their findings and presented the final report.



In October, the program also held the final workshop for this cohort. During this workshop, the residents were introduced to the basics of leadership and management, time management, and research ethics, as well as presenting the results of their second fieldwork. This workshop concluded with the graduation ceremony for this cohort.

This program has effectively trained a new generation of public health professionals, who are well-equipped to address the challenges facing public health today.

Egypt's FETP Graduates' Contributions

Egypt's FETPs graduates participated in the Global Congress on Population, Health and Development, which was held in Cairo in September, 2023. They were invited as panelists on several sessions related to public health, including One Health, antimicrobial resistance, disease surveillance, and non-communicable diseases, among others. They additionally played a role in guaranteeing the safety of the guests.



Moreover, the program's graduates also attended a workshop on data analysis and visualization using the R programming language. The anticipated outcomes of this workshop included graduates applying acquired skills to enhance their performance in event-based surveillance (EBS), indicator-based surveillance (IBS), sentinel site surveillance, and various other domains within public health.

Furthermore, they hosted a workshop on developing health awareness messages for Egyptian families, drawing participants from diverse departments in the Ministry of Health and Population, along with external stakeholders. This valuable session allowed graduates to share their knowledge, emphasizing the significance of risk communication in health awareness campaigns for Egyptian families.

The graduates also played a significant role at the fifth Annual Scientific Conference for Central Public Health Laboratories held in Cairo between November 11 and 12, 2023, taking on roles as chairpersons and speakers, through which they covered various public health topics. They shared their expertise, presented research findings, and engaged in discussions on the latest trends and developments in their respective fields.

Also in November 2023, the Egypt FETP graduates achieved a notable milestone with the acceptance of two abstracts, one oral and one poster, at the third International Conference on Public Health in Africa. The program's residents also actively engaged in two side events focused on EBS, and mortality surveillance.



IRAQ

This quarter marked a period of proactive contributions by the Iraq Field Epidemiology Training Program (Iraq FETP), notably contributing to the success and safety of the Arbaeen mass gathering. The program also conducted diverse capacity-building workshops, empowering its residents with essential skills to address public health challenges.

Iraq's FETP Initiatives During the Arbaeen Mass Gathering

The Iraq FETP made significant contributions to the success of the Arbaeen mass gathering through various activities and initiatives, including conducting a comprehensive field survey in Karbala. The survey aimed to assess the preparedness and response of hospital departments and health centers. It also covered six hospitals and six health care centers along the Arbaeen pilgrimage route. In addition, Event-Based Surveillance (EBS) related to mass gatherings was executed in Babil, Diwaniyah, Karbala, Salahaldeen, and Wassit Provinces. These initiatives aimed to promptly identify and address any unusual events during the mass gathering. In Al Najaf, the residents also actively participated in real-time surveillance, focusing on infectious diseases and other health conditions that might have affected the visitors.



Together, these resident-driven efforts highlighted the vital role of the Iraq FETP in ensuring the health and safety of visitors during the Arbaeen mass gathering.

Advancing Expertise: Iraq's FETP Intermediate Cohort Workshops

The fourth Intermediate cohort of the Iraq FETP engaged in several comprehensive workshops. The "Biostatistics and Study Design" workshop, which involved 25 residents, covered fruitful topics, including types of study design, measures of association, survey and sampling, statistical concepts, and protocol development. This workshop was concluded by a presentation session and an electronic exam, where residents had the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge they gained.

In October, the program also facilitated two workshops for this cohort, focusing on essential skills in data management and analysis. Additionally, the residents delved into the practical application of drawing maps using the QGIS program. These workshops, held consecutively, provided comprehensive training to enhance the cohort's proficiency in handling and interpreting data, as well as utilizing geographical information systems for mapping purposes.

Moreover, these residents also participated in two “Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) Training Workshop to Address Health Security Threats in Iraq,” which was supported by EMPHNET. This workshop focused on strengthening the ability to prevent and respond to biological attacks by promoting awareness of biological threats and adopting best threat mitigation practices. It also aimed to empower Iraq’s RRTs to effectively respond to potential dangerous infectious diseases outbreaks.

Furthermore, as part of the Intermediate FETP curriculum, Iraq’s FETP initiated a workshop on management and leadership for this cohort. This workshop covered The workshop covered a range of topics, including prioritizing public Health problems, project management cycle, leadership vs. management, and addressing adaptive and technical challenges.



JORDAN

In this quarter, the Jordan Field Epidemiology Training Program (Jordan FETP) welcomed its twentieth cohort, emphasizing comprehensive learning sessions. The residents' commitment extended to active participation in weekly scientific days, featuring lectures on critical public health topics.

A Comprehensive Workshop on Epi Info

The Jordan FETP residents engaged proactively in a workshop at the Jordan Centers for Disease Control, where the focus was on utilizing the statistical software Epi-info. This comprehensive workshop covered various aspects of scientific writing and research, emphasizing skills in questionnaire design, data organization, analysis, and the creation of informative graphs and figures. During the workshop, the residents gained valuable insights on how to effectively convey scientific findings through written and visual representation.



Ongoing Preparations for Measles Vaccination Campaign

The Jordan FETP residents participated in the ongoing preparations for the measles vaccination campaign in schools. Their role included organizing data, coordinating medical teams, and conducting health education in schools before launching the official campaign.



Launching A New Cohort

The twentieth cohort of the Jordan FETP, within the Ministry of Health (MoH), commenced in October. Four new residents joined the program, as part of their community medicine residency. The program's director and head of community medicine, alongside supervisors and mentors, provided a warm introduction and orientation to initiate the residents' schedule. Currently, the cohort is engaged in comprehensive learning sessions on epidemiology and biostatistics, and is attending the weekly scientific days.



Jordan’s FETP Residents Engage in the Weekly Scientific Days

The Jordan FETP’s residents are committed to attending the MOH weekly scientific days, served as a platform for supervisors and mentors to provide valuable feedback from their rotations across various departments in the communicable and non-communicable directorates.

In this quarter, these scientific days featured lectures on risk communication and community engagement, and on the surveillance of Hepatitis and brucellosis, as well as the prevention and control measures in Jordan. The residents also attended a session on the One Health approach, emphasizing the connection of human, animal, and environmental health. It also focused on the role of epidemiologists in addressing complex health challenges and their involvement in the recently established department of One Health within the Ministry of Health.

The integration of the One Health principles into the FETP curriculum reflects a broader approach to public health education, preparing the residents to address health challenges from a comprehensive perspective, and in line with the constantly changing public health demands of communities.



LEBANON

Celebrating Achievement: Third PHEP Cohort Graduation Ceremony

The Lebanon Field Epidemiology Training Program celebrated the graduation of its third Public Health Empowerment Program’s (PHEP) cohort in September. This cohort comprises 13 doctors from the Ministry of Public Health and other doctors from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

Their journey involved engaging in workshops, attending training seminars, evaluating health centers, reporting on communicable diseases, analyzing epidemiological data, and preparing detailed epidemiological reports. This marks a significant milestone in equipping healthcare professionals with essential skills, empowering them to address public health challenges effectively in Lebanon and beyond.



LIBYA

The Libya FETP PHEP Cohorts: Building Expertise for Community Well-being

Residents of the first and second Public Health Empowerment Programs' (PHEP) cohorts of the Libya Field Epidemiology Training Program attended their three workshops. These sessions provided them with insights into diverse public health topics, including outbreak investigations, disease surveillance, and effective strategies for public health response. They also presented the outcomes of their fieldwork during the three-month in-service training. Now, these cohorts are equipped with a comprehensive understanding of public health principles, ready to contribute to the well-being of their communities.



MOROCCO

The Morocco FETP Celebrates Intermediate Cohort Milestones

This quarter marked a significant milestone for Morocco's Field Epidemiology Training Program with the successful graduation of its second and third Intermediate cohorts. The graduation ceremonies highlighted the dedication and accomplishments of the residents, who have now acquired valuable expertise in the field of epidemiology. These residents are now equipped with a refined understanding of epidemiology, stand as testament to the program's efficacy in nurturing skilled professionals.



PAKISTAN

The Pakistan Field Epidemiology Training Program (Pakistan FETP) celebrated remarkable achievements, in addition to hosting impactful workshops in different provinces.

Pakistan's FETP Workshops in Islamabad and Karachi

The Pakistan FETP held a five-day training workshop on “Leadership and Management Skills in Public Health” in Islamabad. Organized in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC), and EMPHNET, the workshop aimed to familiarize participants with key concepts in leadership and management. It also included interactive presentations, group work, and tabletop exercises, engaging 30 mid-level managers from across the country. At the end of the workshop, the participants expressed their satisfaction, anticipating improved leadership and management skills for their roles as public health leaders.

Furthermore, a dynamic workshop on "Disease Surveillance and Outbreak Control through the One-Health Approach" was also



conducted in Karachi. This workshop saw attendance from various sectors including human health, veterinary and livestock, environment protection, food, and agriculture departments. It also fostered a collaborative environment, where the participants shared their insights into the interconnectedness of human health within the One-Health context, emphasizing early disease detection and local control strategies.

The Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response Training Workshops

The Pakistan FETP demonstrates its dedication to advancing public health through Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) training workshops held across various provinces. In collaboration with the CDC and the UK Health Security Agency, the National Institute of Health, Islamabad, organized a five-day IDSR workshop in Islamabad. This training workshop, attended by 32 district disease surveillance officers from Balochistan. Its sessions focused on equipping participants with essential skills needed for effective disease surveillance, data reporting and analysis, as well as coordination of public health response activities.

Simultaneously, the program, along with the IDSR team conducted a baseline survey of



primary health facilities in Sindh province, with the aim of assessing the quality of data collection and reporting. The gathered information was related to the facilities' staff training in reporting diseases data, the application of case definitions, and the accessibility of data reporting tools, among others.

Setting the Stage for Success: Pakistan FETP Concludes Training for Three Frontline Cohorts

This quarter signifies the successful conclusion of training for the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth Frontline cohorts. This program's primary goal is to equip the frontline workforce with essential skills in disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, and public health response for effective disease control.



QATAR

Insights from the Qatar FETP PHEP Cohorts

The Qatar Field Epidemiology Training Program celebrated the graduation of its first Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) cohort. This ceremony served as a testament to the dedication and hard work of the residents and symbolized the program's success in fostering a community of empowered and capable public health professionals.

Subsequently, the program initiated the second and third PHEP cohorts, both of which recently participated in their inaugural workshop. The workshop's sessions focused on delivering a comprehensive introduction to epidemiology, public health, and surveillance, emphasizing key principles such as disease transmission, control and prevention, and other essential topics. This highlighted Qatar's FETP ongoing commitment to equipping public health professionals with essential knowledge and skills for effective disease management and prevention.



SUDAN

Success Story: the Sudan FETP Contributes to Emergency Response During Armed Conflicts

The armed conflicts in Sudan present a set of challenges that extend beyond the immediate threat of violence. These conflicts result in different humanitarian crises including the displacement of populations and the breakdown of essential services. Such conditions create a dire situation where access to health care, clean water, and sanitation is severely undermined. This breakdown further complicates the challenge of addressing health emergencies, as the focus on safety and security distracts attention from the critical need for comprehensive health interventions.



In such contexts, the demand for a rapid, skilled, and adaptable response becomes critical. Thus, in this demanding landscape, the Sudan Field Epidemiology Training Program (Sudan FETP) has filled the gaps and demonstrated its dedication and commitment to public health in the country. This also highlights the program's significance as a transformative force in the field of public health.

In October 2023, with the EMPHNET, 23 residents, graduates, and mentors made significant contributions to different aspects of armed conflict emergency response across eight states in the country, representing 44% of the total. These contributions included addressing the needs of Internally Displaced Populations (IDPs), where two FETP residents conducted an assessment for eight IDP shelters of 97 families and 437 residents. This assessment covered the availability and quality of water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), food security, and syndromic communicable disease screening. It also unveiled significant challenges, such as over one-third lacking access to clean water and soap, as well as the prevalence of respiratory diseases and diarrhea cases in 75% of shelters. Additionally, three FETP residents were also deployed to Gezira State, aiming to assess and evaluate the nutritional status of children in these shelters. The results of this assessment show that 4.9% of the children were at risk of malnutrition and 1.4% suffered from severe malnutrition who were referred to specialized centers.

The program's impact was also evident in enhancing and building the capacity of health workers and surveillance officers, as three Advanced FETP graduates facilitated a training workshop on Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) in Blue Nile State. Simultaneously, in River Nile State, other residents from the program also trained 35 doctors and nurses in neonatal intensive care units on the same approach, covering principles of healthcare quality, and patient safety. Moreover, the head of the Emergency Operation Center, a resident from Sudan FETP, led a seminar on the standard case management guidelines for Dengue Fever, and shared valuable information with 11 physicians and 49 medical doctors in Kassala State. In addition, the graduates also facilitated refreshment training sessions on surveillance system and outbreak preparedness for surveillance officers in Kassala and Blue Nile States.

The Sudan FETP further played a crucial role in outbreak preparedness, investigation, and response across different states. The residents led measles outbreak investigation in Al Gadarif State, and conducted an in-depth analysis of the ongoing heat stroke outbreak in Red Sea State, as well as supporting the investigation of suspected cholera cases in Red Sea and Gezira States. They also conducted response activities to control the cholera outbreak by integrating interventions in water, sanitation, and hygiene. This included water chlorination and engaging in risk communication to advocate for safe hygiene practices.

Other program’s achievements included supporting the development of a proposal to assess the impact of the war on the continuity of HIV services in Sudan, as well as conducting weekly online sessions, where residents presented their fieldwork activities.

In conclusion, as Sudan faces diverse health challenges, the continued success and expansion of the FETP will undoubtedly contribute to the enhancement of public health capabilities in the country. Its impactful initiatives also highlight the program's crucial role in building resilience and fostering a culture of proactive response in Sudan's healthcare landscape.



Sudan Health Situation Update

Amidst the array of global crises, Sudan stands out as the largest displacement and protection crisis in the world. Over eight months of conflict have inflicted substantial damage on the nation destroying lives, livelihoods, and critical infrastructure, with communities experiencing horrific violence.

This situation has resulted in the displacement of millions, including those recently displaced, individuals already living in protracted displacement, refugees that found shelter and support in Sudan, and host communities that have generously taken in millions of displaced people from conflict-affected areas.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

TUNISIA

Participation at the ONMNE Congress

The Tunisia Field Epidemiology Training Program's (Tunisia FETP) residents participated in the second International Congress of the National Observatory of New and Emerging Diseases (ONMNE), which took place from 13 to 15 December, 2023. This event served as a platform for experts, researchers, and healthcare professionals to delve into critical topics such as COVID-19 epidemiological surveillance, the One Health approach, vector-borne and zoonotic diseases, and viral hepatitis, among others. The Tunisia FETP, through this initiative showcased its commitment to advancing public health, and contributed significantly to the global dialogue on public health issues.



YEMEN

The Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program (Yemen FETP) has demonstrated remarkable achievements by empowering epidemiologists, and celebrating the graduation of two cohorts.

Empowering Epidemiologists: Yemen FETP Workshops in Sana'a

In Sana'a, the second Intermediate cohort of the Yemen FETP participated in its second workshop, a pivotal two-week session designed to enhance the residents' proficiency in conducting successful outbreak investigations. This workshop focused on equipping participants with essential skills in utilizing the Epi Info software, and they had the opportunity to showcase and present the findings of their fieldwork, further enriching their practical experience and fostering a deeper understanding of epidemiological practice.



Moreover, the program also conducted a workshop on QGIS program for the sixth Advanced Cohort in Sana'a. During this workshop, the residents engaged in hands-on exercises to apply practical skills in creating maps utilizing this program, and they are expected to produce high-precision maps relevant to their respective fields of work in public health.

Celebrating Graduations of PHEP Cohorts

In November, a special event took place in Al Mukalla, as the Yemen FETP celebrated the completion of its fourth Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) cohort with a graduation ceremony. This event followed the successful conclusion of the final workshop, where participants immersed themselves in comprehensive training.



Moreover, the Yemen FETP celebrated the graduation of its nineteenth PHEP cohort in Sana'a. This cohort, comprising 25 residents, demonstrated their commitment and dedication by attending all their workshops. These graduation ceremonies stand as testament to the program's dedication to empowering a new generation of public health leaders in Yemen.

[GHD|EMPHNET: Working Together for Better Health](#)

The Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) is a regional network that focuses on strengthening public health systems in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) and beyond. EMPHNET works in partnership with ministries of health, non-government organizations, international agencies, private sector, and relevant institutions from the region and the globe to promote public health and applied epidemiology. To advance the work of EMPHNET, Global Health Development (GHD) was initiated to build coordination mechanisms with partners and collaborators. Together, GHD|EMPHNET is dedicated to serving the region by supporting efforts to promote public health policies, strategic planning, sustainable financing, resource mobilization, public health programs, and other related areas.

▶ Shmeisani, Abdallah Ben Abbas Street, Building No 42,
P.O.Box: 963709, Postal Code: 11196 Amman, Jordan

▶ Tel: +962-6-5519962
Fax: +962-6-5519963

▶ www.emphnet.net
info@emphnet.net