



Partnership for Accelerated COVID-19 Testing (PACT)

Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Program
- ◆ Unit: Public Health Emergency Management Center

OBJECTIVES

PACT aimed to strengthen capacity to test for COVID-19 across Africa by mobilizing experts, community workers, supplies and other resources to TEST, TRACE and TREAT COVID-19 cases in a timely manner to minimize the impact of the pandemic on the Africa continent.

REGIONS OF WORK

This project was implemented by GHD|EMPHNET in North Africa at Egypt, Morocco, Somalia, and Sudan.

BENEFICIARIES

African countries' population reached with support for testing to COVID_19.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD|EMPHNET worked on rolling out of a community contact tracing strategy that specifically supported contact tracing efforts and other surveillance functions in general within the context of COVID-19 response in Africa Union member states in North Africa.

In collaboration with targeted countries GHD|EMPHNET supported identification, orientation and deployment of community health workers (CHW) which assisted in contact tracing and raising the awareness of the population. GHD|EMPHNET supported the deployment of 200 CHW in each of the targeted countries. The CHWs were provided with forms of data collection and reporting forms as well as protective equipment and support deployment to facilitate their field work.

Furthermore, GHD|EMPHNET also supported Sudan to enhance responding to outbreaks through capacity building trainings on surveillance, Infection and prevention Control (IPC) practices as well as strengthen laboratory capacity. GHD|EMPHNET coordinated and communicated with the countries to conduct training for the nominated countries' supervisors and facilitate the coordination of rolling out the training to the subnational level. GHD|EMPHNET also facilitated the monitoring of the activities and providing timely reporting.

PROJECT PHASES

This project involves three phases as follows:

Phase I – Preparations: Communication and orientation meetings with all targeted countries, nomination of disease outbreak respondents, coordinators, supervisors and Community Health Workers (CHWs) and preparation for conducting trainings and procuring supplies for field deployment.

Phase II – Implementation: Training of supervisors, support roll out training to CHWs and delivery of Personal Protective Equipment (PEE) and supplies in five targeted countries. In addition to trainings to strengthen surveillance, Infection prevention control and laboratory practices in Sudan.

Phase III – field deployment CHWs in targeted five countries, deployment on national epidemiology, IPC and Laboratory experts in Sudan, data collection, provision of logistic support, monitoring and reporting



Project Start and End Date	08/15/2020 - 07/15/2021
Partner Organizations	CDC Africa, African Union, and the targeted countries' MOHs
Funded by	African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET)

Currently . . .

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the African Region was reported in Algeria on 25 February 2020. Most African countries took swift action early on, and it is largely thanks to these efforts to limit gatherings and strengthen public health capacities, that cases and deaths in Africa have remained lower than in other parts of the world to this date. The situation continues to require urgent collective attention and action to response to the pandemic and keep the outbreak under control.

What is next . . .

Continued support is needed for countries to empower individuals to play their role and take preventive actions, to ensure continuity of essential services and strengthen health systems.

Accelerated action is also needed on response to outbreaks in the African Region being one of the most vulnerable regions in the globe. PACT initiative will continue to strengthen the capacity of the targeted countries to test for COVID-19 across Africa, with emphasis on countries that have only minimal capacity and support these countries to maintain control of outbreak with focus on COVID-19 outbreak.

By the Numbers

800

CHWs were trained under the PACT initiative

203M

North African countries' population that are targeted. Including: Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, and Morocco

>8.5M

Number of COVID-19 positive cases in Africa

180,000+

Households have been visited during the field deployment of CHWs

GHD|EMPHNET Information: Global Health Development (GHD) and Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) works at achieving its mission by responding to public health needs with deliberate efforts that allow for health promotion and disease prevention.

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