



Qatar Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)

Project Information

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

OBJECTIVE

The overall goal of this project is to strengthen workforce development and capacity in Qatar to prevent, detect, and respond to outbreaks and other public health threats.

Frontline Field Epidemiology Training Program (Basic FETP) will strengthen the technical capacities of frontline workers 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.

The Intermediate FETP Program will improve the skills of mid-level public health workers in data collection and analysis, interpretation, and communication, strengthen the capacity to respond to outbreaks and other public health threats, increase collection and use of public health data for decision making, improve the quality and use of surveillance data at the middle level of the health system.

PROJECT PHASES

The project consists of five main phases to strengthen Work Force Capacity (WFC) in Qatar:

1. Project Initiation and Planning: Identifying internal and external project stakeholders, including FETP consultant/Expert, conducting Training Need Assessment (TNA) that includes: development of TNA tools and methods in addition to a joint TNA visit to identify training needs and mapping out the potential residents, training sites, facilitators, and mentors.
2. Project implementation: Customizing the mentorship and the FETP curriculum to meet the country's needs, support mentors' selection and training, development of Qatar FETP Learning management system (LMS) and convert the training materials for the frontline and intermediate FETP to online content, in addition to capacity building and training for program participants and support knowledge, and information exchange.
3. Monitoring and evaluation: Tracking the progress of the project based on the project plan established earlier is considered crucial to ensure the project stays on schedule, within budget, and within scope. Using proactive approach will allow the project team to respond rapidly to any change in the plan and communicate that with all stakeholders. After the implementation the project team will review the conducted cohorts to identify strengths and weakness for plan enhancement and adjustment if needed.
4. Project closure: Achieving the overall goal of strengthen workforce development and capacity in Qatar to prevent, detect, and respond to outbreaks and other public health threats.

BENEFICIARIES

The target audience is frontline and mid-level professionals in various public health departments including surveillance, IPC, food safety and others.

REGIONS OF WORK

Eastern Mediterranean Region: Qatar



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Two tiers of field Epidemiology training program are going to be established in Qatar. Initially, TNA will be conducted that includes a joint TNA visit to Qatar to identify training needs, mapping out the potential residents, training sites, facilitators, and mentors. This will be followed by customization of PHEP-BFE/ IFETP curriculum to meet country needs and context. GHD representative will join the Qatar FETP Steering Committee's regular meetings to share progress on the assigned responsibilities and coordinate efforts with other partners.

A three-month in-service training for frontline health professionals will be launched. This training consists of almost 18 days in three workshops and 8-10 weeks of fieldwork divided over two periods. Through didactic and in-service training, participants learn, and practice fundamental skills used in 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.

A nine to twelvemonth in-service training for mid-level health officials at the MOPH state, and governorate levels). It aims to enhance epidemiologic skills, strengthen public health surveillance, investigate outbreaks, and address public health priorities. The program includes mentors' training, five didactic workshops with a total of 8 weeks, and 34 extensive fieldworks divided over 4 four periods, during which the participants will apply skills in surveillance, outbreak investigation, study design, and more. Trainees form a group on a survey of a health topic, analyze surveillance data, conduct field visits, and present their findings. Certified participants receive a graduation certificate.

Project Start and End Date	September 11, 2022, till April 2, 2025
Partner Organizations	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US-CDC), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Foundation
Funded by	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Foundation
Collaborators	Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) in Qatar

Currently . . .

Qatar has a population of approximately 2.6M, 88% (2.3M) of which are non-Qatari residents. The primary health burden of diseases is the risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which account for 69% of all deaths. Although communicable diseases add about 5% to the disease burden, the current COVID-19 pandemic revealed that the country is not immune to disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies. Furthermore, Qatar is expected to host more international and regional gatherings and events like the FIFA World Cup 2022, with hundreds of thousands of visitors raising the risk for infectious diseases and emergencies with public health consequences. This aligns with the 2016 Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report recommendation to establish a national FETP to fill the critical gap in field epidemiologists.

Establishing a Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) of utmost significance within the context of the complex health landscape in the region. 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.



What's next . . .

The expected outcomes are to improve the overall capacity of the public health system through:

- Effective evidence-based public health decisions
- Qualified workforce who are more reliable and competent to deal with adverse public health events in a timely manner.
- A pool of mentors and training material to ensure the sustainability for the training program.
- Enhancing data management role in monitoring the health of the community and for providing information for decision-making, among public health workers.
- Improvement of health information sharing and dissemination.
- Building the skills in managing public health emergencies.
- Increasing completion and accuracy of surveillance data reporting and analysis.
- A network of well-trained field epidemiologists and public health managers in the country
- Increasing graduates count towards the World Health Organization and Global Health Security goal of 1 epidemiologist per 200,000 population.

By the Numbers

23 PHEP graduates	50 PHEP-BFE Mentors will be integrated into the PHEP-BFE program.	67 PHEP- BFE Residents will be integrated into the PHEP- BFE covering 6 cohorts.	1 to 3 Rounds of PHEP- BFE / IFETP curriculum customization	1 PHEP-BFE customized online training Material
10 Trained mentors	20 Mentors will be integrated in the I- FETP	30 Intermediate FETP will be integrated into the I-FETP.		1 IFETP customized online training Material
				1 Developed LMS

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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