Support Bangladesh Intermediate FETP – Implementation of Cohort 5 (Completed)

Project Information

- **Department: Center of Excellence for Applied Epidemiology**
- **Unit: Workforce Capacity**

OBJECTIVES

- Develop the capacity of public health staff including medical officers, surveillance professionals, and public health staff from national and divisional levels in Bangladesh to identify, investigate and respond to outbreaks and other public health threats.
- Support participants' leadership skills in strengthening Bangladesh health institutions.
- Reinforce sustainability and iFETP outcomes' integration into the broader workforce development strategy by coordinating closely with the different national public health entities.

BENEFICIARIES

15 residents graduated successfully, including medical officers, surveillance professionals, and public health staff from national and divisional levels, in addition to 7 mentors.

REGIONS OF WORK

Bangladesh.

PROJECT PHASES

- Completed: preparation for implementing cohort 5 and the selection of the participants.
- Completed: one-day mentorship orientation, then five workshops over the course of 12 months, each 10 days long followed by 12 days of field work, and a final 3-day workshop for the participants to present their field work deliverables.
- Completed: all 15 residents graduated successfully, achieving the overall goal of supporting iFETP Cohort 5 in Bangladesh.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Building on the successful implementation of four Intermediate Field Epidemiology Training Program (iFETP) cohorts in Bangladesh and to continue the efforts to strengthen the country's public health workforce, this project supported a fifth cohort of iFETP in Bangladesh. The fifth cohort benefited from refined training methods, enhanced mentorship structures, and closer alignment with national disease surveillance and outbreak response priorities. GHD supported 15 residents, including medical officers, surveillance professionals, and public health staff from national and divisional levels, in addition to 7 mentors. The training included classroom instruction, field assignments, and mentored investigations, all embedded within the country's health institutions to ensure practical learning and institutional ownership. The program followed the standard, intermediate CDC model, with one module for leadership and management as a requirement for the diploma, delivered through class lectures, practicum assignments, and interactive exercises. Participants engaged in project management sessions and in-class activities, applied the Indicator-Based Planning Tool (IBPT), and received training in budgeting, financial management, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). They also developed annual plans for their respective facilities, practiced conflict management, and strengthened their ability to evaluate programs and submit project proposals. This practical and applied approach ensured that residents not only acquired theoretical knowledge but also built the managerial and leadership skills needed to strengthen health programs and institutions in Bangladesh. On completing the program, the residents presented their fieldwork deliverables in the final workshop, and all 15 graduated successfully. The cohort was closely coordinated with national and subnational public health entities to reinforce sustainability and integration into the broader workforce development strategy.

Project Start and End Date	**October 2025 - September 2026**
Partner Organizations	**U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** **IEDCR**
Funded by	**U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
Collaborators	**IEDCR**

Currently . . .

Bangladesh is one of the countries in the region affected by different types of natural disasters in addition to outbreaks of epidemic-prone diseases such as cholera, diphtheria, measles, polio, malaria, Rift Valley fever, dengue, chikungunya, MERS-CoV, and COVID-19, and many others. This puts the population under the threat of those diseases and hazards. Intermediate-FETP contribute to develop national health staff capacity to respond to these threats.

GHD successfully completed the implementation of 5 cohorts of the iFETP in Bangladesh with 80 graduates, including 15 graduates from cohort 5.

What is next . . .

Following the successful completion of iFETP – cohort 5 in Bangladesh, the expected outcomes are:

- Develop the capacity of public health staff including medical officers, surveillance professionals, and public health staff from national and divisional levels in Bangladesh to identify, investigate and respond to outbreaks and other public health hazards.
- Support participants' leadership skills in strengthening Bangladesh health institutions.
- Reinforce sustainability and iFETP outcomes' integration into the broader workforce development strategy by coordinating closely with the different national public health entities.

By the Numbers

65 individuals graduated from iFETP cohorts 1–4 in Bangladesh

15 individuals graduated successfully from the iFETP 5th cohort in Bangladesh

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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