



Intermediate Field Epidemiology Training Program

Project Information

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

OBJECTIVES

- Increased capacity among staff to recognize and respond to public health threats in a timely and vigorous manner.
- Robust completion and accuracy of surveillance data analysis and reporting
- A stronger culture of data-based decision making.
- A network of well-trained field epidemiologists and public health managers in the country.
- Graduates count towards the World Health Organization and Global Health Security goal of 1 epidemiologist per 200,000 population.

BENEFICIARIES

Ministries of Health (MOH), health workers, and surveillance officers in countries all over the EMR.

REGIONS OF WORK

The Intermediate Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) and South Asia Region (SAR); Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh.

PROJECT PHASES

- Workshop one, which will cover the descriptive Epi Review, Analytic Epidemiology, Lab QMS, Study design – case-control, and Study design – cohort. It will be followed by field work on surveillance Summary reports.
- Workshop two, which will cover the public health surveillance, surveys & sampling, data collection methodologies, review of applied biostatistics, measures of association, and tests of significance /confidence intervals. It will be followed by field work on surveillance and summary reports.
- Workshop three, which will cover the situational analysis and followed by field work on surveillance and summary reports.
- Workshop four, which will cover management & leadership, communications, and scientific writing. It will be followed by field work on surveillance and summary reports.
- Workshop five will cover the Epi info and data analysis and reporting.

Effective disease detection, investigation, control, and prevention require a public health workforce well trained in the principles and practice of field epidemiology. Since 1980, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has worked with Ministries of Health throughout the world to establish and support Ministry-based Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs).

A three-tiered “pyramid” model of training addresses the need to improve the surveillance, epidemiology, response, and scientific communication skills of public health workers at each level of the health system. At each tier, the training focuses on improving the participants’ skills within the context of their current job responsibilities and expectations.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The program is a nine-month in-service training that addresses the skills needed by health officials at the middle level of the MOH to improve epidemiologic capacity to evaluate and strengthen public health surveillance systems, investigate and control outbreaks, and conduct field studies to address public health priority issues.

Participants learn and practice the fundamental skills needed to perform efficiently in local surveillance systems including the 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.

The training consists of training of trainers and mentors, five didactic workshops with a total of 8 weeks, and about 32 weeks of fieldwork divided over four periods. Through didactic and in-service training, participants learn and practice fundamental skills used in surveillance, outbreak investigation and basic public health 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.

These projects include creating summary tables and charts of the surveillance data routinely collected at their work site; conducting monitoring, evaluation, and feedback visits at some of the reporting sites; performing a health problem analysis; and participating in a case or outbreak investigation.

Field projects are conducted with the support of trained mentors, who are in regular contact with participants to provide feedback and guidance for the successful completion of their projects. Participants give an oral presentation on their projects, sharing their findings with colleagues, staff, and Ministry of Health. Participants who successfully complete the program receive a Certificate of Graduation signed by the MOH, GHD|EMPHNET and/or other stakeholders.

Project Start and End Date	Not applicable
Partner Organizations	Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Funded by	Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Collaborators	Ministries of Health (MOH) at targeted countries in EMR

Currently . . .

There is an urgent need of having field epidemiologist at the ground level in all country where the diseases are being first reported. The intermediate FETP is targeted to train the middle level of public health professionals. They spend shorter time (6-9 months) in the program than the advance FETP, and the number of residents enrolled is 12 -15, while the advance is a two-year program and the number of residents enrolled is 8-10. This rapid outcome of trained fellows covers the robust detection of public health threats from the remote and ground level.



What's next . . .

The expected outcome after implementation of the intermediate FETP

- Providing service: provide service to the Ministry of Health (MOH) and to improve the health of the population
- The FETP graduates respond to public health problems such as outbreak, surveillance and others promptly in the country
- Increased completion and accuracy of surveillance data reporting and analysis to facilitate the effective control of disease

By the Numbers

59

Intermediate
FETP graduated
29 Tunisia and
30 Afghanistan

49

Current residents
intermediate 22 Iraq
first cohort and 27
Afghanistan second
cohort

72

residents will be
integrated into the
program in Tunisia,
Morocco, Egypt,
Bangladesh, and Sudan.

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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