



# Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP)

## Project Information

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

## OBJECTIVE

The overall goal of Public Health Empowerment Program is to strengthen the technical capacities of public health workforce to run and manage the local public health surveillance system, conduct outbreak investigation and response to common diseases in the district, and to equip the participants with the necessary managerial and leadership skills to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate public health interventions effectively and efficiently.

## REGIONS OF WORK

Eastern Mediterranean Region including Yemen, Oman, Iraq, and Egypt.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The program is a three-month in-service training that focuses on detection of, response to and prevention/control of diseases and public health events of importance at national and sub-national levels. Participants learn and practice the fundamental skills needed to perform efficiently in local surveillance systems including use of case definitions, disease detection and reporting, summarization of data using simple tables and graphs, case investigation, outbreak investigation and response, surveillance monitoring and evaluation, data analysis and interpretation for decision-making, and basics of leadership and management.

## BENEFICIARIES

Health workers at governorates' and district level who are responsible for surveillance data collection, monitoring, analysis, and response to disease outbreaks. They include medical officers, surveillance officers, public health workers, environmental officers, sanitarians, public health nurses, and surveillance officers from animal health.

## PROJECT PHASES

The training consists of three weeks of online sessions and 9 weeks of fieldwork divided over two periods. Through didactic and in-service training, participants learn, and practice fundamental skills used in surveillance, outbreak investigation and basic management. The fieldwork is planned to be at the participants' job stations where they conduct their field projects to practice, implement, and reinforce what they have learned.

<b>Project Start and End Date</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
<b>Funded by</b>	<b>Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</b>
<b>Collaborators</b>	<b>Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) at targeted countries in EMR</b>



## Currently . . .

In a rapidly changing world especially in health sector, marked by frequent turnover and unexpected changes specially with current pandemic, the need to provide continuous education for public health practitioners and increasing the numbers of trained epidemiologists at all levels remains a priority specially in low and middle-income countries.

This training is needed to increase the capacity among public health workers to recognize, improve surveillance quality, analyze and effectively respond to the epidemics and any health emergency. It will equip the trainees with core competencies and will assist them in dealing with COVID-19 crisis and its consequences.

## What's next . . .

The expected learning outcomes of PHEP are to improve the overall capacity of the public health system through:

- Effective evidence based public health decisions
- Qualified workforce in core competencies
- More self-sufficient workforce who are more reliable to deal with adverse public health events; and
- A pool of mentors and training material to ensure the sustainability for the training program.

## By the Numbers

523

Number of PHEP  
graduates

22

PHEP cohorts were  
conducted in Egypt,  
Iraq, Jordan,  
Morocco, Sudan and  
Yemen

126

number of PHEP  
residents

### **GHD and EMPHNET: Working together for better health**

Global Health Development (GHD) is a regional initiative created to support countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region strengthen their health systems in response to public health challenges and threats. GHD was initiated to advance the work of the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) by building coordination mechanisms with Ministries of Health, International Organizations, and other institutions to improve population health outcomes. As an implementing arm to EMPHNET, GHD aligns its strategies with national policies and directions, while serving as a collaborative platform dedicated to support national efforts in promoting public health policies, strategic planning, sustainable financing, resource mobilization, public health programs, and other related services.

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