



FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

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Editor's Letter

Dear Reader,

We are excited to present the latest issue of EMPHNET's Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) Newsletter! This issue showcases outstanding milestones and achievements from FETPs across the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) and beyond.

Within these pages, you will find inspiring stories of FETP residents and graduates making a difference in public health, as well as updates on recent graduations, newly launched cohorts, and impactful workshops conducted by country programs.

We hope these stories offer valuable insights and inspiration. Happy reading!



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Feature Stories

Iraq FETP Gains Accreditation for Both its Advanced and Intermediate Modalities

The Iraq Field Epidemiology Training Program (Iraq FETP) has achieved international accreditation from the Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET). This significant milestone marks Iraq as the first country in the EMR to secure dual recognition for both its Advanced and Intermediate programs. Congratulations on this outstanding accomplishment!



“This accreditation reflects the efforts and contributions of the Iraq Ministry of Health (MoH) and its commitment to meeting international standards. For the Iraq FETP team, it serves as a strong motivation to continue advancing our mission of graduating qualified professionals who are working in the field. Accreditation also serves as a testament to the high level of skill demonstrated by both our residents and mentors, and it will open doors for expanding our international partnership. Ultimately, it will contribute to strengthening Iraq’s health system, as it improves the program’s efficiency and impact both locally and internationally across different areas.

The application process was challenging, and gaps were identified during the review,

particularly in documentation. However, we were able to successfully address these challenges and achieve accreditation. Moving forward, Iraq FETP is eager to build partnerships with universities and other institutions to enhance the program's reach and effectiveness. The program is also focused on supporting other public health initiatives within the country and linking FETP with public health emergency management to strengthen Iraq's response to crises. Regionally, Iraq FETP also aims to support other programs through the review process of the accreditation and promote collaboration to enhance field epidemiology training across the region”

– By Dr. Yasir Majeed, Iraq FETP Director

Read more [here](#)

Egypt FETP Leads Public Health Change Making 2024 a Year of Impact!

Residents and graduates of the Egypt Field Epidemiology Training Program (Egypt FETP) continued to make a lasting impact through their contributions to public health in 2024. *“The Egypt FETP program's impact in 2024 was transformative, extending from disease elimination and enhanced health security to strengthened public health systems. This success is a testament to the dedication and expertise of our residents, along with the invaluable support of high-level leadership,”* said **Dr. Hala BahaaEldin, Egypt FETP Coordinator.**



By adhering to the World Health Organization (WHO) standard guidelines and achieving international certification, FETP residents played a crucial role in Egypt's success in the elimination of measles, rubella, polio, hepatitis B, and malaria. This achievement boosted community immunity by consistently carrying out routine vaccination programs and maintaining strong active surveillance, especially at points of entry.

Additionally, they strengthened Egypt's health security against global threats by closely monitoring the global epidemiological situation, conducting thorough risk assessments, and implementing strong health measures at points of entry. Their proactive approach included ensuring that travelers to endemic areas received the necessary vaccinations and carefully screening passengers arriving from neighboring countries facing unrest, highlighting their vital role in protecting the nation's health.

Beyond border control, FETP residents and graduates were instrumental in updating the national communicable disease surveillance guidelines. This included refining Indicator- and Event-Based surveillance systems (IBS and EBS), revising the list of notifiable diseases, and enhancing the integration of the electronic mortality surveillance system to improve data collection and foster better collaboration across relevant ministries and authorities.

They also contributed to zoonotic disease control, including outbreak investigations and surveillance, often applying a One Health approach. At the same time, they tackled the critical issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by advocating for responsible antimicrobial use and enhancing surveillance systems to track and combat the spread of AMR, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to emerging health threats.

Moreover, their contributions extended to monitoring vaccination coverage across all target groups and actively participating in the school-age health plan, which included vaccinations, routine check-ups, and health awareness campaigns.

The impact of the Egypt FETP further resonated through its commitment to capacity building and community engagement. Residents were vital in improving the capabilities of public health team members at the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) across all levels, creating a stronger and more effective healthcare workforce. They also extended their reach to the public by contributing to the creation of informative booklets titled "Healthy Lifestyle: Your Guide to Better Living" and "Health Messages Guide for the Egyptian Family."

Furthermore, residents made efforts toward environmental health by ensuring the safe disposal of hazardous medical waste and participating in the preparation for the ISO accreditation for environmental monitoring laboratories focused on water and air pollutants.

Finally, the program influence reached beyond Egypt's borders. FETP residents represented the country in prestigious global and regional conferences. Furthermore, they participated in a training program focused on "Emerging and Re-Emerging Disease Control Technology" in many countries. These international engagements reflect the program's success in training public health professionals who are equipped to apply epidemiological knowledge to real-world situations. As Dr. Mohamed Nasser, a Communicable Disease Surveillance Officer in Behira Governorate and an Advanced FETP resident, shares, *"In the field, I learned that numbers are not just statistics; they are stories and lives. The FETP made me realize that epidemiology is not just about studying diseases, but about understanding reality and striving for real solutions."*

Dr. Doaa AlaaElden, a Surveillance Officer in Giza Governorate and an Advanced FETP resident, also emphasizes the value of fieldwork, stating: *"The field is where a true epidemiologist is shaped and refined. One hour in the field is equivalent to countless hours of lectures and classroom learning."*



Country Program News

This section
highlights the
region's FETPs'
updates

AFGHANISTAN

The PHEP-PEO Training Journey Comes to a Close!

In November, the first cohort of the Public Health Empowerment Program - Polio and EPI Officers (PHEP-PEO) under the Afghanistan Field Epidemiology Training Program (Afghanistan FETP) attended their final workshop. The workshop focused on enhancing residents' skills for conducting outbreak investigations. It strengthened their understanding through case studies and it linked outbreak investigations with laboratory services. Its sessions also focused on public health emergency management, the role of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs), where facilitators provided examples of rapid risk assessments and supported the residents in their assignments to develop and implement outbreak response plans. In addition, they helped residents build the skills needed to coordinate outbreak responses effectively with various stakeholders.

As part of their fieldwork, the residents conducted Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) and measles case investigations in Afghanistan, marking the final phase of their training. The graduation ceremony was held in April following the fourth and final workshop, where the cohort presented their findings and shared highlights of their work during the training. They celebrated the completion of their intensive three-month learning journey alongside the fifth Intermediate cohort, which had previously completed its one-year training. During the ceremony, both cohorts were recognized for their achievements and contributions to public health.



BANGLADESH

The Bangladesh Field Epidemiology Training Program (Bangladesh FETP) remains active in advancing the capacities of public health professionals through training and outbreak response. Recent milestones include the successful completion of the third Intermediate cohort, the ongoing training of the fourth cohort, and several field investigations addressing pressing public health threats.

Successful Completion of the 3rd Intermediate FETP Cohort and Ongoing Training for the 4th Intermediate Cohort in Bangladesh

At the conclusion of their one-year training, the third Intermediate cohort of the Bangladesh FETP successfully wrapped up their final workshop. This workshop included key sessions focused on reviewing and finalizing deliverables, as well as conducting rehearsals for the final presentations ahead of the graduation ceremony. During the ceremony, residents presented individual oral presentations on their surveillance projects, outbreak investigations, and accepted oral and poster presentations. These presentations showcased the skills and knowledge the residents gained throughout their training.



Simultaneously, the fourth Intermediate Cohort attended several workshops covering a range of foundational topics in public health, scientific communication, and field epidemiology. Residents were also introduced to essential skills for writing reports and abstracts, as well as preparing presentations based on their fieldwork and data analysis as part of their ongoing training.

Strengthening Outbreak Response in Bangladesh

With EMPHNET's support, residents of the Bangladesh FETP and Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (FETPV) were mobilized to investigate multiple outbreaks across the country.

In Dohar upazila, Dhaka, residents responded to a spike in dog bite cases affecting both humans and animals, with 105 incidents reported in just 15 days. Through field visits and data analysis, they identified the need for improved post-bite vaccination to prevent rabies.

In Companyganj upazila, Sylhet district, residents investigated a large outbreak of acute watery diarrhea that resulted in 686 hospitalizations and one death. They worked to identify the causative agent, trace the source, and recommend control measures.

Additionally, residents investigated a puffer fish poisoning incident in Pirojpur district, which resulted in the death of a child and the hospitalization of four adults. They confirmed the source of poisoning, examined contributing factors, and carried out community awareness activities to help prevent future incidents.

EGYPT

The Egypt Field Epidemiology Training Program (Egypt FETP) has made significant progress this quarter, with the successful completion of the One Health FETP cohort's training and ongoing development of the 22nd Advanced cohort. Together, these efforts are strengthening Egypt's public health workforce, equipping residents with the essential skills they need to conduct outbreak investigations, enhance their knowledge in epidemiologic methods, and take on leadership.

Egypt FETP Contributes to Building the Country's One-Health Workforce

This quarter marks the successful completion of training for the One Health FETP cohort. In November, this cohort strengthened their expertise in the area of outbreak investigations through learning from case studies and participating in an outbreak simulation. Working collaboratively, veterinary residents focused on animal sources, public health experts analyzed human cases, and residents from the Ministry of Environment played a key role in identifying environmental factors. Together, they worked to assess potential risks impacting human, animal, and environmental health, and to develop comprehensive solutions.

Moving forward, residents conducted their fieldwork assignments. During their field missions, they applied their newly acquired skills in real-world settings. In December, they presented their findings from their evaluations of surveillance systems during a scientific day, showcasing their ability to translate knowledge into action.

The final workshop enabled residents to develop essential leadership and management skills. Through its sessions, they honed their problem-solving abilities, strengthened their emotional intelligence, and learned effective time management strategies. With this final milestone, the cohort successfully graduated, marking a significant step forward in strengthening the One Health workforce in Egypt.



Expanding Capacities within the 22nd Advanced Cohort of Egypt FETP

Training for the 22nd Advanced cohort is still ongoing, with residents continuously developing new skills that prepare them for conducting outbreak investigations. During a recent workshop, they enhanced their expertise in identifying, investigating, and controlling disease outbreaks effectively. Through hands-on fieldwork, they became familiar with data collection and analysis. These skills enabled them to develop evidence-based interventions based on real-life experiences.

In February, the cohort participated in a specialized workshop on epidemiologic methods, where they explored study designs, measures of association, various sampling techniques, and data collection tools. The workshop also introduced them to the cutting-edge applications of AI in medical research, equipping them with advanced analytical skills they need to enhance public health decision-making.

From theory to practice, the 22nd Advanced cohort residents are strengthening their expertise in the area of epidemiologic methods, and they are now well-prepared to address public health challenges with innovative and data-driven approaches.

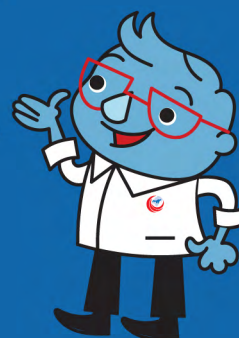


Mark
Your Calendars!

The Ninth EMPHNET
Regional Conference

is happening
in October 2026

More details will follow



IRAQ

The Iraq Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) continues to foster the development of skilled public health professionals through various training initiatives aimed at strengthening surveillance and response capabilities across the country.

Iraq FETP Residents and Graduates Engage in Advanced EBS Workshop

Residents and graduates of the Iraq FETP participated in an advanced workshop on Event-Based Surveillance (EBS), organized by the Epidemiology Department of the Iraq Ministry of Health (MoH) in Erbil. This training introduced its participants to the advanced features of the DHIS2 dashboard, a crucial tool for EBS data analysis. During the workshop, participants also reviewed and refined EBS guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). They also engaged in hands-on exercises to generate detailed EBS reports and modify dashboard signal types through tabletop exercises.



New Milestones

The Iraq FETP recently celebrated the graduation of its 11th Public Health Empowerment Program – Basic Field Epidemiology (PHEP - BFE) cohort, recognizing the residents' accomplishments in enhancing frontline public health capacity. Separately, the program also launched its 12th PHEP cohort, welcoming a new group of residents who will undergo training to strengthen their skills in disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, and other essential public health areas.



JORDAN

The Jordan Field Epidemiology Training Program (Jordan FETP) residents continued to expand their expertise through hands-on fieldwork, collaborative activities, and specialized workshops. Their involvement in key public health initiatives highlights their active role in strengthening public health in Jordan.

Jordan FETP Launches 22nd Advanced Cohort

This quarter marked the launch of the 22nd Advanced cohort, where residents began their training journey with enthusiasm and dedication. They actively participated in weekly community medicine scientific days, discussing pressing community health challenges with public health experts. The residents also attended regular epidemiological report sessions in the Surveillance Department under the MoH. After completing introductory courses in epidemiology and biostatistics, they broadened their expertise through sessions on environmental and occupational health. Additionally, this cohort attended a lung cancer awareness workshop at the King Hussein Cancer Center, where they gained valuable insights into early detection and prevention. They also participated in specialized



workshops on SPSS and scientific writing, attended the completion ceremony of the Syrian Crisis Response Project (MADAD), and joined the launch of the National Adult Tobacco Survey. Currently, they are conducting field visits across various health directorates in the ministry.

Residents Engage in Key Activities and Events

Residents of the Jordan FETP participated in a nationwide vaccination coverage study designed to strengthen Jordan's vaccination program and ensure no region is left behind. This study was conducted within the Vaccination Department of the Communicable Diseases Directorate in the MoH. The participants' schedule comprised visiting all governorates to assess immunization coverage. There, they gained hands-on experiences in several areas of public health assessment, and they played a key role in analyzing the findings. FETP graduates also took part in a four-day Public Health Intelligence Training, facilitated by WHO and the Robert Koch Institute (RKI). The training session was focused on enabling participants to analyze and interpret health data, while using advanced technologies for surveillance activities.



LEBANON

The Lebanon Field Epidemiology Training Program (Lebanon FETP) celebrated the graduation of its fourth Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) – One Health cohort while launching the new PHEP- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (PHEP-RSV) program. These milestones highlight the program's ongoing efforts to enhance public health response capabilities, focusing on multisectoral coordination and strengthening surveillance systems.

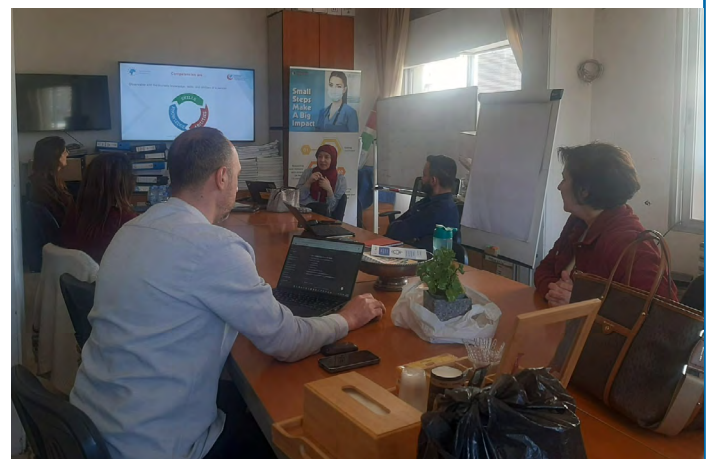
4th PHEP-One Health Cohort Successfully Completes their Training

The fourth PHEP – One Health cohort of the Lebanon FETP completed their three-month training. This milestone reflects the program's continued efforts to build multisectoral capacity for early detection, investigation, and response to zoonotic and other public health threats. During their training, residents gained practical skills through collaborative learning and field-based activities that emphasized the One Health approach, strengthening coordination between human, animal, and environmental health sectors.



Residents of the PHEP-RSV Embark on their Training Journey

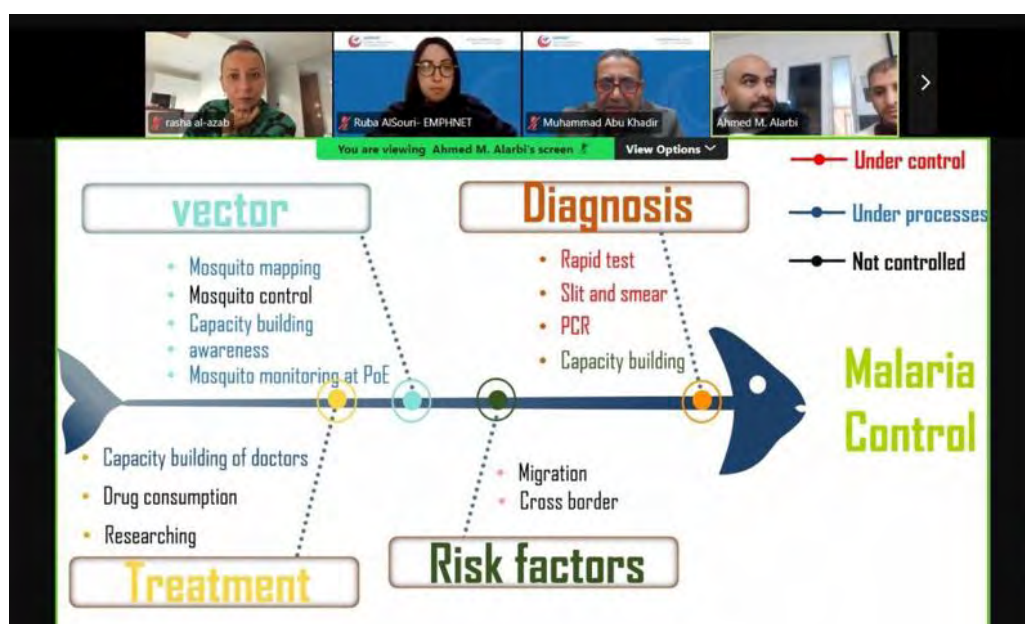
The first PHEP-RSV cohort was launched in Lebanon with a mentors' workshop and an inaugural training session. The program aims to strengthen technical capacities for RSV surveillance and response at the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and health facility levels. By the end of the training, residents will be able to manage local surveillance systems, investigate and respond to common diseases, particularly RSV, and to apply essential managerial and leadership skills to implement effective public health interventions.



LIBYA

Highlights from the Contributions of Libya FETP's Third PHEP-BFE Cohort

In this quarter, the third Public Health Empowerment Program – Basic Field Epidemiology (PHEP-BFE) cohort of the Libya Field Epidemiology Training Program (Libya FETP) attended their third workshop. During the session, residents presented their outbreak investigation findings, while showcasing their applied skills and contributions to enhancing public health responses.



Messages addressed to "Meeting Group Chat" will also appear in the meeting group chat in Team Chat

Ahmed M. Alarbi joined as a guest

Abouhamid Al sharif joined as a guest

Ruba AlSouri- EMPHNET joined as a guest

Nwagie joined as a guest

Suliman alsalteen joined as a guest

Who can see your messages?

to: Meeting Group Chat

Type message here...

OMAN

Oman FETP Marks Completion of Two New PHEP-BFE Cohorts

The Oman Field Epidemiology Training Program (Oman FETP) conducted the final workshop for its third and Fourth Public Health Empowerment Program – Basic Field Epidemiology (PHEP-BFE) cohorts. The purpose of this workshop was to evaluate residents' performance during the first and second fieldwork activities, and the overall training course. During the workshop's sessions, residents shared their experiences in conducting the national vector survey and they discussed how they applied their problem analysis and risk communication skills in their fieldwork, alongside other competencies. With the conclusion of this workshop, the cohorts' training journey came to a successful.



PAKISTAN

The Pakistan Field Epidemiology Training Program (Pakistan FETP) remains committed to advancing public health efforts, with the 12th Steering Committee Meeting held in January setting the stage for continued success and impact. This quarter, residents of the ongoing cohorts further strengthened their skills in disease surveillance and outbreak investigation while actively participating in key workshops.

Pakistan FETP Steering Committee Sets Strategic Direction

The 12th Steering Committee Meeting for the Pakistan FETP was held in January, providing a space for participants to discuss the program's key technical and training aspects, and to outline a roadmap for its continued success. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, along with other involved entities and partners. Key decisions were made to ensure the program's sustainable progress and long-term impact.



Progress and Contributions of the Pakistan FETP Ongoing Cohorts

The Pakistan FETP continued to strengthen the country's public health capacity by training a skilled workforce in disease surveillance and outbreak investigation. Recently, the 15th cohort's residents of the Advanced FETP completed their third contact session, further enhancing their expertise in field epidemiology. In addition, residents of the 16th cohort concluded their first session and were deployed to provincial disease surveillance and response units.



These residents have been instrumental in responding to 13 outbreaks, including Mpox, and have played a vital role in screening, surveillance, and case management at Points of Entry, ensuring timely public health interventions. Additionally, they have made significant scientific contributions by submitting abstracts for key international conferences.

Key Workshops Elevate Pakistan FETP Residents' Expertise

Pakistan FETP residents and graduates actively participated in three significant workshops. The first was a two-day workshop on operationalizing One Health and developing a governance structure. This workshop was hosted by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institute of Health (NIH). Its sessions resulted in participants developing an actionable governance framework to enhance collaboration across human, animal, and environmental health sectors.

The second activity was a consultative workshop focusing on the implementation of a mortality surveillance system in the KP province. Organized also by NIH and CDC, the workshop focused on the importance of a standardized national mortality surveillance system, its integration with disease surveillance, and the development of a national framework and implementation plan. Discussions also addressed prioritizing activities based on provincial needs and ensuring accurate cause-of-death reporting. Upon the workshop's conclusion, a clear path forward for implementation in KP was agreed on.

Furthermore, residents participated in a two-day orientation meeting in Sindh, organized by NIH in collaboration with provincial stakeholders. The meeting served to align infection prevention and control (IPC) initiatives with international standards. The residents contributed to discussions on monitoring and evaluation frameworks, as well as strategies for reducing healthcare-associated infections (HCAIs) and the improvement of patient safety and healthcare quality.

These workshops enriched their practical knowledge and skills, while offering them valuable experience in developing governance frameworks, implementing surveillance systems, and strengthening public health initiatives, all of which are essential for improving healthcare delivery and outcomes in Pakistan.



QATAR

Building the Capacities of Qatar FETP's Intermediate Cohort

This quarter, the Qatar Field Epidemiology Training Program (Qatar FETP) organized the third and fourth workshops for its first Intermediate cohort, combining both in-class training and online modules. The third workshop focused on reviewing residents' previous fieldwork experiences and findings, as well as building a foundational understanding of scientific communication principles. It also introduced the concept of Single Overarching Communication Outcome (SOCO) messages, emphasizing their importance in public health. From another angle, the workshop provided residents with the opportunity to develop and critique scientific abstracts, and to improve their writing skills. They also piloted their group project questionnaires and applied their learning in field activities.

The cohort's residents then attended their fourth workshop, where they presented their final study protocols, scientific abstracts, and outbreak investigations conducted during previous field activities. The workshop also covered essential skills in teaching and mentoring in public health, leadership styles, risk communication, community engagement, and techniques for supportive supervision. This comprehensive training session equips residents with the tools they need to tackle public health challenges effectively, setting the stage for their continued growth and impact in the field.



SAUDI ARABIA

37th Advanced Cohort Completes Training, Enrollment Opens for 38th Cohort

Residents of the 37th Advanced Cohort have successfully completed their training, acquiring key competencies in disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, data analysis, public health response, and risk communication. As part of their practical training, they collaborated with residents from the 36th cohort to investigate multiple food poisoning outbreaks within various regions in Saudi Arabia, as well as in Ad Dakhiliyah Governorate in Oman. These investigations focused on determining the scope of the outbreaks, identifying sources, and analyzing transmission patterns to inform effective control and prevention measures. Now equipped with advanced field epidemiology skills, the graduates are ready to contribute to improving public health systems in their respective regions.

Meanwhile, Saudi FETP has opened enrollment for the 38th cohort, in partnership with the College of Medicine at King Saud University, aiming to further enhance the country's public health capacity and epidemiological workforce.



ANNOUNCEMENT



IAPH partnered with Mutah University in Jordan to support 16 staff members to enroll in two key courses: Effective Training and Strategic Planning and Leadership and Management. This collaboration is part of a pilot initiative aimed at enhancing professional development and leadership capacities within the university.

[Read More](#) →

IAPH Supports Mutah University in Leadership and Strategic Training

أياف تدعم جامعة مؤتة
في التدريب على القيادة
والتخطيط الاستراتيجي



SUDAN

Advancing Public Health Amid Conflict: The Launch of the Third PHEP-EPI/SPO Cohort

Despite the challenges posed by ongoing conflict in Sudan, the previous cohorts of the Public Health Empowerment Program – Essential Program on Immunization/Surveillance for Polio Officers (PHEP-EPI/SPO) have made significant contributions to emergency response and the advancement of public health efforts. Building on this success, the Sudan Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), in collaboration with EMPHNET, launched the third cohort of the program in the White Nile State. This cohort, comprising residents from the conflict-affected states of Blue Nile, White Nile, Sennar, and Gezira, plays a vital role in enhancing emergency response capabilities and strengthening immunization and surveillance efforts.

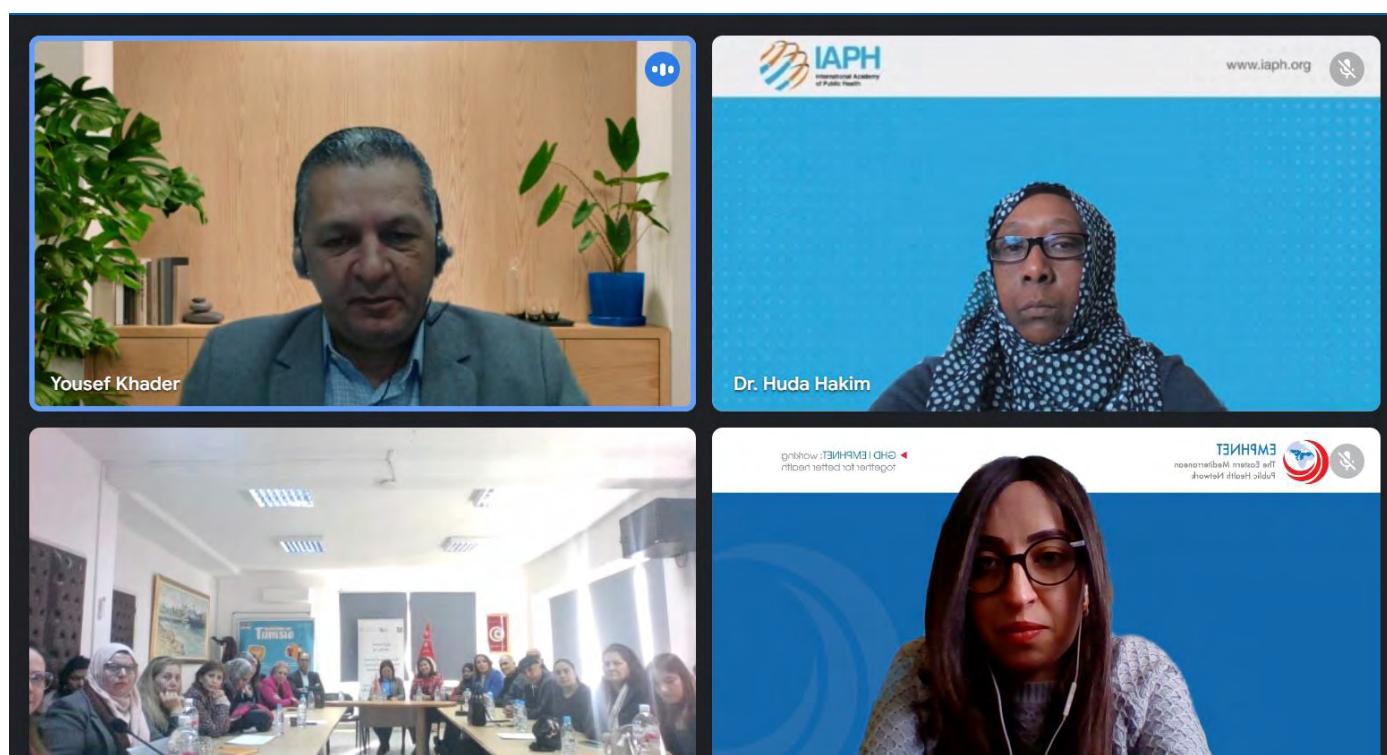
The program began with a mentorship workshop, followed by a foundational training session on epidemiology, surveillance of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs), and biostatistics, with residents now applying their skills in the field to address urgent public health needs.



TUNISIA

Celebrating the Graduation of the Third PHEP-BFE Cohort

The Tunisia Field Epidemiology Training Program (Tunisia FETP) celebrated the graduation of its third Public Health Empowerment Program – Basic Field Epidemiology (PHEP-BFE) cohort. The graduates completed an intensive training which focused on outbreak investigation, surveillance data analysis, and public health response. This achievement highlights the program's commitment to enhancing its disease detection and response capabilities.



ANNOUNCEMENT

IAPH offered 130 course seats to support the professional development of UNRWA staff, reinforcing its shared commitment to advancing public health, leadership, and emergency response.

[Read More](#) →

**IAPH Empowers UNRWA Staff with
130 Course Seats to Strengthen
Public Health Capacities**

الأكاديمية الدولية للصحة المجتمعية تمكّن
موظفي الأونروا من خلال 130 مقعدًا تدريبيًا
لتعزيز قدرات الصحة العامة



YEMEN

Recent efforts led by the Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program (Yemen FETP) reflect meaningful progress in strengthening the country's epidemiological capacity. From celebrating new graduates to advancing residents' practical skills through targeted workshops, these achievements highlight a sustained commitment to improving public health response in the country.

Marking a Milestone with Fifth PHEP Cohort Graduation

The Yemen FETP celebrated the graduation of its fifth Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) cohort. This milestone marks a significant achievement in building public health capacity in Yemen, particularly in outbreak investigation, disease surveillance, and health program management.



Highlights from the Intermediate Program

Residents of the Intermediate program recently participated in their second workshop on outbreak investigations, further enhancing their skills in responding to public health threats. Meanwhile, the program is in the process of selecting candidates for its third cohort, aiming to continue building a strong network of trained professionals in the field of epidemiology.



Other News

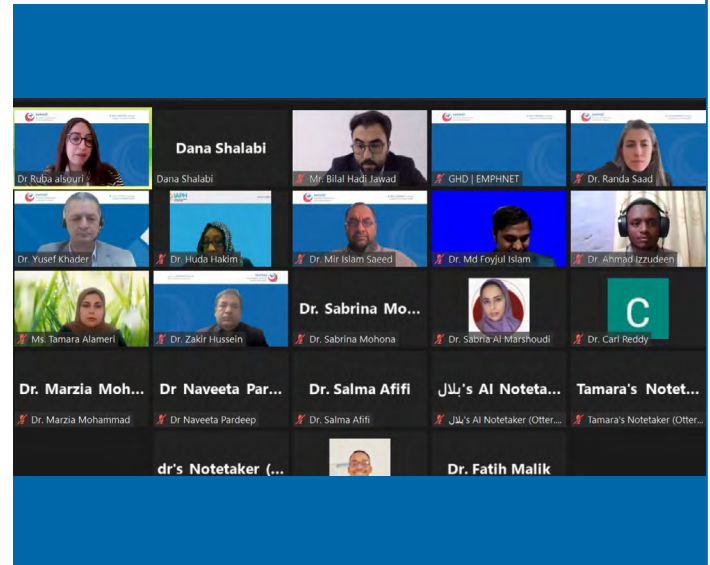
This section covers regional news and success stories



OTHER NEWS

FETP Residents and Graduates Highlight their Research at EMPHNET's Symposium

FETP residents actively participated in a virtual symposium hosted by EMPHNET in February 2025, titled "Advancing Public Health Research: Showcasing FETP Projects and NCD-Focused Mini-grant Initiatives." This engaging one-day event provided a platform to highlight the significant research contributions of FETP residents and graduates in the region. The symposium also highlighted the operational and implementation research on non-communicable diseases (NCDs), carried out by awardees of the "Operational and Implementation Research Addressing the Burden of NCDs in the EMR-2023-2024 mini-grant initiative."



FETP Residents Engage in Regional Case Studies Development Workshop

FETP residents from nine countries—Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Palestine, Pakistan, and Yemen—participated in two online sessions of the "Teaching Case Studies Development Workshop," organized by EMPHNET in April 2025. The workshop aimed to enhance participants' skills in developing and utilizing teaching case studies as effective tools for training and capacity building in field epidemiology. By fostering regional collaboration and knowledge exchange, it contributed to strengthening public health education across the EMR.



Establishment of Palestine FETP: Strengthening Surveillance and Public Health Capacity

The Palestine FETP was recently established with support from EMPHNET, aiming to enhance the existing surveillance system in the country and improve its effectiveness to better serve public health efforts. Two technical committee meetings were held to discuss the program's implementation, followed by a comprehensive training needs assessment to identify areas for improvement. Efforts are now underway to launch the first cohort of the PHEP-BFE, which will further strengthen the country's public health response capabilities.



Reflections from FETPs' Residents and Graduates on the Executive Professional Master's in Public Health Emergency Management, Offered by the International Academy of Public Health (IAPH) in Collaboration with Université Mundiapolis de Casablanca

"The program's self-paced learning approach fosters independent study, which is vital for public health emergency management professionals. Its focus on organizational management and public health principles is essential for developing effective health systems and response frameworks. As an FETP resident, I find that the knowledge gained through this program strengthens both technical expertise and leadership abilities needed to address public health challenges. I highly recommend this program for professionals aiming to advance their expertise and impact in public health emergency management."

By Dr. Lydia Cruz, FETP Resident, Guatemala, Central America

"As a graduate of the Somalia FETP, I have always been keenly aware of the critical importance of public health emergency management, especially in our ever-changing landscape where emergencies can arise without warning. From the very beginning, the program captivated me with its comprehensive curriculum that combined theoretical foundations with practical and real-world applications. One of the most memorable experiences for me was the capstone project, where we were tasked with developing an emergency response plan for a hypothetical outbreak in a resource-limited setting. This exercise wasn't just academic; it mirrored the real challenges we face in Somalia. The program also provided invaluable access to renowned faculty who are experts in public health emergency management. Their mentorship and willingness to share their experiences and insights were instrumental in deepening my understanding of the intricacies of emergency response. I particularly appreciated the emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches, as it underscored the importance of collaboration across various sectors to effectively manage

public health emergencies. Additionally, the networking opportunities afforded by the program have been incredibly beneficial. I have made lasting connections with professionals who I now consider both colleagues and friends. We continue to share resources, strategies, and support, knowing that the challenges we face are often shared. Since embarking on this journey, I have felt an invigorated sense of purpose. The knowledge and skills I have gained are directly applicable to my role as the National PHEOC Manager. I am now better equipped to design, implement, and evaluate policies that can help safeguard public health during emergencies in Somalia. Looking back, I am immensely grateful for this opportunity. I encourage anyone considering this program to take the leap, as the knowledge and connections gained are invaluable for both career and public health contributions.”

***By Dr. Abdullahi Ahmed Tahlil, the National PHEOC
Manager of the National Institute of Health (NIH)***

“The Executive Professional Master’s in Public Health Emergency Management program at IAPH has truly transformed the way I approach leadership, coordination, and communication in public health emergencies. One of the biggest impacts of this program has been on my work with polio data management. Since May 2023, I have been leading efforts in the southeast region of Afghanistan to move all our polio data from Excel sheets to the APMIS system—a shift that has greatly improved efficiency and data accuracy. This was no small task, but thanks to the leadership and communication skills I developed through this program, I was able to bring our provincial team together, align efforts, and ensure that all data was entered completely and on time. Without the program’s focus on strategic leadership and collaboration, achieving this milestone would have been much more challenging. Beyond the technical side, the program has also strengthened my ability to work closely with polio partners in the southeast region and the national team of Afghanistan. It has helped me build stronger relationships, improve coordination, and contribute to a more effective and unified public health response. Looking back, I can confidently say that this program is a game-changer for my professional growth. The lessons I’ve learned here will continue to shape the way I work, enhancing disease surveillance, emergency preparedness, and overall public health impact in my country.”

***By Dr. Mohammad Zahidullah, Regional Data Officer, EOC,
and an FETP graduate, Afghanistan***

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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