



## Public Health Empowerment Program - Basic Field Epidemiology (PHEP - BFE)

### 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 at the district level to run and manage the local public health surveillance system, conduct outbreak investigation and response to common diseases, 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 includes Yemen, Oman, Iraq, Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon, Libya, and Morocco in addition to Bangladesh.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Public Health Empowerment Program – Basic Field Epidemiology (PHEP-BFE) 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

The target audience is public health workers on the front lines of surveillance data collection, monitoring, analysis, and response to disease outbreaks. Often, a team of public health workers from a district including the medical officers, surveillance officers, environmental officers, sanitarians, public health nurses, and surveillance officers from animal health.

## PROJECT PHASES

The training consists of almost 18 days in three workshops and 4-5 weeks of fieldwork divided over two periods. Through didactic and in-service training, participants learn, and practice fundamental skills used in basic epidemiology, 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>October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024</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)</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 outbreaks and any other public health events.

## What's next . . .

The expected learning outcomes of PHEP-BFE 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.
- Appreciate the role of data, for monitoring the health of the community and for providing information for decision-making, among public health workers.
- Improve the sharing and dissemination of health information.
- Increase participants' knowledge about basic epidemiology and public health.
- Build the skills in managing public health emergencies.

## By the Numbers

**729**

Number of PHEP-  
BFE graduates

**85**

mentors trained and  
supported FETP  
residents

**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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