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Newsletter Issue

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July — September 2017

EMPHNET's Word By: Dr. Mohannad Al-Nsour, Executive Director

Collaboration is one of the core values that guides our work and that helps us reach excellence. Another three months have passed during which we have continued to partner with the Ministries of Health in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR), the Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP), and the World Health Organization (WHO), amongst other entities. Through our collaborations we have continued to take important steps towards strengthening public health in the region.

In late August, we announced the call for abstracts for the **Sixth EMPHNET Regional Conference** which will be held in Amman, Jordan, between March 27 and 29, 2018. Under the Conference's theme, *Innovative Approaches: Adapting to the EMR Context*, FETP residents, graduates and key figures from international and regional public health communities will explore ways to apply innovation to public health practice. We believe that the Conference will serve as a platform for exploring collaboration and strengthening knowledge exchange among participants and attendees.

Moreover, an important collaborative effort among the CDC, the WHO-Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO), and GHD/EMPHNET was materialized in the soon to be launched Eastern Mediterranean Acute Respiratory Infection Surveillance's (EMARIS) **First Scientific Conference on Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) in the EMR**. This conference will be held in Amman between December 13 and 14, 2017, under the theme *Better Understanding, Better Preparedness, and Better Response*. The event will gather health professionals working in the public and private health sector to better identify the ARI situation in the region and to explore together the steps needed to improve surveillance and response activities regarding ARI.

A milestone of our collaboration with the CDC and BEP was seen in the establishment of the **Tunisia Field Epidemiology Training Program (T-FETP)** in late September 2017. The T-FETP is a one-year intermediate training program that aims to further strengthen the Tunisian health system. It gives us, at GHD/EMPHNET, great pleasure and pride to be part of the team supporting the T-FETP in its various activities.

With collaboration and teamwork, we have achieved important goals in the past quarter, and we continue to work hard to achieve yet more in the near future.

EMPHNET Feature

The National Observatory for Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases (ONMNE), representing the Tunisia Ministry of Health (MoH), officially launched the Tunisia Field Epidemiology Training Program (T-FETP) on September 25, 2017.



The National Observatory for Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases (ONMNE), representing the Tunisia Ministry of Health (MoH), officially launched the Tunisia Field Epidemiology Training Program (T-FETP) on September 25, 2017.

The T-FETP is a one-year, intermediate program comprising training workshops that focus on surveillance of public health, epidemics investigation, priority diseases, complex emergencies and biosecurity issues, and research methodology. After each training workshop, each resident will complete an on-the-job field project under the supervision of an assigned mentor. The T-FETP is also an in-service program which means residents will continue to work for their units during the period of training. As a requirement of the program, each resident is expected to complete a research project.

The initiation of the T-FETP was made possible through support from the Biosecurity Engagement Program and will be sustained through support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and GHD/EMPHNET. The program is stationed at the ONMNE and Director of ONMNE Dr. Nissaf Ben Alaya, has been appointed as the T-FETP Director. The program's first cohort comprises 14 physicians and one veterinarian. These residents work in priority regional surveillance units at Tunisian MoH.

Tailored to meet the public health needs of Tunisia, the T-FETP will be the first program to integrate the use of technology, as a collaboration has been formed between the T-FETP and the Virtual University of Tunisia to enhance mentoring by facilitating field interaction between mentors and residents. To further respond to the public health needs of Tunisia, and to especially strengthen the skills of public health professionals who are working in areas of public health surveillance, investigation, and response activities at regional and central levels, the program offers its residents the skills they need to improve the quality of surveillance data to be used for decision making, timely detection and investigation of outbreaks and other public health events.

As Her Excellency the Tunisian State Secretary of Health Dr. Sonia Escheikh, speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Health, said during the program's launching ceremony, "We highly value the importance of the T-FETP as it will strengthen the country's disease detection, outbreak investigations, preparedness and response to public health threats."

Taking place in Tunis, the T-FETP launching ceremony was attended by Dr. Nissaf Ben Alaya, the Executive Director of GHD/EMPHNET Dr. Mohannad Al-Nsour, the General Director of Health Dr. Nebiha Borsali, and Mr. Bassam Jarrar from the CDC.

The T-FETP's first activity was a training workshop conducted in Tunis for mentors of its first cohort. The workshop was organized by ONMNE on behalf of the Tunisian MoH, and it took place between September 11 and 16, 2017. Its primary objective was to prepare the mentors for their role to guide T-FETP members in their field work. Moreover, the T-FETP commenced its first workshop on the same day of the launching. Titled Introduction to Intervention Epidemiology, this workshop was carried out to familiarize participants with the basics of public health surveillance, epidemiology and biostatistics, communication, and e-learning methods.

FETP News

Egypt

Ministry of Public Health Implements Public Health Empowerment Program - Basic Field Epidemiology

GHD/EMPHNET supported Egypt Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) in implementing the Public Health Empowerment Program-Basic Field Epidemiology (PHEP-BFE) between July and October 2017. The PHEP-BFE is an in-service program that provides didactic and field training in the fundamentals of surveillance, outbreak investigation, and emergency response. In its first cohort, the program targeted 25 public health sanitarians who are responsible for disease surveillance and response at the district level. Six of these sanitarians work in Cairo, and the other nineteen work in governorates across Egypt.



The PHEP-BFE targeted this segment on account of the essential role they play especially in the areas of data collection and outbreak investigation. As part of this program, residents also completed two field work periods. The first lasted for five weeks after the first training workshop, while the second lasted for three weeks after the second. In these field projects, each resident was mentored by a supervisor.

Egypt Ministry of Public Health Graduates Residents of its 18th Cohort of Field Epidemiology Training Program

Thirteen field epidemiologists graduated from the program after successful completion of two-year comprehensive training in applied epidemiology.

The ceremony was attended by the Undersecretary of the MoHP Dr. Amr Kandeel, Executive Director of GHD/EMPHNET Dr. Mohannad Al-Nsour, alongside representatives of the MoHP health departments, members from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) country office.



During the ceremony, remarks were given by Dr. Kandeel, who recognized the achievements of the graduates, commemorating their successful completion of the program. Speaking to the graduates, Dr. Kandeel emphasized the importance of not only gaining knowledge but also sharing it by serving as mentors for future cohorts.

Graduates presented a video highlighting their journey throughout the two-year program during which they thanked the FETP director and supporting staff.

Established in 1993, Egypt FETP grew to become essential for strengthening the national public health system.



Iraq

Iraq Ministry of Health Implements Public Health Empowerment Program - Basic Field Epidemiology

Between July and October of 2017, the Iraq Ministry of Health (MoH) implemented, in collaboration with GHD/EMPHNET, the Public Health Empowerment Program - Basic Field Epidemiology (PHEP – BFE). This is an in-service training program designed to strengthen the MoH's epidemiologic capacity. It achieves this goal by enhancing the knowledge and skills of health workers in areas relevant to the fundamentals of surveillance, outbreak investigation, and emergency response.



In the context of Iraq's complex emergencies, the PHEP-BFE builds the capacities of the national health workforce. It contributes to expanding it, and hence addresses the country's urgent health problems.

Residents of this first PHEP-BFE cohort comprised 25 health workers from various governorates in Iraq. These health workers are responsible for disease surveillance and response at the district level.

The PHEP-BFE curriculum consists of three didactic training workshops. These were complemented by mentor-supervised field projects. These field projects were implemented in two parts: the first was a five-week field work period implemented after the first training, while the second was a three-week field work period implemented after the second.

Morocco

Morocco FETP Graduates its Fourth Cohort

In September 2015, FETP-Morocco started its fourth cohort which was composed of 22 health professionals in training. For the first time in its history, the program accepted participants from other countries including two health professionals from Tunisia supported by TEPHINET/CDC.

After two years of training, 20 Moroccan FETP residents obtained their diploma. The General Secretary of the Ministry of Health presided over the graduation ceremony.



FETP Residents Conduct Outbreak Investigation on a Collective Foodborne Poisoning in a Training In-

On June 18, 2017, the regional service of Public Health in the province of Rabat was notified of 43 suspected cases of poisoning. These were students in a training institute in Rabat admitted to the Emergency Room of the University Hospital Center for collective foodborne poisoning. FETP Residents conducted a case control study. Among 100 students interviewed, 50 cases were identified and 47 sought medical care. Results of the investigation showed that the Briwates (local food) was strongly associated with the illness with an odd ratio of 14.23 (5.04-40.04).

FETP Residents Conduct Outbreak Investigation on a Collective Foodborne Poisoning in a Training Institute in Rabat

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FETP Residents Conduct Investigation for a Case of Lead Poisoning

The Poison Control Centre of Morocco received a call from a pediatrician practicing at the University children's hospital of Rabat regarding a three-year-old boy who had swallowed a week ago a Cylindrical Cell battery at home in the urban commune (region of Rabat-Salé-Kénitra). The interview revealed that the boy was suffering from the Pica Syndrome. On June 07, 2017, an investigation was conducted at the boy's house by a multidisciplinary team, revealing that the potential risk factors leading to this case of lead poisoning was the location of the boy's house, as it was in a neighborhood with high levels of humidity. The fact that the house was located near a cement plant that released vapors all day long added to this situation.

FETP Residents Conduct Investigation of a Cluster of Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis

The national focal point of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis at the Directorate of Epidemiology and Diseases Control in Morocco was informed by the pulmonologist of Province of Khemisset about the cumulative of a significant number of cases of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) within the same family. An investigation was conducted to describe the characteristics of a MDR-TB affecting these cases grouped in the same family.

Residents reported seven cases within the province of Khemisset, two of which were diabetic. Two deaths were reported and one case was found in a five year old child. Among the suspected risk factors noted were poor adherence to anti-tuberculosis treatment and treatment irregularities with the consequences of failure and recidivism.

Pakistan

FELTP Alumni and Residents help Identify Far Flung Missed Villages along Pakistan Afghanistan Border in District Killa Abdullah, Balochistan Province

The Pakistan FELTP-NSTOP (National Stop transmission of Polio) team comprising of FELTP alumni and residents is working with the district administrations to eradicate polio in the country. Recently, the FELTP-NSTOP Team Lead for Balochistan Dr. Aftab Kakar identified 07 far-flung; security compromised missed villages with 87 houses and 343 unvaccinated children in district Killa Abdullah located along the border of Afghanistan. These areas were not part of micro plans. All missed children were vaccinated, and the district health management team was directed for inclusion of villages in the micro plan.



By July 2017, all areas were part of the micro plans and were included in routine polio vaccination campaign.



Sixth EMPHNET Regional Conference

**Innovative approaches:
Adapting to the current EMR context**
Amman, Jordan. March 27 - 29, 2018



Yemen

FETP Residents Conduct Investigation of a Cluster of Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis

Besides continuing supporting hot districts and coordinating response activities, the Y-FETP residents participated in training of the Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) in some of the most affected districts. One of the Y-FETP residents Dr. Labiba Anam, participated in the Expanded Provincial Meeting to contain the cholera epidemic. The meeting was organized by the WHO Country Office in Sana'a, July 17th, 2017, who presented the "Standard Operating Procedure for ORS and Cholera Treatment Centers".

Furthermore, each Y-FETP resident submitted two deliverables from his cholera field work at the district level: The first deliverable was an analysis report of the Cholera Treatment Centre's admissions to show the epidemiological pattern at district level and guide response activities. The second deliverable was the District Epidemic Response Plan. The Y-FETP residents' deliverables underlined important areas that need to be con-

Y-FETP Facilitates the Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) – Basic Field Epidemiology Training launched by the Ministry of Public Health and Population and EMPHNET



The PHEP is a three-month, in-service program designed to strengthen and expand the capacities of governorate and district levels surveillance officers in the areas of surveillance, outbreak investigation and response, and public health interventions management. The program equips officers with additional skills they need to complement their current roles to support the MoPHP efforts in fostering surveillance systems and contributing to strengthening the national health system.

During this quarter (July-September 2017) five consecutive PHEP workshops took place. These were attended by covered governorates' surveillance officers both in Sana'a and Aden. The first two batches already finished their Workshop (1) and presented their fieldwork I during the first two days of the Workshop (2). During the next quarter, these two batches as well as other batches will complete their trainings and graduated from the program.

Before graduation and during the Workshop (3), the trainees will be introduced to the training and mentorship skills. After their graduation, the surveillance officers will be responsible for PHEP training and mentoring their districts' surveillance officers under supervision from the central level.

Besides their role in strengthening surveillance systems and outbreak investigation and response, the trainees will form a nucleus for districts' rapid response teams and will be responsible for house to house behavioral change activities enabling people to protect themselves from cholera and other water-borne diseases.

GHD/EMPHNET News

The Morocco Ministry of Health and GHD/EMPHNET Collaborate to Improve Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) Surveillance

To improve its Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance, the Moroccan Ministry of Health (MoH), in collaboration with GHD/EMPHNET, is digitalizing its AFP notification system in public and private hospitals across the country. Through this digitalized system, the MoH will receive immediate notifications of AFP cases via email or SMS in hospitals of 93 provinces across Morocco. Moreover, the system allows the MoH to monitor and report these cases through a dashboard that provides historical and up-to-date reports at the national, governorate, district, and hospital levels. Once the system is established, the MoH can expand its use to include measles and other vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs).



To ensure the optimal usage of this system, GHD/EMPHNET team met with representatives of the MoH, the central AFP team and Information Technology Department, in Rabat between September 18 – 20, 2017. The purpose of the three-day meeting was to introduce the system and receive feedback that would serve to enhance its features. During this meeting, the system was installed and deployed on the Ministry's hosting server.

The MoH and GHD/EMPHNET, also collaborated to hold a cascade of training workshops. These workshops were designed to build the capacities of national and sub-national health professionals working in the field of AFP and VPDs' surveillance.

The first activity within this cascade was a Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop which took place earlier in July. The workshop focused on building the capacity of national and provincial health staff as Master Trainers who have the skills they need to move on and train both provincial and district health staff in the areas of AFP and VPDs' surveillance.

In continuation of this initiative, GHD/EMPHNET supported the MoH to train 111 surveillance officers from the provincial level through three training workshops. The Master Trainers from the above-mentioned TOT Workshop took part in facilitating these training workshops hosted simultaneously in three regions, namely: Fes-Meknes, Souss-Massa, and Marrakech.

Sudan Federal Ministry of Health Conducts First Workshop for Public Health Empowerment Program

In collaboration with GHD/EMPHNET, the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) in Sudan conducted a training workshop titled Public Health Surveillance. Held in Khartoum, Sudan between July 30 and August 3, 2017, this workshop was the first in a three-part series forming the didactic component of the Public Health Empowerment Program – Surveillance for Polio (PHEP – SPO).



Residents of the first PHEP – SPO cohort were in attendance. This cohort is made up of 30 polio surveillance officers from the Al-Jazirah, Blue Nile, Gadarif, Sinnar, and White Nile states.

As a three-month, in-service program, the PHEP-SPO aims to build the capacities of polio and Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) staff in areas of disease surveillance and public health management. The PHEP-SPO capitalizes on the expertise of these staff members for the benefit of the EPI and other health programs, considering the country's need to expand the national public health workforce especially at the district level.

GHD/EMPHNET Participates in WHO Emergency Meeting on Cholera Preparedness and Response



The World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Lebanon and upon the request of the Jordanian government organized a sub-regional meeting between July 8 and 9, 2017 in Beirut with the purpose of scaling up acute watery diarrhea (AWD)/cholera preparedness and response.

The Ministries of Health of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, KSA, Oman, and Sudan, UNICEF, GHD/EMPHNET, and the International Federation of Red Cross for Middle East and North Africa (IFRC MENA) participated in this meeting.

At the meeting, the WHO Country offices in Yemen, Sudan, and Somalia reviewed the current AWD/cholera situation in their countries and discussed challenges in the management of these outbreaks. Participants then recommended appropriate interventions for currently affected countries, and they identified the measures needed to reduce the risk of cholera spreading beyond.

Iraq Ministry of Health Strengthens Immunization Supply Chain with Support from GHD/EMPHNET

To support the Iraq Ministry of Health (MoH) in achieving immunization targets, GHD/EMPHNET, UNICEF, and the Iraq MoH are working together to strengthen the vaccination supply chain management. This collaboration will introduce the World Health Organization (WHO) web-based vaccination supplies stock management (w-VSSM) system to involved parties at the Ministry.



To support the MoH in achieving immunization targets, GHD/EMPHNET, UNICEF, and the Iraq MoH are working together to strengthen the vaccination supply chain management. This collaboration will introduce the World Health Organization (WHO) web-based vaccination supplies stock management (w-VSSM) system to involved parties at the Ministry. Created in 2011, this web-based, open source system is modeled after the stand-alone version that has been implemented in Iraq for the past six years. The w-VSSM is based on WHO guidelines and standard operation procedures as well as UNICEF and WHO training materials.

To ensure a swift transition, GHD/EMPHNET and UNICEF conducted two training workshops that targeted both administrators and users of the software in late August 2017. In the form of an on-the-job training, the workshops focused on guiding both admins and users on setting and/or configuring the data based on their respective levels.

The MoH, UNICEF and GHD/EMPHNET, are also conducting a Cold-Chain Equipment Inventory Assessment (CCEIA) throughout the country. The assessment will be performed using a web-based, mobile data collection tool, Survey for Data. Using this tool, full data on health facilities and the available cold chain equipment can be gathered and saved. This allows for the availability of information and its use, and in turn it will ensure that vaccines are widely available and that they remain safe and effective through the entire supply chain, particularly in remote areas.

GHD/EMPHNET Support Jordan Ministry of Health in Strengthening Microplanning for Routine Immunization



Despite having achieved high immunization coverage in the past five years, Jordan is reporting unequal immunization coverage rates throughout its governorates. According to the 2012 Jordan Population and Family Health Survey, the gap between governorates with the highest and lowest coverage rates was recorded to be 15.5%. Such fluctuating rates might be attributed to the socioeconomic status of locals and the influx of Syrian refugees into the country.

To close this gap and to ensure vaccination coverage for every child, improved microplanning for routine immunization (RI) is needed. This was identified during a GHD/EMPHNET-supported training needs analysis workshop conducted in Amman last February, where the Jordan Ministry of Health (MoH) team listed microplanning for RI as a training needs priority.

GHD/EMPHNET supported the MoH to conduct a training workshop for 27 Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) staff members from the central, provincial, and district levels, who were representing all of Jordan's governorates. Conducted between September 11 and 13, 2017, the workshop was designed to strengthen the capacity of EPI staff by providing them with the skills needed to train Primary Health Care (PHC) staff on microplanning.

GHD/EMPHNET Supports Jordan Ministry of Health

GHD/EMPHNET collaborated with the Jordan Ministry of Health (MoH) and supported it in the launch of the National Rapid Response Teams Guidelines. The launching took place in an official ceremony held at the Landmark Hotel in Amman on August 29, 2017.

As the first national and regional reference for Rapid Response Teams (RRTs), the Guidelines address the country's need to enhance preparedness and response in the event of public health events of international concern (PHEIC). They also meet the pressing need for effective and comprehensive preparedness measures to face the current health emergencies affecting the region.



Dr. Ayoub Sayaydeh, Director of the MoH Primary Healthcare Administration; Dr. Maria Cristina Profili, the World Health Organization (WHO) Representative in Jordan; and Dr. Mohannad Al-Nsour, Executive Director of EMPHNET, presided the event. Representatives of the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, and Environment, the Royal Medical Services (RMS), the Jordan Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the private health sector, as well as directors and surveillance officers of governorate and district health directorates also attended.

Notable Achievements for FETP Residents and Graduates from the EMR at 9th TEPHINET Global



TEPHINET held its Ninth Global Scientific Conference in Chiang Mai, Thailand, between August 7 and August 11, 2017. The aim of this conference was to provide Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) residents with the opportunity to give scientific presentations and to increase their knowledge and experience in outbreak investigations.

Oral and poster presentations were given by FETP residents from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, and Pakistan at this event. From FETP Egypt, one oral and one poster presentation were given, while FETP Iraq residents gave a total of five oral presentations and two poster presentations. FETP Jordan residents gave three oral and three poster presentations. Furthermore, one oral presentation was given from FETP Morocco; and eight oral as well as seven poster presentations were given by Pakistan FELTP residents. Topics of these presentations covered issues related to non-communicable diseases, communicable diseases, outbreak investigation, emergency response, and other.

FETP residents from the EMR also showcased the region's cultural diversity at the event's international night, with contributions made from FETP Morocco, FETP Jordan and FETP Pakistan.

In a session on Regional Networks, the Executive Director of EMPHNET Dr. Mohannad Al-Nsour spoke about the role that the FETPs play in the region. He stressed that the EMR is a region of socio-political unrest and that such conditions have their impact on the public health status of communities. Dr. Al-Nsour highlighted the role of EMPHNET in supporting the FETPs and in developing more programs that serve the region.

EMPHNET Supports Jordan's Maternal Mortality Surveillance and Response (JMMSR) System

Under the leadership of the Jordan Ministry of Health (MOH), the USAID-funded Health Service Delivery (HSD) Activity implemented by Abt Associates Inc. is partnering with EMPHNET in implementing Jordan's Maternal Mortality Surveillance Response (JMMSR) system. The JMMSR is a national system designed to eliminate preventable maternal mortality by obtaining and using information on each maternal death to guide public health actions and monitor their impact.



On August 13, 2017, EMPHNET conducted a training workshop for members representing Forensic Medicine Departments across the country. At the training, participants were familiarized with concepts related to surveillance, maternal mortality and the new JMMSR system. The training aimed at enabling the participants to effectively perform their role as JMMSR focal points responsible for notification of all deaths among women of reproductive age.

Other training workshops are planned to be conducted during August and September 2017 targeting the Ministry of Health, the Royal Medical Services, as well as private hospitals.

EMPHNET Participates in the WHO's First Technical Advisory Meeting on Sexual and Reproductive Health Research in Emergency Settings

The World Health Organization's (WHO) Sexual and Reproductive Health Research Department in Geneva organized a two-day meeting for technical research experts to initiate implementation research in the region to improve the existing sexual and reproductive health access in humanitarian settings.



This planned research targets Syrian adolescent girls and young women refugees aged 15 – 24 years in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. health services provided to them in feasible, community based, culturally-appropriate psychosocial interventions. The aim of the research project is to test the self-efficacy, esteem, and knowledge of the targeted group in order to improve sexual and reproductive health services. At the meeting, held in Geneva, Switzerland between August 10 – 11, 2017, EMPHNET presented the status of sexual and reproductive health services for Syrian refugees in and outside the camp settings and the challenges faced in providing and accessing these services.

GHD/EMPHNET Supports Jordan Ministry of Health in launching Its Basic Field Epidemiology Program



GHD/EMPHNET supported the Jordan Ministry of Health (MoH) in implementing the Public Health Empowerment Program-Basic Field Epidemiology (PHEP-BFE) for Primary Health Care (PHC) Physicians working at the periphery. This is a three-month, in-service training program designed to strengthen the MoH field epidemiologic capacity by improving the participants' knowledge and skills in the fundamentals of surveillance, outbreak investigation, and emergency response.

The PHEP-BFE Training Curriculum consists of three workshops and two field work periods. The first workshop of the program, Basic Epidemiology and Surveillance, was conducted at the MoH headquarters from July 9 to July 20, 2017, while the second, Outbreak Investigation and Public Health Emergency, was conducted from August 26 to August 30, 2017.

Facilitated by GHD/EMPHNET and the MoH, the PHEP-BFE first cohort's 26 residents were trained for two weeks on the basic skills needed to conduct effective public health surveillance. In addition to sessions focusing on basic epidemiology, basic statistics, and public health surveillance; two case studies, one on Brucellosis and another the Avian Flu, were also discussed. In the second workshop residents were introduced to risk communication during emergencies, epidemiology during outbreaks, and Rapid Response Teams (RRTs).

The second workshop started off with the residents presenting their first field projects. After being introduced to risk communication during emergencies, epidemiology during outbreaks, Rapid Response Teams (RRTs), residents then engaged in the second field work period.



GHD/EMPHNET Co-Facilitates MediPIET's Training on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Threats



From July 10 to July 14, 2017, the Mediterranean Program for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET) conducted a training workshop in Belgrade, Serbia, at the Institute of Public Health. The training focused on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) agents and their impact on human health.

The trainees included MediPIET's first cohort fellows and public Health professionals working in CBRN (or generic) incidents' preparedness and response at national institutions. They came from Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Palestine, Serbia, Tunisia, the UK, and Ukraine.

GHD/EMPHNET's representatives facilitated sessions related to biorisks: general considerations, transportation of dangerous goods, principles of occupational health and safety regarding the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), the PPE protection levels, and donning and doffing for a medical PPE set.

GHD/EMPHNET Participates in Meeting on Improving Health Security in Conflict and Crisis Zones

Health Security Partners (HSP), a non-governmental organization based in Washington, D.C., organized a meeting for improving health security in conflict and crisis zones. Held between September 13 and 14, 2017, in Istanbul, Turkey, the meeting's sessions highlighted the status of Syrian refugees in the Middle East.



GHD/EMPHNET participated in the meeting, alongside other international and national organizations working with Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey to improve health security. GHD/EMPHNET representatives led a session on communicable diseases, while also exploring prospects for further collaboration with other participating organizations.

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