

EMPHNET NEWS

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

It is my pleasure to present to you EMPHNET's 24th quarterly newsletter reflecting high involvement and collaboration with our member countries and partners.

EMPHNET was very active this past quarter with many activities achieved through strong collaboration with the countries. There was a high level of effort rendered by countries especially in supporting the polio and routine immunization project. In addition, our Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs) were actively involved in outbreak investigations, health planning meetings, conducting surveys, recruiting new mentors and residents and much more. We value the input of the programs and consider their achievements as an indication of their success.

When I look at the content of our newsletter, I feel proud of what we have accomplished each quarter. Each newsletter is unique, so I try to pick one achievement that is of the utmost importance. In looking at this issue, I consider signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) as a major achievement that will hopefully allow us to nurture our work and provision of services. We look forward to ensuring the translation of this MOU into appropriate relevant actions.

As we present this newsletter, we continue to prepare for our Fifth Regional Conference, which will be conducted December 6-8, 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco. We received 303 abstracts from 20 countries focusing on a wide range of topics. Out of those 303 abstracts, 144 were accepted from 15 countries. We expect 111 of these abstracts to be presented orally and another 33 as posters. Additionally, we look forward to having keynote and scientific addresses, panel discussions, roundtable meetings, and pre-conference workshops. Roundtable sessions will tackle issues related to networking, rapid response, leadership and management, global health security, biorisk management, and poliomyelitis. Pre-conference workshops will highlight concepts in the FETP pyramid line, biosafety and biosecurity, routine immunization, and innovative surveillance.

I am also pleased to announce that we will be launching our Fifth Regional Conference jointly with the Moroccan Ministry of Health and the Mediterranean Program for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET). We are working closely with MediPIET to conduct a joint roundtable that will follow the opening session. This roundtable will allow us to explore solutions for addressing major challenges that are facing the networks in the region, as well as identify ways to network synergies for advancing health protection and global health development.

In the meantime, we continue working in collaboration with the Moroccan Ministry of Health to assure that participants are offered an excellent venue and experience. Thus, I would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude and respect to the Morocco Ministry of Health team, led by Prof. Abderrahmane Maaroufi, for the great support offered to EMPHNET. We look forward to a successful event that we pledge to deliver with diligence, commitment and enthusiasm.

FETP News

Iraq

Iraq FETP, Resafa Health Directorate in Baghdad Implement Vaccination Coverage Survey

July 2016|Baghdad, Iraq—With support from EMPHNET, twenty teams from the Iraq Field Epidemiology Training Program (I-FETP) and the Resafa Health Directorate in Baghdad implemented a survey to sample vaccination coverage in the district. Extending over six days, data collection was performed using computer tablets an e-questionnaire, developed by the I-FETP and reviewed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and EMPHNET. The sample studied was a proportionate cluster sample. Results of the survey were presented at the EPI workshops which were conducted in Iraq by EMPHNET and were attended by WHO and UNICEF representatives.



Iraq FETP Participates in Ministry of Health and WHO Meeting

July 2016|Amman, Jordan—The Iraq Field Epidemiology Training Program (I-FETP) participated in a three-day meeting conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) with a number of the region's ministries of health. Sponsored by EMPHNET, the meeting was part of an initiative to identify the needs and challenges of the Expanded Programs on Immunization in the region.

Residents Conduct Outbreak Investigations

July-September 2016|Iraq—Residents of the 6th cohort of the Iraq Field Epidemiology Training Program (I-FETP) conducted six outbreak investigations.

These investigations were the following: Gastroenteritis Outbreak in Jadida District, Baghdad Province; Waterborne Disease Outbreak in Warkaa District, Muthana Province; Chlorine Poisoning Outbreak in Janibat Village, Diyala Province; A Cluster of Two Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) Cases in Sader City, Baghdad Province; A Hot AFP Case in Sha'ab District, Baghdad Province; and Rabies Cases in Baghdad City, Baghdad Province.



Iraq FETP Graduates Commence Online Training

August-September 2016|Iraq—Through a collaboration between the Iraqi MoH and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), twenty Iraq Field Epidemiology Training Program (I-FETP) graduates started an online training in advanced epidemiology and biosafety and biosecurity. This online course extended over a period of 12 weeks. The instructional component of the course will be followed by a practical session.

More News:

- Projects and mentors were assigned to the nine residents of the I-FETP 6th cohort. The projects cover areas of communicable and non-communicable diseases and injuries.
- The Iraq FETP Resident Advisor Dr. Faris Lami participated in the national multi-sectoral committee for the preparedness to the possible cholera outbreak.

Pakistan

Pakistan FELTP Holds Consultative Meeting to Establish FETP Front Line

August 2016|Pakistan—Pakistan's Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) plans to establish an FETP frontline in the country in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) country office. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Pakistan Army, National Institute of Health, the CDC, the Central Health Establishment, the Provinces, the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Outcomes of the meeting included updating respective health secretaries and director generals about the FETP frontline and developing a work plan specific to each province and health department.



Pakistan FELTP Holds Meeting

August 2016|Georgia, USA—The Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FETLP) held its annual planning meeting at the Division of Global Health Protection (DGHP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. The meeting was attended by the Executive Director of National Institute of Health (NIH) Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, National EOC Coordinator for Polio Dr. M. Rana Safdar, International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) Focal Person from NIH Dr. M. Salman, Country Director Pakistan for Public Health England Dr. Anne Wilson, Country Director Pakistan from CDC Dr. Gregory Raczniak along with 10 members from FELTP Pakistan. The objective of the meeting was to discuss matters pertaining to the FELTP and the National Stop Transmission of Polio (NSTOP) Initiative.



Fellows Investigate Foodborne Diseases Outbreak

September 2016|Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan—Five Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) fellows assigned at the Provincial Disease Surveillance and Response Unit (PDSRU) at the District Government Health Office in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa responded to an outbreak of suspected food poisoning in a college in Swabi, Province Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Cases were first reported within few hours of a dinner served at the college, and the initial analysis suggested that chicken *biryani*, a traditional Pakistani dish, had the strongest association with the outbreak. Following this study, control measures were implemented in the affected institution.

Yemen

Y-FETP Residents Commence Second Assignment

July 2016|Yemen—Residents of the third cohort of the Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program (Y-FETP) started their second assignment where they have been placed at key central programs of the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP). To ensure that the placement runs properly, a one-day workshop was conducted for the mentors and directors where the objectives and importance of this program placement were discussed. A presentation was delivered about the roles and responsibilities of the mentors and residents. The Y-FETP technical staff will conduct monthly visits to the programs to meet with residents and mentors, along with receiving weekly feedback from the mentors.



Y-FETP Participates in National Health Meetings

July-August 2016|Yemen—The Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program (Y-FETP) technical team participated in the Health Cluster meeting headed by the Minister of Health to discuss the report on “Yemen: Losing Ground in a Time of Crisis” developed by Dr. Ali H. Mokdad of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington and presented by Dr. Aisha Juman. The report concluded that the 2015 war and the subsequent siege of Yemen have led to the destruction of the already weak infrastructure and gravely impacted the health situation of Yemeni children and women of childbearing age. The meeting was attended by key ministry staff and representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO), and Médecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), and International Medical Corps.



The Y-FETP Director Dr. Abdul-Hakeem Kohlani and the program’s Technical Advisor Dr. Abdel Wahed Serouri participated in the bi-annual coordinators meeting for the Network Surveillance of Bacterial meningitis, S. Pneumonia and Rota virus in Sana’a. Dr. Serouri was asked to deliver a presentation on "Introduction to Health Research". Dr. Serouri together with Dr. Aisha Joman also chaired the first scientific session where seven research papers were presented. The TA commented on the methodological aspects and advice on future improvements of these research/presentations.

Residents Conduct Outbreak Investigations

July-September 2016|Yemen—During this quarter, six outbreaks investigation were conducted by the Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program (Y-FETP): two Dengue outbreaks, two diarrhea outbreaks, one scabies outbreak, and one Leishmania outbreak. While in the field, residents and graduates took the primary actions that helped rapidly contain the outbreaks. They also met with relevant stakeholders where the preliminary findings were shared and recommendations were given on how to prevent further spread and recurrence of these outbreaks. The findings were shared with officials at the governorate and central levels.



EMPHNET Feature

EMPHNET Supports Brucellosis Surveillance, Diagnosis and Control in Jordan

Brucellosis is a zoonotic disease that can be spread between animals and humans. Endemic to Jordan, brucellosis is of particular concern in the northern Jordanian governorate of Mafraq. The governorate covers a wide geographical area that has high animal population density and is therefore known for its large production of animal products. The Jordanian Ministry of Health (MoH) has reported an increase in the number of reported human cases of brucellosis in recent years, and this has been attributed to low vaccination coverage for animals in the governorate and inadequate knowledge of the disease's modes of transmission in both the human and animal population.

To help address the high rates of brucellosis in Mafraq, EMPHNET collaborated with the Jordanian MoH and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) to conduct a series of workshops in July and August 2016. These workshops formed part of a project supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to strengthen brucellosis surveillance, diagnosis, and control in Mafraq.

The first workshop in the series was designed to train clinicians working at MoH Comprehensive Health Centers (CHC) in Mafraq. The clinicians were updated on the epidemiology of human brucellosis in Jordan, especially within Mafraq. They were also trained in topics related to case definition of the disease according to the MoH surveillance guide; the MoH investigation form for reporting cases to the surveillance unit at the MoH; diagnosis and treatment of human brucellosis; the role of clinicians in samples collection; and referral of patients from the CHCs to the Mafraq Central Laboratory.



In the second workshop, laboratory technicians from Mafraq's CHCs received training in the principles of serological tests and laboratory tests used for diagnosis of brucellosis.

While the first two workshops focused on human brucellosis, the third focused on cases of brucellosis in animals. Participants included veterinarians and para-veterinarians from the Agricultural Directorate in Mafraq. They received training in brucellosis case definition, the epidemiology of brucellosis in animals, field and laboratory diagnosis using the Rose Bengal test, as well as sample collection, preservation and proper transportation of the samples to the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL).

The fourth workshop was designed to help strengthen collaboration between the human and animal health sectors in the detection, diagnosis and reporting of brucellosis cases. Clinicians, laboratory technicians, and veterinarians working at Mafraq's Health Directorate and the governorate's Agricultural Directorate participated in this workshop.

These four workshops were followed by two more advanced training sessions focusing on the laboratory techniques used to diagnose brucellosis, namely the Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) and the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) techniques. Participants in these workshops were laboratory technicians from the Mafraq Central Laboratory, the Central Veterinary Laboratory, and the Mafraq Veterinary Laboratory. Following these two workshops, ELISA was newly introduced for the first time to Public Health Laboratory (PHL) in Mafraq by EMPHNET, and PCR for the first time to CPHL and to CVL in Amman.

EMPHNET will provide the MoA and MoH with Rose Bengal kits, ELISA kits, PCR reagents— all of which are usable for one year. EMPHNET has a vision to expand the project to include more than one governorate and to introduce more sophisticated tests to CPHL and CVL such as the Multiple Locus Variable Number of Tandem Repeats Analysis (MLVA) for genotyping, and will it also provide the veterinary clinics with fluorescence polarization assay (FPA) for purposes of performance enhancement.

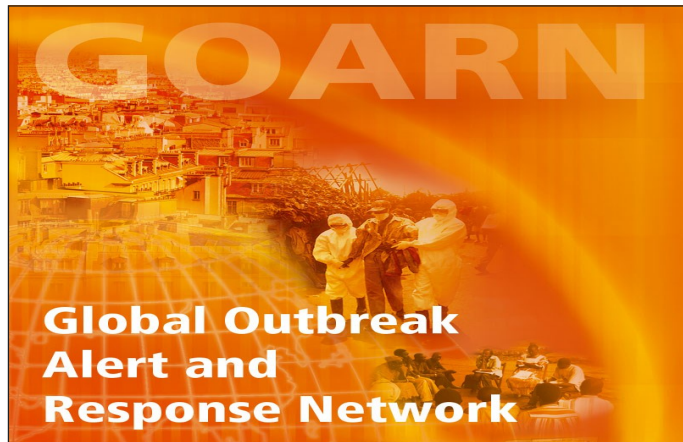
EMPHNET News

Emergency Response

EMPHNET Participates in 19th Steering Committee Meeting of GOARN

June 2016|Geneva, Switzerland—EMPHNET participated in the 19th Steering Committee (SCOM) Meeting of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) where EMPHNET's representative outlined the organization's activities in rapid response and field epidemiology and explored opportunities for the exchange of expertise with other GOARN members. At the meeting, the representative also contributed ideas to GOARN's new work plan and discussed EMPHNET's plans to assist in the Committee's activities in the future, particularly in capacity building.

The SCOM of GOARN - a worldwide partnership of institutions working to ensure global health security - comprises a representative selection of network members. The Committee's functions are to monitor GOARN's activities, approve its new members, and provide advocacy for the network. The committee's members rotate every three years, and their meetings take place biannually.



As a member of GOARN since 2013, EMPHNET was selected as a member of the Committee in the same year, and EMPHNET's representatives have attended SCOM's regular meetings ever since.

EMPHNET and Jordan Ministry of Health Conduct Workshops on Public Emergency Management

July 2016|Amman, Jordan— EMPHNET conducted two workshops on public health emergency management to train the national public health workforce in the skills needed to prepare for epidemics and other health-related emergencies. These workshops were implemented in collaboration with the Jordanian Ministry of Health (MoH) and with support from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



Participants in the first workshop were public health emergency focal persons representing MoH health directorates throughout the Kingdom who were trained in crisis and emergency management, and MoH Emergency Operations Center functions. Participants also took part in discussions relevant to risk assessment, multi-agency coordination, and the functions of rapid response teams.

In the second workshop, participants were focal persons representing public hospitals. The sessions covered emergency-related topics, including management systems in Jordan, intra-hospital emergencies, hospital safety assessments, and hospital emergency plans.

For both workshops, representatives of the MoH, the National Center for Security Crisis Management, the Jordanian Armed Forces, and EMPHNET facilitated the training sessions.

EMPHNET Facilitates Mass Gathering Sessions in MediPIET Module 4 Training



July 2016|Amman, Jordan—For the second year in a row, EMPHNET facilitated sessions on mass gatherings during the Humanitarian Crisis and Mass Gatherings training module implemented by the Mediterranean Program for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET). Forming part of MediPIET’s two-year program, the module is designed to train participants in ways to deal with complex emergencies which result from man-made crises or natural disasters that can jeopardize the health of entire communities.

While facilitating the module’s sessions, EMPHNET’s team members highlighted the concepts of strategic risk assessment and how it can be used a tool that can thoroughly examine potential threats in different mass gatherings. In one of the sessions where the different types of surveillance systems and efficient response mechanisms have been discussed, EMPHNET’s facilitators introduced the concept of “epidemic intelligence” as a process that provides early detection of potential health threats. To create interaction, facilitators also presented participants with an exercise on risk assessment as well as preparedness and response measures.

EMPHNET Conducts Regional Workshop on Rapid Response to Public Health Emergencies

August 2016|Amman, Jordan— With support from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), EMPHNET implemented a workshop on rapid response to public health emergencies. The workshop’s participants were public health professionals from Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. The workshop served to improve the participants’ preparedness and response to various health emergencies that could afflict the region.



The workshop’s sessions were facilitated by members of the EMPHNET team, the Jordanian Ministry of Health (MoH), and the National Centre for Security and Crisis Management.

Health Security

Jordan MoH and EMPHNET Launch National Biorisk Management Guidelines

August 3, 2016| Amman, Jordan—EMPHNET and the Jordanian Ministry of Health (MoH) officially launched the National Biorisk Management Guidelines as a framework for biosafety and biosecurity measures that can be implemented in laboratories throughout Jordan. Created by EMPHNET and the Laboratory Directorate of the MoH, the guidelines serve to reduce the risks of health hazards associated with laboratory work in all concerned sectors including human and animal health, agriculture, scientific research, and the biochemical industry.

By relying on similar guidelines created by the World Health Organization (WHO) and other entities, experts from various ministries and other governmental and civil society organizations worked to design the guidelines with EMPHNET providing financial and technical support along the way.

The guidelines consist of requirements for a proper biorisk management system, including requirements related to policies, risk assessment and control, waste management, personal protective equipment, and other requirements that apply to contractors, visitors, and suppliers. The guidelines also provide sections for emergency response, corrective action, and accident investigation.



The development of the guidelines was funded by a mini-grant offered through a collaborative project by EMPHNET and the Biosecurity Engagement Program of the U.S. Department of State. The MoH's proposal for the guidelines met the grant's scopes of work related to biorisk management, thus receiving the fund for National Biorisk Management Guidelines.

EMPHNET Conducts Workshop for Laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity in Afghanistan

September 2016| Amman, Jordan—With support from the Biosafety Engagement Program (BEP), EMPHNET conducted a five-day workshop titled “Resources and Application of Laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity in Afghanistan Health System.” Designed for professionals working in human and animal health laboratories from Kabul and other major provinces in Afghanistan, its sessions covered critical aspects of biosafety, biosecurity, and biocontainment. Seventeen lab specialists from the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), and the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) in Afghanistan participat-



An assistant professor of the Veterinary Epidemiology Para-clinic Department from the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Kabul University joined the EMPHNET team in facilitating the workshop's sessions. These sessions aimed to provide participants with the tools necessary for strengthening institutional biosafety and biosecurity program according to recognized international standards.

Partnerships

EMPHNET Signs MoU with SESRIC

August 2016|Amman, Jordan—EMPHNET signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC).

As a component of the MoU, EMPHNET and SESRIC will cooperate in different public health services specific to member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Specifically, both organizations will cooperate in improving communication among OIC member countries in areas related to public health; exchanging technical expertise for the purpose of research, training, and consultation; and strengthening public health leadership and management among OIC member countries.



On behalf of SESRIC, the MoU was signed by Director General Ambassador Musa Kulaklıkaya. On behalf of EMPHNET, the MoU was signed by Executive Director Dr. Mohannad Al-Nsour.

Polio and Routine Immunization

EMPHNET Supports EPI Meetings in Yemen

July 2016|Yemen—EMPHNET supported two mid-year meetings for health leaders working for the primary health care division and the expanded program on immunization (EPI) at the Yemeni Ministry of Public Health and Population. Also in attendance were representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF).



At both meetings, participants discussed implementation of EPI in Yemen. Specific issues discussed included immunization achievements for the first half of 2016, with a specific focus on the performance of health facilities in different governorates. The agendas also included items related immunization activities, namely operating expenses, planned workshops, information systems, and security of vaccine supplies.

Registration is now open for the Fifth EMPHNET Regional Conference. You can register online at <http://conferences.emphnet.net/>.

EMPHNET Supports EPI Workshops in Yemen

July 2016|Yemen—EMPHNET supported three workshops for Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) supervisors in Yemen designed to enhance the management skills of supervisors in EPI. Supported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), these workshops targeted supervisors from eighteen Yemeni districts.



These supervisors were trained on five of the Global Mid-Level Management (MLM) modules for immunization, the WHO resource which provides immunization managers with up-to-date knowledge and management principles. The modules cover topics on planning an immunization system, monitoring and evaluating the system, and conducting supportive supervision. Other modules focus on vaccine storage, proper injection, waste disposal, disease surveillance and other technical issues.

Facilitated by experts from the WHO and EPI personnel from the Yemen Ministry of Public Health and Population, the sessions consisted of an introduction by the facilitators for each module chapter, followed by individual self-reading sessions and group discussions.

EMPHNET and Egypt MoHP Conduct Workshop on EPI in Egypt

July 2016|Alexandria, Egypt—EMPHNET collaborated with the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) in conducting a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop for mid-level managers of the expanded program on immunization (EPI) in Egypt.

Supported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the workshop's objective was to enhance the managers' knowledge and skills in EPI in order to better train staff members assigned in the country's provinces.



Participants were updated on the roles and responsibilities of EPI management teams and supervisors, the monitoring and evaluation of EPI performance, data quality assessment, and other EPI-related topics. In other sessions, participants were trained in ways to achieve effective vaccine management through vaccine forecasting; vaccine storage, distribution and transport; and the maintenance of vaccine safety and security. Discussions were specific to the EPI context in Egypt and the high prevalence of vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) such as measles and rubella.

Experts from the WHO Regional Office (WHO EMRO), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the WHO country office in Egypt, EMPHNET, and the EPI at the Ministry of Health in Egypt facilitated the workshop sessions.

EMPHNET Conducts Workshops on EPI Microplanning in Iraq

August 2016| Iraq— With support from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), EMPHNET implemented a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop in Iraq for provincial-level managers of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI).

The workshop aimed to enhance the country's universal vaccination coverage by preparing trainers who can assist EPI focal persons working at the district level in developing updated micro-plans. Participants in the workshop were trained on course material based on modules developed by the World Health Organization (WHO). Representatives of the Iraqi Ministry of Health, EMPHNET, the WHO, and UNICEF facilitated the sessions.



Participants were updated on issues specific to EPI microplanning such as the compiling, analyzing, mapping, and monitoring of data. Other discussions covered the planning process of EPI such as comprehensive multi-year strategic plans (cMYPs) and annual plans; and improving and maintaining immunization coverage. Additionally, the workshop's program included topics such as EPI Coverage, adverse events following immunization (AEFI) surveillance, supportive supervision, and community mobilization.



By the end of the training, twenty-six trainers were prepared to support EPI services in Iraq. Upon their completion of the ToT workshop, those EPI managers helped facilitate four workshops on microplanning for EPI staff deployed across a variety of districts in the northern, central, mid-Euphrates, and southern parts of Iraq.

Applied Epidemiology

EMPHNET Participates in TEPHINET Program Directors' Meeting 2016

June 2016|Madrid, Spain—EMPHNET participated in the Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Intervention Network's (TEPHINET) Program Directors' Meeting, joining representatives of regional FETP networks in Africa, South East Asia, and South America, TEPHINET's Advisory Board Members, the organization's secretariat, and directors of FETPs from around the world. Other participants included representatives from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the European CDC, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the WHO-EMRO.



During the meeting, Dr. Mohannad Al-Nsour, Executive Director of EMPHNET, moderated a session on TEPHINET's accreditation standards and the role of TEPHINET in assisting the programs in quality improvement in order to enable them to meet the accreditation requirements. The session was followed by a group discussion in which FETP directors gave feedback to the presenters about what they need to increase quality to fully achieve accreditation.

As an outcome of the meeting, EMPHNET will now assist the Eastern Mediterranean Region's FETPs in the accreditation process, specifically in helping programs prepare the self-assessment form and the accreditation application.

EMPHNET Conducts Workshop on Advanced Epi Methods and Epi Info Software for Iraq FETP

July-August 2016|Amman, Jordan—EMPHNET conducted a two-week workshop on advanced epidemiology and the Epi Info software, a statistical epidemiology software developed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for research purposes. The workshop's objective was to train the residents' in research methods and analysis.



Sessions of the first week focused on epidemiological research methods, including the use of statistics, data management, sampling, and the development of an analysis plan. During the second week of the workshop, the participants used the Epi Info software to apply the research methods they learned. They were trained in data entry and collection, analyses, and presentation of data using maps and graphs. The workshop's final session focused on the use of the software on smartphones and tablets. For this session, the participants used data from their field projects.

The workshop participants were 13 FETP residents from Iraq and Yemen, and the facilitators were from the Iraq FETP, the Jordanian Ministry of Health (MoH), and EMPHNET.

EMPHNET and Iraq MoH Conduct Workshop to Support Mentors of I-FETP

August 2016|Iraq— With support from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), EMPHNET collaborated with the Iraq Ministry of Health (MoH) to conduct a workshop for mentors of the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills they need to better supervise the field work of the FETP residents.



Because residents of the program receive 75% of their learning through practical training in the field, this workshop serves to enhance the performance of FETP mentors in supervising residents in the field. To better support the residents, an FETP mentor must have the necessary technical knowledge and efficient supervisory skills.

Facilitators from EMPHNET and the Iraq FETP updated the participants on the roles and responsibilities of mentors; effective strategies for supervising and mentoring; effective time management skills; and the requirements of the FETP. The mentors were also provided with tools that can help them support and assess the residents' performance such as checklists, templates, and evaluation guidelines.

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