FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

JUNE 1 - AUGUST 31, 2023 - NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 16



In This Issue

- Editor's Letter
- Feature Stories
- Country Program News
- Other News



Editor's Letter

Dear Readers,

We are thrilled to share with you the latest issue of EMPHNET's Quarterly Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) Newsletter, which covers notable updates and achievements from FETPs in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and beyond.

This issue highlights the commitment and hard work of the region's FETP residents and graduates, as well as their valuable contributions to public health in their respective countries. It also features the graduation celebrated, the cohorts launched, as well as the comprehensive workshops undergone by various country programs. We also extend our heartfelt appreciation and wish all field epidemiologists a happy World Field Epidemiology Day!

As you explore the pages that follow, we trust that you will find not only valuable insights, but also a source of inspiration.

Feature Story

World Field Epidemiology Day (WFED): A Glimpse into the Lives of the Frontline Heroes

Each year, on September 7, we celebrate World Field Epidemiology Day (WFED) to recognize the pivotal work of field epidemiologists across the globe. These experts are at the frontlines of public health, investigating and managing outbreaks, guiding health policies, and promoting community well-being.

Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETP) have been a cornerstone in this arena, training professionals to respond effectively to public health crises. Whether confronting infectious diseases like Ebola or addressing environmental hazards, FETP residents and graduates are always on the ground, ensuring safety and health.

For this WFED, we spoke to four EMPHNET FETP Ambassadors to understand their experiences and insights. Here's what they had to say:

Dr. Mohammad Wasif Malek, Pakistan FETP

With more than 18 years of experience in public health service, Dr. Muhammad Wasif Malik provides insight into the life of a field epidemiologist. For Dr. Wasif, field epidemiology expands beyond tracking diseases rather it's about understanding interaction of humans within community, environment and animals. It's also about realizing that every community has its own unique challenges and understanding these complexities is key to developing effective prevention and control strategies. "Being a field epidemiologist, it is mandatory to dive deep into the community behaviors, understanding local dynamics, and bridging the gap between disease knowledge and community trust," he shared. All disease outbreaks come with their own complexities. Still, according to Dr. Wasif, sometimes it's the community's misconceptions or mistrust that pose bigger challenges than the diseases themselves. ***"It's the diversity of challenges that fuels my passion for the job,"*** he added.

His involvement in the FETP has been a cornerstone in Dr. Wasif's career, bolstering his confidence and enabling him to share his expertise. Through FETP, he is not only contributing for improving health conditions in



Pakistan, but he has also shared his experience and expertise with other countries. To conclude, Dr. Wasif emphasized on the growth and opportunities the FETP provided to him. "Field epidemiology is not just a job, but a platform to serve and impact global health positively. It is an invaluable tool for improving human lives."

With more than 18 years in public health service, Dr. Mohammad Wasif Malek provides insight into the life of a field epidemiologist. For Dr. Wasif, field epidemiology is much more than merely tracing diseases. It's about understanding human dynamics and the unique challenges every community presents.

"Being a field epidemiologist isn't just about the diseases. It's about diving deep into community behaviors, understanding local dynamics, and bridging the gap between disease knowledge and community trust," he shared. Disease outbreaks come with their own complexities. Still, according to Dr. Wasif, sometimes it's the community's misconceptions or mistrust that pose bigger challenges than the diseases themselves. "It's the diversity of challenges that fuels my passion for the job," he added.

His involvement in the FETP has been a cornerstone in Dr. Wasif's career.

Dr. Hala Bahaa, Egypt FETP

After hearing from Dr. Wasif on his experiences in Pakistan, we turned our attention to Egypt, where Dr. Hala Bahaa, our Ambassador, shared her perspective on the challenges of public health in another populous nation. Much like Dr. Wasif's experiences in Pakistan, Egypt presents its own set of unique public health challenges. Dr. Hala said: "With our dense and diverse population, the stakes are undeniably high." Dr. Hala is unwavering in her commitment to the health and well-being of every individual residing in Egypt. ***"My duty goes beyond just studying diseases. It encompasses creating meaningful interventions and ensuring they're implemented effectively,"*** she noted. The resilience shown in Dr. Hala's words mirrored that of Dr. Wasif's. "Public health



is the backbone of a thriving society. Despite the challenges, our mission remains steadfast: to foster a healthier environment for all." In conclusion, Dr. Hala said, "I'm grateful for the chance to put my skills to good use and improve health in Egypt. Every small change counts."

Dr. Zainab Abbas, Iraq FETP

Iraq's EMPHNET FETP Ambassador, Dr. Zainab Abbas, provided a glimpse into the dynamic and crucial role of a field epidemiologist. For her, the true essence of the role is defined by the urgency and significance of the tasks at hand. "When an outbreak is reported, there's no time to delay. I find myself right at the forefront, assessing the situation, investigating, and immediately crafting surveillance plans," Dr. Zainab explained. This rapid-response nature of her work highlights the importance of being prepared and adaptable in ever-evolving situations. But it's not just about swift action. For Dr. Zainab, the real reward lies in the larger impact of her efforts. ***"The core of my job is about safeguarding communities. It's about ensuring that families are shielded from disease outbreaks,"*** she said. Beyond this, her role involves educating communities, equipping them with knowledge about



various diseases and promoting awareness. Furthermore, she emphasized the diverse nature of her work. "There's a vast spectrum of tasks and scientific undertakings I engage in. It's never monotonous. Every day, there's something new, a challenge to tackle, and a community to support." In essence, Dr. Zainab paints a picture of a job that is not only scientifically rigorous but also deeply rooted in community service and protection.

Dr. Sofia Azrib, Morocco FETP

Dr. Sofia Azrib, a seasoned doctor hailing from Morocco, brings a unique perspective to the world of public health. With a Master's in Public Health and as an alumnus of the FETP, she carries a distinct blend of clinical experience and epidemiological expertise. Reflecting on her journey, Dr. Sofia said:

"Spending a decade in clinical medicine was enriching. Yet, the FETP was transformative. It didn't just expand my skillset; it broadened my perspective. I moved beyond merely treating patients to understanding the root causes of illnesses."



Highlighting the value of prevention, she continued, "It's not enough to just treat symptoms. It's vital to dive deep, understand why an illness occurred, and then take proactive measures to prevent it. This preventive approach has been eye-opening." However, her growth didn't stop at understanding illnesses. "Assessing how illnesses could spread, be it within families, workplaces, or the broader community, has been a game-changer. It's given me a more holistic view of health," Dr. Sofia shared. Today, she's a beacon of public health in Casablanca, channeling her energies into battling chronic diseases, with a particular emphasis on cancer prevention and management.

In her closing remarks, she shared a piece of advice for her clinical peers, "Dive into public health, explore field epidemiology. There's a broader landscape out there, and it empowers us to safeguard the well-being of our communities more effectively. It's been a fulfilling journey for me, and I believe others can benefit immensely from this fundamental shift."

In conclusion, many more field epidemiologists around the globe contribute significantly to the health of their communities. Their stories serve as an inspiration for all of us to appreciate the value of public health and the critical importance of field epidemiology in building a healthier world.





Country Program News

This section highlights the region's FETPs' updates

AFGHANISTAN

This quarter has witnessed the Afghanistan Field Epidemiology Training Program's (Afghanistan FETP) dedication to improving public health within the country by empowering future leaders and mentors, responding proactively to pressing challenges, and by initiating yet another new cohort.

Fostering the Residents' Leadership Skills

Early in the quarter, the Afghanistan FETP held a one-week workshop focused on leadership and management, serving as the final session for its third and fourth Intermediate cohorts. Throughout the workshop, the residents engaged in interactive discussions, and practical exercises that aimed to equip them with the necessary skills needed for their roles as future public health leaders and mentors.



Mentorship Workshop: Investing in Afghanistan FETP Mentors

In efforts made toward building the capacities of a pool of qualified mentors, the Afghanistan FETP also conducted a three-day mentorship workshop in collaboration with the Afghanistan National Public Health Institute (ANPHI), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) – Pakistan, and EMPHNET. This workshop was facilitated by Afghanistan FETP Technical Advisor, Dr . Khawaja Mir Islam Saeed; and by Pakistan FETP Deputy Coordinator and EMPHNET FETP Ambassador, Dr. Mohammad Wasif Malik. It aimed to increase the number of competent FETP mentors in the country, so that they can support future cohorts of the program.

At the end of the workshop, the participants received the certificate of "Certified FETP Mentors," recognizing their commitment to elevating public health standards in Afghanistan.



Flood Relief Efforts

Afghanistan FETP played a significant role in mitigating the effects of a catastrophic flood in the Wardak Province. The program's technical team and residents conducted assessments in the area of the flood in order to prepare a comprehensive report that includes well-informed recommendations to better prepare and respond to any future disaster. They also recommended starting the vaccination campaign for children under five in the affected area.



Fifth Intermediate Cohort Selection

In another achievement during the quarter, the Afghanistan FETP successfully concluded the selection process for its fifth Intermediate cohort. This process included different phases, starting with the screening period, where all applicants were assessed based on the program's operational guidelines. Following this phase, applicants had the opportunity to showcase their knowledge and skills through a written and practical exam. The final stage included interviews that offered a chance for candidates to express their motivations, goals, and experience.



BANGLADESH

The Bangladesh Field Epidemiology Training Program (Bangladesh FETP) has been actively committed to shaping dedicated and skilled public health professionals by conducting mentorship and leadership workshops, along with the initiation of a new Advanced cohort. In addition, the Bangladesh Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (Bangladesh FETPV) proudly marked an achievement for its residents.

Elevating Public Health Leaders

The Bangladesh FETP marked a milestone by organizing a two-week workshop focused on leadership and management skills for its first Intermediate cohort. One of the workshop's objectives was to foster the residents' understanding of the essential leadership concepts, and the roles that leaders and mentors often undertake. After this workshop, the residents not only acquired enhanced leadership and management skills, but they also expressed their renewed sense of commitment to their roles as future public health leaders.



Learning from an Expert!

The graduates of Bangladesh FETP had the privilege to attend a mentorship workshop led by a distinguished epidemiologist from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Alden Henderson. This workshop served as an invaluable opportunity for these graduates to absorb insights from Dr. Henderson's extensive years of experience in the field of epidemiology. The graduates were also encouraged to pose questions, seek advice, and share their own aspirations.



Tenth Advanced Cohort Selection Journey Begins

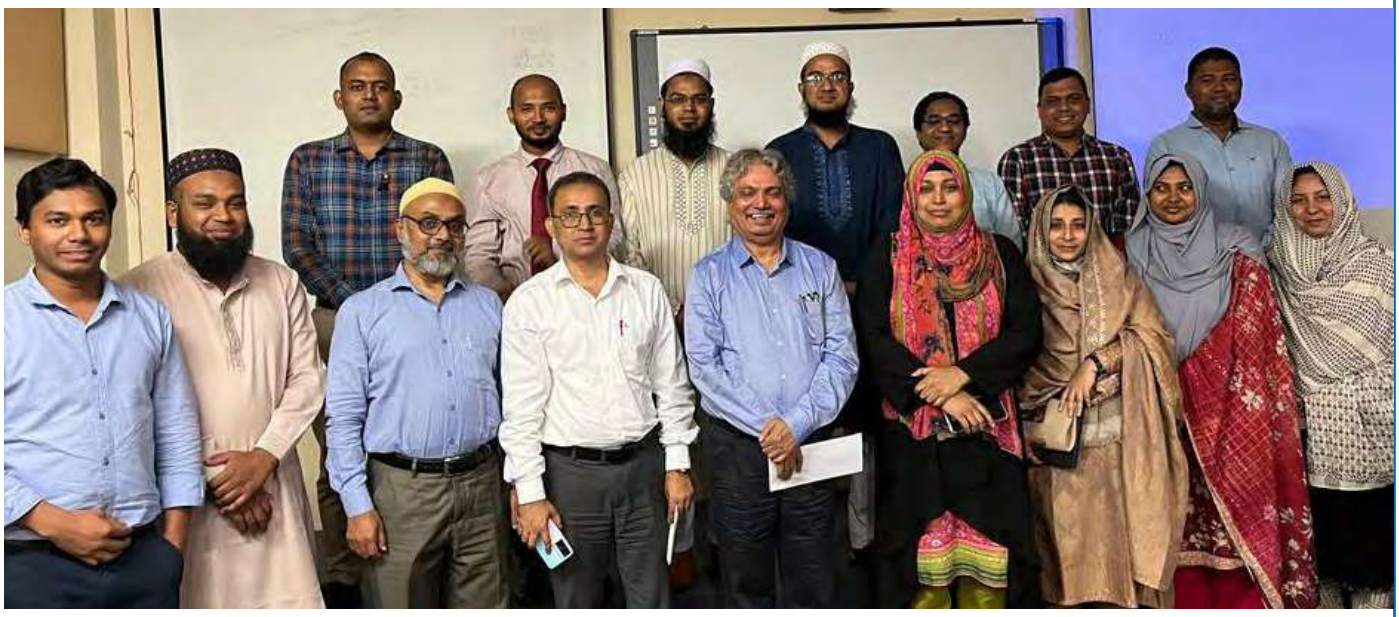
In this quarter, the selection process for the tenth Advanced cohort candidates was initiated by the Bangladesh FETP. Beginning with a written exam, candidates went through various stages, including a two-week screening program that involved practical fieldwork. This process aimed to identify capable residents prepared to address public health challenges in Bangladesh.



Success Story:

Bangladesh FETPV Graduates Completes Masters Defense Program

The first cohort of six dedicated graduates of Bangladesh FETPV have successfully completed their masters defense program at Chattagram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Bangladesh. This program combines rigorous coursework with hands-on research experiences to prepare students for careers in fields such as veterinary medicine, animal nutrition, and biotechnology, among others. Their determinant efforts led them to present and showcase their work to the evaluation committee of the master's program.





EGYPT

The Egypt Field Epidemiology Training Program (Egypt FETP) has been actively engaged in various initiatives aimed at promoting public health and epidemiological excellence. These initiatives include ensuring the well-being of pilgrims during the 2023 Hajj season, addressing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in the country, and fostering the expertise of its cohorts, as well as enhancing its curriculum and sustainability.

Ensuring a Safe Hajj Experience During the 2023 Season

Egypt's FETP graduates performed a major role in maintaining good health conditions for Egyptian pilgrims during the 2023 Hajj season. they were deployed to major Hajj sites in Saudi Arabia, and were responsible for various tasks to ensure the well-being of the pilgrims, such as identifying health risks, providing preventive health interventions, responding to health emergencies, and conducting health surveillance.



The program's residents also had a role in conducting a survey at the Cairo and Alexandria airports, under the supervision of the Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit at the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP). This survey aimed to estimate the prevalence of COVID-19 and seasonal influenza among Egyptian pilgrims returning from Hajj.



Overall, the efforts of the residents and graduates were important in preventing the spread of diseases effectively.

Second Intermediate Cohort Graduation Ceremony

After the successful completion of a one-year in-service training, nineteen residents of Egypt's FETP second Intermediate cohort graduated from the program. The ceremony was attended by notable figures, including the Assistant Minister for Preventive Medicine within Egypt's MoHP, Dr. Amr Kandeel; the Director General of the Epidemiology and Surveillance Department, Dr. Manal Labib; Egypt FETP Director, Dr. Sahar Samy; and representatives from EMPHNET, among others.



Dynamic Workshop Highlights Expertise of Egypt FETP's Sixth PHEP Cohort

The sixth Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) cohort of Egypt's FETP showcased their dedication and expertise during a dynamic three-day workshop where they presented their fieldwork reports, including a wide range of topics such as event-based surveillance, COVID-19, disease surveillance systems, among others. During the workshop, FETP mentors engaged in the evaluation and discussion of presentations alongside each resident, while facilitators encouraged the residents to provide feedback on their colleagues' presentations, which led to a meaningful and interactive discussion.



Enhancing FETP Curriculum and Sustainability: Collaborative Workshop

Aiming to review the FETP curriculum and sustainability plan, the Egypt FETP organized a three-day workshop that brought together diverse partners and stakeholders, including EMPHNET, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other affiliated organizations.



During the workshop, discussions focused on enhancing the curriculum's relevance to the specific needs of Egypt's MoHP, and on considering the mentors' selection criteria, mentor-mentee relationship, FETP graduates roles, and the Terms of References (ToR) of both steering and technical committees.

Assessing AMR KAP Among Hospital Patients

The Infection Control Program (ICP) of the Preventive Sector within the MoHP of Egypt, in collaboration with Egypt's FETP, initiated a study to assess the Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) regarding Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) among patients visiting hospitals in 17 governorates of Egypt. The patients were interviewed using a questionnaire developed by ICP, and the data was collected with Epi Info. This study will contribute to achieving the AMR strategy's goal in Egypt, which aims to promote the rational use of antibiotics and to protect public health by combatting AMR.



IRAQ

The Iraq Field Epidemiology Training Program (Iraq FETP) has demonstrated remarkable proactiveness by addressing outbreaks effectively, launching a new cohort, and celebrating the graduation of the One Health cohorts.

Comprehensive Assessment of Control Measures During CCHF Outbreak

In response to the significant increase in number of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) cases in Iraq, the Iraq FETP conducted a survey, aiming to evaluate the implementation of control measures for CCHF in health and veterinary institutions. The evaluation process was optimized through the use of an electronic questionnaire, developed with insights from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Control Department within the Public Health Directorate. The findings are anticipated to guide future strategies by providing a framework for improved disease management and prevention in both human and veterinary settings.



Accomplishments of the Third Intermediate Cohort

In this quarter, the third Intermediate cohort of the Iraq FETP attended a symposium on leadership and management. During this symposium, the residents presented their individual projects, whether in progress or completed. These projects are designed to enhance healthcare services or address specific challenges within their workplaces.

Subsequent to this, residents of this cohort sat through the last three-day workshop forming part of their one-year training. Over thirty-two residents, along with instructors and the coordinator, participated in this event. This workshop also featured group project presentations, evaluations, and comprehensive oral and written exams, marking a successful conclusion to their training journey.

Finally, The Iraq FETP celebrated the graduation of this cohort in July, 2023, in Baghdad. The event was held under the patronage of His Excellency, the Iraq Minister of Health, Dr. Saleh Mahdi Al-Hasnawi, and under the supervision of the Director General of the Department of Public Health, Dr. Riyad Abdel Amir Al-Halfi, who congratulated the graduates and awarded them their certificates. The ceremony was also attended by representatives of different organizations including the World Health Organization, The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, and EMPHNET, as well as a number of specialists from Iraq's Ministry of Health.



One Health Project Updates

In July, the two Iraq One Health Frontline FETP cohorts attended their second five-day workshop. During this workshop, the participants discussed several topics, including outbreak investigations, problem analysis, and the art of crafting impactful presentations. The sessions were also enriched with insightful case study discussions. In the last two days, each participant showcased their field projects, and they were briefed on the upcoming field assignment, where their responsibilities upon returning to their workplaces were assigned. The workshop also included pre and post tests to assess the knowledge of the residents and how they benefit from the training.



In the month after, Iraq FETP celebrated the graduation of these two cohorts, after conducting the third workshop, where the graduates presented their fieldwork, and obtained their certificates.

Launching New Cohort

The Iraq FETP recently commenced its fourth Intermediate cohort after holding a competitive exam for the candidates. This cohort comprises 27 participants from all the governorates in Iraq. They attended their first workshop that featured essential topics on basic epidemiology and surveillance systems, and outbreak Investigation, among others. This initiative marks a promising step towards enhancing public health expertise in the country.



ANNOUNCEMENT

We urgently call upon all stakeholders to unite to address the pressing issue of tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure of our children and families in Jordan.

As dedicated advocates for public health and the well-being of future generations, we recognize the impact of joint action. We implore your collective resources, expertise, and influence to combat this concerning challenge. To lend your support to this pivotal initiative.

Sign this petition

JORDAN

The Jordan Field Epidemiology Training Program's (Jordan FETP) residents have made critical public health efforts, particularly in response to a measles outbreak. They also sharpened their research skills, and participated in knowledge-sharing sessions and practical training.

Combatting Measles Outbreak Through Collaborative Investigation

Jordan's FETP residents participated in a measles outbreak investigation to address and respond to the increasing number of suspected measles cases in the northern region of the country. They collaborated with local healthcare facilities, laboratories, and authorities to collect data on reported cases, and their close contacts. The residents also reported the data to local health authorities and relevant stakeholders for coordinated response efforts.



They also were engaged in a briefing on Jordan's current measles outbreak situation, which was held in the ministry of health (MoH), and led by the head of the vaccination department in order to identify areas of concern and to enhance response and preparedness. The briefing ended by allocating teams to different spots to perform specific tasks.

Empowering the Residents in Abstract Writing

The Jordan FETP arranged a session for its residents to facilitate the process of drafting abstracts for the Eighth EMPHNET Regional Conference in order to maximize the acceptance of abstract submissions. the session aimed to provide FETP residents with fundamental guidelines for drafting comprehensive abstracts, refining their capacity to convey their research findings proficiently through these concise summaries.





Jordan's FETP Second-year Residents Journey

Commencing their second year training, Jordan's FETP residents gathered for a session led by the program's Director. Within this meeting, they received guidance on the expectations and responsibilities within the MoH's communicable and non-communicable directorates, where they will be assigned during the upcoming year.

During this training period, they attended their first scientific day, along with other senior residents, and they were introduced to different departments in both the communicable and non- communicable diseases directorates. They also had a discussion on their achievements and impressions from their training to date.

Subsequently, the residents fulfilled the task of presenting the weekly report on diarrheal cases and infectious diseases cases for the surveillance department. They also showed tables and figures that is related to the report, and discussed the reported cases.

In August, their engagement continued as they attended a practical session focused on utilizing the EMPHNET Electronic Library (EEL). they were introduced to the library and how it provides its users with access to different resources that will advance their research and practice.

Furthermore, their involvement extended to a workshop in Amman, where experts and mentors from the Ministry's Maternal and Child Health (MCH) directorate trained the participants on family planning tactics and contraceptive use. During the event, they were also engaged in interactive sessions and they shared best practices for addressing patients concerns.

In this comprehensive progression, Jordan's FETP residents demonstrated their commitment to learning, collaboration, and their role in public health surveillance and management.





LIBYA

With support from EMPHNET, the Libya Field Epidemiology Training Program (Libya FETP) was launched in July. With aims to build a stronger public health workforce by equipping the residents with the skills, knowledge, and strategies necessary to address emerging health challenges in the country, the Libya FETP commenced two Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) cohorts and held its first mentorship workshop.

Libya FETP Begins its Two Public Health Empowerment Program Cohorts

The first PHEP cohort within Libya FETP was launched in July, marked by a comprehensive three-day mentorship workshop. This cohort will undergo a three-month in-service training, with a focus on disease surveillance, outbreak investigations, and strategies for public health response.

Furthermore, Libya FETP recently commenced the second cohort of its PHEP, with the support of EMPHNET, and the World Health Organization – Libya Office. This highlighted the program's dedication to advancing public health expertise.





OMAN

Oman FETP Milestone: Launching Second PHEP Cohort and Celebrating Graduation

In this quarter, the Oman Field Epidemiology Training Program (Oman FETP) marked the inauguration of its second cohort of the Public Health Empowerment Program – Basic Field Epidemiology (PHEP-BFE), and the completion of this program in August, with a graduation ceremony for the cohort. This cohort comprises 24 graduates, all of whom had completed their three-month training.

The graduation ceremony saw different speeches from the Oman Ministry of Health Director General of Disease Control and Surveillance, Dr. Amal Maani; the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Middle East and North Africa Regional Director; Dr. Heather Burke. EMPHNET's Workforce Capacity Team Leader, Dr. Haitham Bashier, also gave remarks during the ceremony, where he highlighted EMPHNET's role in supporting FETPs in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.





PAKISTAN

In this quarter, Pakistan's Field Epidemiology Training Program (Pakistan FETP) celebrated remarkable achievements, in addition to equipping residents with the skills needed for effective disease surveillance and public health impact.

Success Stories:

Pakistan FETP Role in Advancing Public Health Research

A notable abstract titled ***"COVID-19 Breakthrough Infections in Vaccinated Health Care Workers in Tertiary Care Hospital Islamabad, Pakistan: A Retrospective Cohort Study"*** was submitted by the Pakistan FETP and was accepted as a poster presentation in the American Society for Microbiology Conference, which was held in Houston.



In addition, a Pakistan FETP graduate, Dr. Nadia Noreen composed a manuscript that was published in the Preventing Chronic Diseases journal, which is sponsored by the Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC). The title of the manuscript is "Determinants of Adherence to Antihypertension Medications Among Patients at a Tertiary Care Hospital in Islamabad, Pakistan, 2019."

These milestones demonstrated the far-reaching influence of Pakistan's FETP graduates in advancing public health research and practice.

Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response Workshops

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) – Islamabad, in collaboration with UK-Health Security Agency (UKHSA), and other provincial and regional Health Departments, held a three-day training workshop, aiming to finalize the "Training Manual for Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR)." This manual will help in conducting standardized training across the country on IDSR, and will improve the surveillance and response of the infectious diseases in Pakistan. It will also provide detailed guidance on how to identify, report, and investigate potential public health threats. During the workshop, the participants provided valuable feedback on the training manual, and their insights were taken into consideration and will be added in the final version of the manual.

In a parallel initiative, the NIH, in collaboration with the Health Department of Sindh, and UKHSA organized a four-day review meeting for



the 30 districts in Sindh. The aim of this meeting was to review and assess the progress made in implementing the IDSR framework, and to highlight its strengths and weaknesses, as well as future plans for improvement.

These initiatives pave the way for a more resilient and responsive healthcare system in Pakistan, capable of protecting the well-being of its population in the face of infectious diseases and other health threat.

Setting the Stage for Success: Pakistan FETP Initiates Training for its Fifteenth Frontline Cohort

In collaboration with the NIH, the CDC, and the United States Agency for International Development's JSI Research and Training Institute, Pakistan FETP initiated the training phase for its fifteenth Frontline cohort in Sindh. Throughout this period, the residents engaged in fieldwork and received comprehensive instruction in various essential areas, including disease surveillance, risk assessment, data collection, and report writing.



This collaborative effort promises to empower these residents with the skills and knowledge needed to make a significant impact on disease surveillance and public health in Sindh, Pakistan.

Workshop on Public Health Intelligence for International Health Regulations Reporting

The CDC, NIH, and the World Health Organization, jointly conducted a training on "Public Health Intelligence for International Health Regulations Reporting." This workshop was attended by 25 participants from all provinces of Pakistan. The training offered them a unique opportunity to acquire essential skills for collaborative identification, assessment, and real-time sharing of information concerning outbreak events. It also included practical sessions, ensuring that the participants gain proficiency in utilizing the necessary tools for early detection of public health threats.





QATAR

Residents Embarks on their One-Year Training

The first cohort of the Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP- BFE) of Qatar's Field Epidemiology Training Program (Qatar FETP) commenced their field work, as part of their three month in-service training. The cohort, consisting of 23 residents, worked on collecting surveillance data, actively contributing to the enhancement and enrichment of their weekly surveillance reports. This hands-on involvement in data collection and analysis allowed them to apply the knowledge and skills they have acquired throughout their training.

The residents' enthusiasm for public health extends beyond fieldwork. In this quarter, they successfully completed their second and third workshops. In June, the second workshop focused on equipping them with the technical and practical skills necessary to conduct outbreak investigations effectively.

Moreover, in August, during their third workshop, the cohort had the opportunity to discuss and present the outcomes of their fieldwork. This milestone highlights their growing proficiency in public health and epidemiology.





YEMEN

Expanding Expertise: Yemen FETP Launches its Second Intermediate

The Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program (Yemen FETP) marked a significant milestone with the launch of its second Intermediate cohort in Sana'a. This event took place in the Disease Control and Surveillance General Directorate, bringing together a group of 25 dedicated residents who were selected after a one-week screening course.

The inauguration of this cohort was followed by a two-day mentorship workshop, involving nine distinguished graduates of the program who will take on the role of mentors for this Intermediate cohort residents.





Other News

This section covers regional news and success stories



OTHER NEWS

CDC Delegation Meets with Jordan's Ministry of Health and FETP Leadership

A delegation from US CDC visited the Jordanian Ministry of Health (MoH), where they met with the Primary Health Care Administration Director, Dr. Riyad Al-Shayyab, Jordan's FETP Director, Dr. Majed Asad, as well the program's residents. During the meeting, a presentation was given by the Jordan FETP Technical Advisor, Dr. Mohammad Abu Khudair, on the program's role and accomplishments.



EMPHNET Holds One Health Mentorship Workshop

EMPHNET hosted a pivotal One Health mentorship workshop in Amman, Jordan. Focused on the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health, the workshop aimed to bolster the skills of FETP Master Mentors across diverse health sectors. The training utilized a tailored version of the Centers of Disease Control and Surveillance's FETP One Health materials, seamlessly blending established methodologies with new insights. An innovative approach was employed, emphasizing the teach-back method which enhanced participant engagement and collaboration. The comprehensive curriculum covered topics from regional One Health initiatives to outbreak investigations and fieldwork deliverables. This endeavor by EMPHNET stands as a significant step forward, signaling a renewed era of One Health leadership in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.



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.

Shmeisani, Abdallah Ben Abbas Street, Building No 42,
P.O.Box: 963709, Postal Code: 11196 Amman, Jordan

Tel: +962-6-5519962
Fax: +962-6-5519963

www.emphnet.net
info@emphnet.net