



# FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

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## Editor's Letter

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest issue of the FETP Newsletter, where we bring you the most notable updates and accomplishments from Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and beyond.

This issue showcases the remarkable accomplishments, persistent efforts, and unwavering dedication of FETP residents and graduates across the region. Their profound contributions to public health in their respective countries take center stage in our coverage, demonstrating the impact of their hard work and commitment.

This newsletter also highlights the celebrations of graduations, the launch of new cohorts, and the comprehensive workshops undergone by various country programs. These remarkable achievements showcase the continuous growth and positive impact of the FETPs in shaping the future of public health.

We trust that the ensuing pages will provide you with an informative and stimulating reading experience.



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## A Word from EMPHNET's Executive Director on the Sudan Conflict

On April 15th, 2023, violent armed conflict escalated in Sudan's capital, Khartoum. This conflict brought with it dire consequences, including increased fatalities and casualties, displacement of populations, food insecurity, and limited access to healthcare.

According to the Federal Ministry of Health, healthcare has been severely affected by the violence, with one-third of Sudan's health-care facilities no longer functioning. This has caused communities to be deprived of access to essential healthcare services, thus amplifying even those public health risks existing prior to the conflict.

Within these trying times, urgent measures need to be taken to support the population in Sudan, and specifically to prevent, control, and protect Sudan's population against public health events, including the outbreaks of communicable diseases. Actions should be taken to ensure accessibility to essential health services for the population of Sudan, thus reducing deaths caused by lack of access to healthcare.

In line with our strategic goal to strengthen public health systems and our response to public health needs in the region and our commitment to strengthening the capacities of countries in the areas of emergency preparedness, response, and recovery, we strive to build on our long-standing relationship with Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health. In the past, we have collaborated and now we will continue to collaborate towards building the country's various public health capacities. In doing so, we hope to positively support efforts made to protect Sudan's health workforce.



We are committed to building on previous efforts, by working in close collaboration and coordination with all relevant partners, as our aim is to support the population of Sudan during such difficult times. We also strive to contribute to offering support in areas of rapid response, surveillance, risk communication, field epidemiology, coordination, just to name a few.

I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of the Sudan Field Epidemiology Training Program, which since its launch in 2017 has been making its mark on Sudan's public health systems. At this time, more so than ever before, the skills of FETP residents and graduates are needed, as their contribution to public health is both relevant and valuable.

In closing, we wish peace and stability for Sudan in the near future, and we salute the health workforce in Sudan for their resilience.

May God protect the population of Sudan.

## Feature Story

### FETPs from the EMR Make Remarkable Presence in the Annual EIS Conference

The annual Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) conference was officially inaugurated on April 24, 2023, in Atlanta City, Georgia, United States, and was hosted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This conference provided a space for EIS officers and graduates to share recent scientific findings, and forward-thinking solutions and strategies from their public health investigations. It is considered the USA’s flagship applied epidemiology conference.

This conference draws diverse attention each year from epidemiologists, laboratory scientists, doctors, EIS officers and alumni, as well as public health experts from around the US and beyond, as attendance is free and open to the public. With its diverse agenda



this year, the conference featured ninety-seven presentations on recent groundbreaking investigations and innovative analyses conducted by EIS officers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Opening Ceremony

The conference’s opening ceremony saw remarks from the CDC Director and Administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, who welcomed the attendees, and spoke about the importance of considering the conference as an opportunity to exchange knowledge.

During the ceremony, the winner of the Anne Schuchat Distinguished Friend of EIS Award was announced. The award was given this year to Mr. Korwski Jeter in recognition of his eighteen years of service with the EIS. The award was introduced in 1984 and was sponsored by the EIS Alumni Association to recognize an individual for valued contributions that have made a significant difference to the health and welfare of the EIS program, as well as its officers. The award honors the mentorship and devotion of former CDC Principal Deputy Director and EIS alum, Anne Schuchat.



Following the opening ceremony, a series of oral presentations were made by EIS residents and graduates that covered the areas of monkeypox, malaria, papillomavirus vaccine, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, global health, and public health surveillance, among others.

## TED-Style Talks

On April 25 and April 27, 2023, the second and the last days of the conference, current EIS officers and alumni presented behind-the-scenes stories about the unique opportunities and experiences behind their lifesaving public health work in six TED-style talks. Some titles of these talks include: **“New Learnings from an Old Disease: Mpox and Health Disparities in the United States,”** **“From Intuition to Action: How Gut Feelings Can Drive Public Health Solutions,”** and **“Putting Baby Booties on the Ground: Protecting the Most Vulnerable.”**



## Alexander D. Langmuir Lecture

In the third day of the conference, the Co-Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health, Dr. Donald Warne delivered the 2023 Alexandre D. Langmuir Lecture, titled **“Engaging Indigenous Communities in Promoting Health Equity.”**



Alexander D. Langmuir, a public health visionary and leader who established the Epidemiology Program and the EIS.

The Langmuir Lecture is the preeminent public health lecture in the United States, and it is a continuous highlight of the annual EIS conference. The lecture is named after

## 2023 FETP International Nights

The Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET), and the CDC co-organized the 2023 Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETP) International Nights in-person during the EIS conference on April 25- 26, 2023. These International Nights are organized as a part of CDC’s commitment to global health for 20 years.



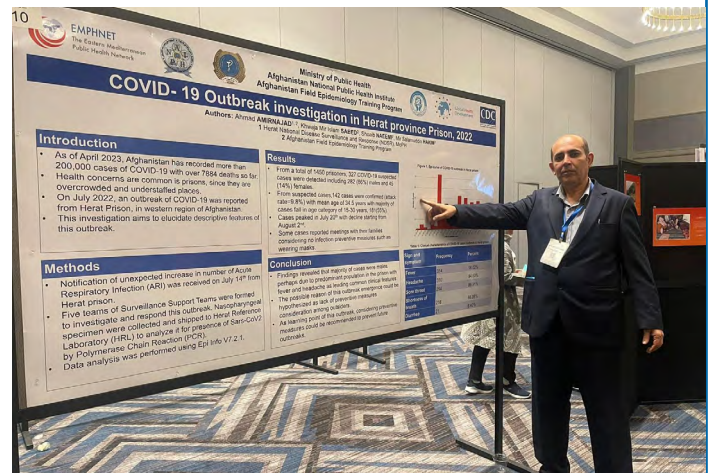
This event offered a space for FETP residents and EIS officers to exchange ideas, to share the work done by FETPs around the world, and to recognize the impact made by these programs in public health. It also provided a forum for FETP residents to give scientific presentations, and to increase their knowledge about surveillance and outbreak investigations.

The abstracts presented during the two-day event covered a wide range of topics including: COVID-19, dengue fever, HIV, mental health, hepatitis A outbreaks, anthrax, cholera, and measles, amongst others. A total of ninety-one abstracts from different countries were submitted, twenty-two of which were presented as poster presentations, and eight as oral presentations.

### Poster Presentations from the EMR

Four poster presentations from the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) were given during this year’s FETP International Nights. The first titled **“Assessment of risk factors associated with diphtheria outbreaks in different areas of Pakistan, September - November 2022; a case control study”** was presented by Dr. Wajiha Waqar from Pakistan FETP, while the second titled **“An Outbreak of Measles among prison’s inmates in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, September - October, 2021”** was presented by Dr. Khalid Aldhuhli from Saudi FETP.

The third presentation titled **“COVID-19 Outbreak Investigation in Herat Province Prison-Afghanistan, 2022”** was given by Dr. Islam Saeed from Afghanistan FETP, while



the last one titled **“COVID-19 Outbreak Investigation in Herat Province Prison-Afghanistan, 2022”** was presented by Dr. Sonia Dhaouadi from Tunisia FETP.

### Other Activities

The conference’s agenda also featured a networking meeting with the Principal Technical Deputy of CDC Workforce and Institute Development Branch, Dr. Seymour Williams; TEPHINET Director, Dr. Carl Reddy; and others. Another networking meeting was also held on the sidelines of the conference, in which the CDC staff was introduced to FETPs around the globe.



### Closing Ceremony

Ending on a high note, the closing ceremony offered an opportunity for speakers and participants to reflect on the conference’s key themes, discussions, and outcomes. Various interactive sessions and social events facilitated informal discussions and fostered a sense of community among attendees. The participants were also encouraged to carry forward the spirit of the EIS conference and to continue working together to build a resilient global health community.





**Country  
Program News**

This section  
highlights the  
region's FETPs'  
updates

## AFGHANISTAN

*This quarter marked a period of proactive contributions by the Afghanistan Field Epidemiology Training Program (Afghanistan FETP), from investigating outbreaks to fostering professional development among its residents to presenting work on international platforms. As we look forward, the Afghanistan FETP continues to play an invaluable role in fortifying Afghanistan's public health landscape.*

### Unveiling a Measles Outbreak

Early in the quarter, the third Intermediate cohort residents of the Afghanistan FETP led a comprehensive investigation of a measles outbreak. The area was Spin Boldak Bahadorzai village, in the southern province of Kandahar. The team's effort ensured comprehensive surveillance and subsequent containment efforts.



### Investigating a CCHF Outbreak in Kandahar

Also in the area of outbreak investigations, the month of May brought a pressing challenge on Afghanistan: an outbreak of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) in the Kandahar province. In response to this outbreak, the Afghanistan FETP residents conducted a case-control study to investigate the outbreak's various aspects. Preliminary findings were promptly communicated with local authorities, helping prevent further spread. Notably, this incident has triggered two additional epidemiological studies on CCHF.



### Workshop on Report Development and Qualitative Research

Further strengthening the capacities of its residents, Afghanistan FETP launched the fifth workshop for the fourth Intermediate cohort. Hosted in the Afghanistan National Public Health Institute's conference hall, the week-long event centered around group projects on report development and qualitative research. This initiative underlines Afghanistan FETP's commitment to fostering a well-rounded set of skills among its residents.



## BANGLADESH

*The initiatives highlighted below represent Bangladesh's Field Epidemiology Training Programs' (Bangladesh FETP) commitment to addressing crucial issues in health research and surveillance. By equipping professionals with advanced research skills, investigating disease outbreaks, and actively monitoring antimicrobial resistance, the Bangladesh FETP and Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (FETPV) continue to play a vital role in safeguarding public health in the country.*

### Enhancing Research Skills through R Workshop

The One Health Institute at the Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU), Bangladesh, collaborated with the University of California to organize a four-day training workshop on "Using R in Animal Health Research." The workshop aimed to equip FETP graduates, Master of Public Health students, PhD fellows, and CVASU faculty members with advanced skills in utilizing the Rs (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement, and Refusal) for animal health research.



### Tackling Rabies Outbreak in Cattle, Barishal

Addressing a critical issue, Bangladesh FETPV investigated a rabies outbreak among cattle in Barishal. Employing the brain stem technique learned from the World Organization for Animal Health reference laboratory in Bengaluru, India, the team collected samples and conducted tests, leading to positive results through the Lateral Flow Assays method. Samples were sent to the Central Disease Investigation Laboratory for confirmatory diagnosis.



### AMR Surveillance: FDIL Barishal Initiative

To combat the global concern of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), Field Disease Investigation Laboratory launched an AMR surveillance program. Focusing on poultry, the surveillance aims to determine the AMR patterns in Barishal and to identify associated factors. While some limitations persist, continuous improvements are being made to the process. Notably, nineteen sample results will be presented at the upcoming One Health conference in 2023, demonstrating the program's progress.



## EGYPT

*Through its ongoing initiatives, Egypt's Field Epidemiology Training Program (Egypt FETP) demonstrated its commitment to enhancing public health, while continuing to play a crucial role in managing various challenges, both at home and in relation to Sudan's ongoing conflicts.*

### Addressing the Sudanese Refugee Crisis

Faced with the influx of Sudanese refugees escaping ongoing conflicts in their home country, the Egypt FETP has been proactive in deploying its residents and graduates at the Aswan Governorate, specifically at the Qustul and Arqeen border crossings. They have tirelessly worked around the clock on several fronts including:

- Monitoring and controlling the spread of infectious diseases among the displaced and host populations.
- Undertaking early detection of any public health threats.
- Providing targeted vaccinations for selected communicable diseases to prevent the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Enhancing the capacity of the preventive sector team at the peripheral level.
- Raising community awareness about infectious diseases and combating the effects of rumors.



### Preventive Measures During the 2023 Ramadan Umra Season

The Preventive Sector at the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) conducted a comprehensive survey at the Cairo Airport during the 2023 Ramadan Umra season. The aim was to estimate the prevalence and detect different strains of respiratory viruses among passengers returning to Egypt after performing the Umra. Also, The team focused on monitoring the activity of SARS-Cov-2 and influenza viruses. Egypt FETP residents, graduates, lab technicians, and other healthcare workers actively participated in this survey, conducting passenger interviews, and collecting oropharyngeal and nasal swabs to test for SARS-Cov-2 and various influenza types and subtypes.



## FETP Graduates Participate in Updating National Surveillance and Event Based Surveillance Guidelines

As part of their ongoing commitment to strengthen public health in Egypt, FETP graduates and residents have been actively involved in significant workshops aimed at improving national surveillance capabilities and practices.

In a collaboration with the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Egypt MoHP held a workshop to finalize the National Guidelines for Event Based Surveillance, including an update of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and tools required for comprehensive reporting and registration across different levels. Facilitated by FETP graduates, this workshop saw diverse participation from various stakeholders such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Local Development, the Egyptian Drug Authority, and the National Food Safety Authority.

Further illustrating their active engagement, Egypt FETP residents and graduates participated in another workshop hosted by the World Health Organization. This workshop focused on updating the national surveillance guidelines and SOPs for notifiable communicable diseases. The main aim of the workshop was to support public health professionals at both national and subnational levels in the process of reporting communicable diseases and health events for public health surveillance.



## IRAQ

*The Iraq Field Epidemiology Training Program (Iraq FETP) continues to build upon its public health capabilities, focusing on enhancing surveillance, integrating multi-sectoral training approaches, and promoting mentorship. With activities ranging from assessing Measles and Rubella surveillance to launching a new FETP Frontline One Health Cohort. Through these diverse initiatives, Iraq FETP affirms its dedication to professional development and the enhancement of health outcomes.*

### Strengthening Disease Surveillance: Measles and Rubella Assessment

In light of an increase in Measles and Rubella cases across several Iraqi provinces, the Iraq FETP took action. In cooperation with the field epidemiology department in the Iraq Ministry of Health, they commenced a comprehensive six-day assessment, starting April 19, 2023. The assessment included a random sample of two hospitals, two health districts, and two health care centers in each health directorate, alongside the public health department. The assessment process, facilitated through a prepared electronic questionnaire, aimed to identify any gaps and assess the effectiveness of disease surveillance systems, crucial in managing potential outbreaks.



### One Health Project: A Cross-sector Training Initiative

April 30 marked the initiation of the One Health Cohort by Iraq FETP. This program, prepared by the CDC Atlanta and supported by the Biological Threat Reduction Program, represented a unique collaborative training initiative between the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Environment. The first-ever implementation of such a project worldwide, Iraq FETP took the lead in facilitating this three-month program. It comprises two cohorts, and each cohort's first five-day workshop covered essential aspects of public health surveillance, data management, and practical applications, paving the way for the first field work assignment.



## Management & Leadership Program: Building Capacity for FETP Residents

The third workshop of the Management & Leadership program took place from April 30 to May 4, 2023, for the Intermediate FETP trainees. This workshop was instrumental in helping the participants complete their project management cycle, work on their individual projects, and understand essential leadership concepts. It equipped the thirty-three trainees with advanced knowledge in the areas of supervision, delegation, behavioral economics, communication during emergencies, and adaptive leadership. This initiative reflects Iraq FETP's commitment to not just developing field epidemiology skills but also instilling leadership abilities in its trainees.



## Data Management and QGIS Workshops: Enhancing Skills in Data Analysis and Geospatial Mapping

From May 21 to May 30, Iraq FETP held two essential workshops focusing on Data Management and the Geographical Information System - QGIS. The Data Management workshop focused on the Epi Info program as a tool to train Intermediate FETP residents in advanced data analysis, enhancing their capabilities to manage their group project data effectively. The second workshop, on the other hand, was aimed at familiarizing the trainees with QGIS. It enabled them to view, edit, and analyze geospatial data, thus improving their skills in geographical mapping and analysis. These workshops, sponsored by BTRP, are part of Iraq FETP's continuous efforts to arm its trainees with a comprehensive skill set necessary for effective public health interventions.



## Mentorship Workshop: Empowering FETP Mentors in Iraq

In efforts to enhance the quality of field epidemiology training, EMPHNET organized a three-day workshop from March 12th to 14th, 2023, to bolster the mentoring skills of FETP mentors in Iraq. Attended by seventeen mentors from various governorates, the workshop aimed to amplify their capacity to guide FETP residents effectively during their fieldwork and to aid in the competent design and management of their field projects. The initiative, led by local experts and specialists from EMPHNET, reinforces the significance of effective mentorship in achieving successful public health outcomes and underscores Iraq FETP's commitment to continuous program improvement.



## JORDAN

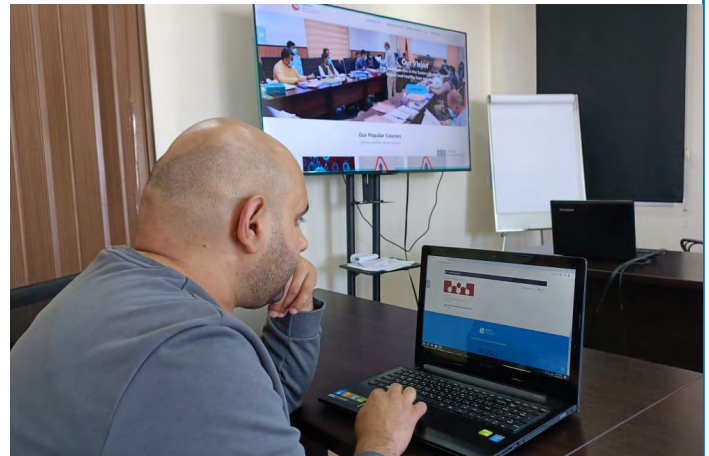
*Jordan's Field Epidemiology Training Program (Jordan FETP) has been highly active in reinforcing health security, building sustainable public health systems, and expanding epidemiological competence among its residents and graduates.*

### Enhancing Research Skills through Mendeley Training

First-year residents of Jordan's FETP were introduced to the Mendeley citation management software, through an online course designed to provide practical training on the basics of Mendeley, a widely used reference management software that helps users to organize their research references and create citations in a variety of styles.

[Read more about their experience →](#)

[Participate in the course and many others →](#)



### A Testament to Jordan FETP's Commitment

Jordan's FETP regularly participates in the Ministry of Health (MoH) weekly scientific days, showcasing its commitment to strengthening public health service delivery and reinforcing global health security. These meetings offer a platform for FETP graduates and residents to present on various scientific subjects, inciting valuable discussions and knowledge exchange. On these occasions, the attendees delve into the role of the FETP in developing sustainable public health systems and strategize its future enhancement. These dialogues ensure the continuous growth and evolution of the program to meet the dynamic needs relevant to the achievement of global health security.



In addition, the weekly scientific days feature lectures aimed at broadening the knowledge of its attendees. A recent example included a lecture on "Total Quality Management," focusing on the role of epidemiologists in the healthcare sector.

In these ways, Jordan FETP's active participation in the weekly scientific days embodies its continuous effort to foster a learning environment, facilitate knowledge exchange, and contribute to the broader public health community.

## Jordan FETP's Contributions to Medical Waste Management and Environmental Health

Jordan FETP graduates recently initiated a team focused on minimizing medical waste and mitigating pollution in the healthcare sector. Following this, as part of their community medicine residency in Jordan's MoH, these graduates visited hospitals to understand and evaluate medical waste management practices, emphasizing the importance of eco-friendly protocols. These efforts underline the Jordan FETP's commitment to fostering a sustainable healthcare sector.



# Call for Abstracts!

**EMPHNET is accepting abstracts for its Eighth Regional Conference**

Abstracts can be submitted between March 15 and July 15, 2023  
(11:59 pm, Amman Time)

## LEBANON

The Lebanon Field Epidemiology Training Program (Lebanon FETP) marked the completion of its Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP-SPO) in May, with a graduation ceremony for the program’s second cohort. The event, which celebrated the achievement of twelve graduates, took place at the Lebanon Ministry of Public Health. Notable speakers at the ceremony included the Director General of Lebanon Ministry of Public Health, Dr. Fadi Sinan; the Director of FETP, Dr. Nada Ghosun, and representatives from EMPHNET, among others.



ANNOUNCEMENT



### Mark your Calendars for EMPHNET’s Eighth Regional Conference in October 2023

We are pleased to announce that the Eighth EMPHNET Regional Conference will be held between October 22 and 25, 2023, in Amman, Jordan. With the central theme of the conference being “Advancing Public Health Preparedness and Response: Challenges, Opportunities, and Ways Forward”.

Keep an eye on our social media channels for the abstract submission announcement. [Read More](#)

## MOROCCO

### Residents Move Forward with their One-Year Training

As part of their one-year in-service training, residents of the third Intermediate cohort of the Morocco Field Epidemiology Training Program (Morocco FETP) ended two out of five workshops during this quarter. In March 2023, their second workshop, focusing on Study Design, came to a close. Combining lectures, group discussion, and case studies, the workshop sessions were conducted using a learning-by-doing approach. Over a period of five days, the residents received extensive training on data management using the Epi Info software. By the end of the workshop, they were better able to understand fundamentals of study design and were able to report on measures of disease occurrence and the nature of case control studies. They also learned about various research methodologies, including conducting surveys, measuring survey validity, statistical analysis, among other pressing topics.

Also, in May 2023, the residents completed their third workshop, during which they presented and discussed their field work outcomes with their mentors. This cohort comprises 17 residents, all of whom will move on to contribute to the detection of public health threats from the remote and ground-level across their local communities.





## PAKISTAN

*The Pakistan Field Epidemiology Training Program (Pakistan FETP) has been continuously striving to empower public health professionals through various training initiatives. These initiatives aim to strengthen skills necessary for disease surveillance, outbreak response, and overall public health management.*

### Workshops to Enhance Health System Preparedness and Response

The National Institutes of Health, Pakistan (NIH Pakistan) and Pakistan FETP have been proactive in advancing public health practices through rigorous training programs and workshops. In partnership with the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, they organized a five-day training program titled “Health in Humanitarian Emergency and Recovery Program.” The training focused on technical and management principles for planning and executing health programs for acute humanitarian emergencies and recovery settings. The training also encompassed a wide range of modules, including epidemiology of disasters, surveillance during humanitarian emergencies, need assessments, vaccination programs, and more, concluding with a simulation exercise based on an emergency crisis.

Furthermore, the NIH conducted a two-week capacity-building training program in the provinces of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The training, which reached over 200 health professionals across three districts, sought to strengthen skills in disease surveillance, outbreak detection, epidemiological investigation, amongst many others. The aim of these training programs is to enhance the capacity of healthcare professionals to work effectively in the Integrated Disease Surveillance Response System at the district level, thereby contributing to improving public health outcomes.

Another significant training was held on the “Incident Command Management System,” covering fundamental concepts of public health emergencies, the incident command management system, and its application in addressing public health emergencies. The training concluded with a practical exercise based on an imaginary scenario of an international public health emergency.



## Launching New Cohorts

The Pakistan FETP recently commenced its fourteenth cohort of Frontline FETP. The cohort consists of forty-four public health professionals who will undergo a three-month in-service training focused on areas of disease surveillance, outbreak investigations, and public health response measures.

Furthermore, the fifteenth cohort of the two-year Advanced FETP was launched, with thirty-five residents from different provinces attending initial sessions to build capacities in disease surveillance, outbreak investigations, data analysis, and scientific report writing. This commitment to developing new public health professionals underlines the ongoing efforts made to strengthen disease surveillance and outbreak response capacities across the country.



## Application of Technology in Public Health Interventions

Recognizing the critical role of technology in modern public health practice, the National Institutes of Health, Pakistan arranged a five-day training program on “Geographical Information System Mapping (GIS) Analysis for Public Health Interventions.” The program engaged thirty public health professionals. The attendees were introduced to key concepts about health data, geographical data, geographical information systems, and the practical usage of ArcGIS software for creating several types of maps.



## QATAR

The Qatar Field Epidemiology Training Program (Qatar FETP) was recently established in May, as a response to the growing need for skilled epidemiologists and public health professionals in the country. The program’s vision is to enhance disease surveillance, outbreak response, and overall public health capacities. Thus, Qatar FETP commenced its first cohort, and held its first mentors’ workshop, marking the beginning of an invaluable phase in the program’s journey.

### Nurturing Effective Mentorship for the Qatar FETP

Qatar FETP held its first mentors’ workshop. This event, facilitated by experts from EMPHNET and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, was attended by eight prospective mentors. The workshop centered on the characteristics of effective mentorship and the importance of such guidance in country programs. By focusing on this critical aspect, Qatar FETP aims to ensure that its future endeavors are underpinned by strong mentorship, thereby facilitating the growth of the program’s participants and the effectiveness of their contributions.



### Qatar FETP Begins its First Public Health Empowerment Program

The Qatar FETP also recently launched the first workshop for its maiden cohort of the Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP-BFE). The event was attended by 23 participants from various departments within the Qatar Ministry of Public Health. This ongoing two-week in-person workshop forms part of a three-month in-service training. Its sessions are designed to provide an introduction to epidemiology and biostatistics, public health surveillance, data collection and visualization, presentation skills, among other essential topics. The initiative highlights Qatar FETP’s commitment to strengthening public health capabilities through comprehensive, practical training sessions.



## SUDAN

*Despite the ongoing conflict and strife in Sudan, the Sudan Field Epidemiology Training Program (Sudan FETP) continues to demonstrate its commitment to public health. Its dedicated residents are stepping up to confront the challenges posed by the current situation, taking part in essential public health initiatives, and proving instrumental in disease surveillance and outbreak response efforts. Amidst a turbulent environment, the resilience of Sudan FETP residents underlines the vital role they play in safeguarding the health of their communities.*

### In Response to Conflict-Induced Displacement in Sudan

According to a participation report received from Dr. Ahmad Izzoddeen on behalf of Sudan's FETP team in Gezira state, the following information was highlighted:

Amidst this crisis, residents of Sudan FETP have partnered with the Gezira State Ministry of Health to lend their expertise to the response efforts. These trained professionals have immersed themselves in the challenging task of assessing the needs of the displaced populations, enhancing the quality of surveillance, and reported data from these temporary settlements, and assisting in the development and implementation of response plans.

One notable effort includes conducting case investigations for three suspected measles cases reported from Al Zahraa, a gathering area home to 712 internally displaced persons from 141 families. This population includes children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, individuals with chronic illnesses such as Diabetes Mellitus and Hypertension, and people with disabilities. A mobile primary care clinic operated by Médecins Sans Frontières provides day-to-day medical services in the area. The majority of the displaced population (around 70%) comes from the southern part of Khartoum city.

The continued support of FETP residents for the Gezira State Ministry of Health's ongoing activities represents a commitment to public health that transcends challenging circumstances, emphasizing the critical role they play in these difficult times.



## TUNISIA

### On the Road to Accreditation

TEPHINET accreditation provides FETPs with the opportunity to adhere to standardized criteria that promote quality training. It also helps FETPs to further highlight their important contributions to country public health priorities. Since the launch of its first cycle of accreditation in 2016, the TEPHINET Global Accrediting Body (GAB) has accredited 25 programs s. From the Eastern Mediterranean Region, three programs have been accredited to date namely, Morocco FETP, Pakistan FETP, and Egypt FETP.

During this quarter, Tunisia FETP has been doing its part to be added to this list. The program residents conducted a field activity as part of their internal assessment of training activity needs, focusing on the integrated surveillance system at the National Observatory of New and Emerging Diseases.

The accreditation process has proven to be effective in assessing the strengths of FETPs and offering points for improvement. Although complex and challenging, it still proved to be highly worthwhile as it leads to an elevation in status for an FETP. We wish Tunisia FETP the best of luck in its journey towards achieving accreditation.



## YEMEN

The Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program (Yemen FETP) celebrated the graduation of its first Intermediate cohort. The event saw attendance from his excellency the Minister of Public Health and Population (MoPHP), Dr. Taha Al-Mutawakel; the Deputy of Primary Health Care, Dr. Mohammad Al Mansour; the Ministry advisor, Dr. Al Mudhwahi; a representative from the World Health Organization, as well as participants from the MoPHP, this cohort held a research conference for the first time at the ministry, which was also the first conference conducted in Arabic for the Yemen FETP. The 24 graduates presented their public health studies on communicable and non-communicable diseases.



## Other News

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This section covers regional news and success stories



## OTHER NEWS

### EMPHNET signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Electronic Health Solutions-Hakeem (EHS)

The MoU aims to explore mutual and beneficial opportunities for both parties' electronic libraries; the "EMPHNET Electronic Library (EEL), and the "Electronic Library of Medicine (ELM)." It also focuses on developing digital interventions, strengthening disease registries, exchanging resources, and on the managing of both libraries' portals.

The MoU was signed by EMPHNET Executive Director, Dr. Mohannad Al Nsour; and EHS Chief Executive Officer, Eng. Omar Ayesh.

[Read more →](#)



### FETP Directors Convene for their Semi-annual Meeting

The Eastern Mediterranean Region FETP directors convened for their semi-annual FETP Directors Meeting, which was held at the Landmark Hotel in Amman, Jordan on March 9, 2023. The meeting was attended by the directors of FETPs in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, and Yemen.

[Read more →](#)



### Residents of Jordan Field Epidemiology Training Program Undergo Training in Scientific Writing Skills

With support from EMPHNET, the Jordan FETP and the Ministry of Health conducted a one month and on-site workshop. The workshop targeted first year FETP residents. It aimed to equip them with the knowledge and skills needed for effective scientific writing. Its sessions covered various core aspects of the research processes, including developing and formulating research questions, writing introductions, study objectives, methods, discussion, references, and identifying and submitting to the target journal.

[Read More →](#)





## Yemen FETP Annual Newsletter Showcases the Remarkable Achievements of 2022

The Yemen FETP has recently released its annual newsletter, providing a comprehensive overview of the program's notable accomplishments throughout the year 2022. This informative publication highlights the remarkable achievements made by the Yemen FETP, highlighting their dedication and commitment to improving public health in Yemen. The newsletter offers a valuable resource for readers to gain insights into the program's activities and the impact it has had on the health sector. From successful disease surveillance initiatives to effective outbreak response efforts, the newsletter provides a compelling and informative read for anyone interested in the progress of the Yemen FETP.

[Read More →](#)

## Announcing the Launch of EpiNews: Your Gateway to the Latest Public Health News

We are excited to announce the launch of EpiNews, a comprehensive online platform dedicated to providing you with the most recent and relevant news, stories, and research in the world of health and public health.



EpiNews covers a wide range of health topics, including communicable and non-communicable diseases, environmental health, maternal health, and scientific research. Designed with accessibility in mind, this platform caters to readers from all backgrounds.

[Access EpiNews →](#)

ANNOUNCEMENT

### EMPHNET Internship Vacancies

- [Public Health Emergency Management and Response Center \(PHEMC\)](#)
- [Knowledge Exchange and Networking](#)
- [Electronic Learning and Training Unit Opportunity](#)

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.

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