



Invasive bacterial disease surveillance network in Africa, Middle East, and Eurasia: Meningitis and Septicemia Mapping Network (MenMap)

Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Programs
- ◆ Unit: Disease Control and Prevention

OBJECTIVES

The main goal of the MenMap project is to implement real-time PCR testing technique to improve diagnosis of Invasive Bacterial Disease (IBD) due to *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, and *Haemophilus influenzae* in countries of North Africa, the Middle East and Eurasia (NAMEE) through a laboratory network (the MenMap laboratories).

REGIONS OF WORK

MenMap will be operating in three countries (Egypt, Iraq, and Iran).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Meningitis and septicemia Mapping Network (MenMap) is a network of research partners, dedicated to expanding understanding of vaccine preventable Invasive Bacterial Disease (IBD); in particular, those caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib); and bridge the gaps between research, clinical practice, and public health policy priorities. The mission of MenMap Network is to advance research on surveillance and laboratory diagnosis of vaccine preventable IBDs, support public health policies in the prevention of these infections, and improve clinical practice for the prevention and treatment of bacterial meningitis and/or septicemia. MenMap will be operating at a regional level in North Africa and the Middle East with potential expansion to other African and Eurasian countries. As a starting point, institutions from three countries (Egypt, Iraq, and Iran) will be enrolled, reporting, and receiving data about the epidemiology and genomics of IBDs and how they compare to their region and the rest of the countries MenMap will generate and publish the data to make it accessible to researchers across the world.

BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries are the public health institutions, MOHs and hospitals from three countries (Egypt, Iraq, and Iran). In addition to patients infected or suspected to have meningitis and the general population of Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

PROJECT PHASES

The MenMap project involves three phases:

Phase I – Preparations: Embark countries to network, design the assessment tools to review the current diagnostic landscape in the targeted countries.

Phase II – Implementation: Hospitals Assessment, trainings, providing laboratory supplies, cases enrolment, samples and data collection, reporting, and analysis.

Phase III – Closing: Reporting and end of project workshop.

Project Start and End Date	December,15, 2021 – December 14, 2022
Partner Organizations	Ministry of Health (Egypt), Ministry of Health (Iraq), Pediatric Infections Research Center (Iran).
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Currently . . .

Bacterial meningitis is a common disease worldwide, responsible for significant morbidity and mortality in infants and young children and remains an important cause of endemic and epidemic diseases in many of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries. Very limited published data are available for meningococcal disease in MENA countries. Hence, evidence-based decisions are not being made to employ effective vaccine-intervention strategy.

What's next . . .

Under this project, through its different Phases, with the involvement of concerned sectors, MenMap Network will advance research on surveillance and laboratory diagnosis of vaccine preventable IBDs, support public health policies in the prevention of these infections, and improve clinical practice for the prevention and treatment of bacterial meningitis and/or septicemia, building the knowledge infrastructure, research and communication capacity in the network participating countries.

GHD|EMPHNET Information: Global Health Development (GHD) 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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