



Intermediate Field Epidemiology Training Program

OBJECTIVES

- Improve the skills of middle 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

BENEFICIARIES

Ministries of Health (MOH) public health workers, and surveillance officers responsible for public health functions and conducting planned investigations at the middle level of the health system in countries all over the EMR.

REGIONS OF WORK

The Intermediate Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) and South Asia Region (SAR); Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh,

PROJECT PHASES

- Workshop one which will cover the basic concepts of epidemiology, surveillance, field investigation and role of lab in outbreak investigations, how to comprehend and teach the use of secondary data, using Epi Info software. It will be followed by field work on analyzing surveillance data and writing surveillance report.
- Workshop two which will cover the key concepts of epidemiology and biostatistics, how to develop and design questionnaire on Epi Info and how to develop a research protocol as a group and use different softwares. It will be followed by a field work on Surveillance and Summary reports.
- Workshop three which will cover the key concept of risk communication and abstract writing, and followed by field work on collecting group project data, writing an abstract and writing summary reports.
- Workshop four which will cover key concepts about data analysis and different analytic software. It will be followed by the field work on surveillance and summary reports.
- Workshop five will be for presenting the projects and reporting.

Effective disease detection, investigation, control, and prevention require a well-trained public health workforce in the principles and practice of field epidemiology. Since 1980, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has worked with Ministries of Health throughout the world to establish and support Ministry-based Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs).

A three-tiered “pyramid” model of training addresses the need to improve the surveillance, epidemiology, response, and scientific communication skills of public health workers at each level of the health system. At each tier, the training focuses on improving the participants’ skills within the context of their current job responsibilities and expectations

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The program is a nine-month in-service training that addresses the skills needed by health officials at the middle level of the MOH (province, state and governorate) to improve epidemiologic capacity, to evaluate and strengthen public health surveillance systems, investigate and control outbreaks, and conduct field studies to address public health priority issues.

The program consists of mentors training, five didactic workshops with a total of 8 weeks, and about 32 weeks of fieldwork divided over four periods. Through didactic and in-service training, participants learn and practice fundamental skills used in surveillance interpretation and analysis, surveillance system evaluation, outbreak investigation, study design, planning and conducting a survey, data entry and analysis in Epi Info, public health communication and training and mentorship. 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.

The centerpiece of FETP-Intermediate is a survey of priority health topic planned and conducted by the trainees as a group. These projects include creating summary tables and charts of the surveillance data routinely collected at their work site; conducting monitoring, evaluation, and feedback visits at some of the reporting sites; performing a health problem analysis; and participating in a case or outbreak investigation.

Field projects are conducted with the support of trained mentors, who are in regular contact with participants to provide feedback and guidance for the successful completion of their projects. Participants give an oral presentation on their projects, sharing their findings with colleagues, staff, and Ministry of Health. Participants who successfully complete the program receive a Certificate of Graduation signed by the MOH, GHD|EMPHNET and/or other stakeholders.

Project Start and End Date	
Partner Organizations	Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), CDC foundation
Funded by	Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), CDC Foundation
Collaborators	Ministries of Health (MOH) at targeted countries in EMR and SAR

Currently . . .

EMR countries are affected by various types of disasters. Frequent wars, conflicts and instability affect almost all these countries, both directly and indirectly. In addition, the region also suffers from the impact of many natural disasters ranging from earthquakes, floods, droughts, storms, and others. Epidemics of different diseases; vaccine-preventable diseases, diarrheal diseases, hemorrhagic fevers, respiratory diseases, and other endemic diseases occur frequently, especially in countries with weak health systems and vulnerable communities. Intermediate-FETP contribute to meeting this need and assists in filling such a gap.

The intermediate FETP is targeted to train the middle level of public health professionals. They spend shorter time (almost 9 months) in the program than the advance FETP, and the number of residents enrolled around 15-20 while the advance is two years program and the number of residents enrolled is 8-10. This rapid outcome of trained fellows covers the robust detection of public health threats from the remote and ground level.

What is next . . .

The expected outcome after implementation of the intermediate FETP

- Increase capacity among staff to recognize and respond to public health problems in a timely and vigorous manner
- Increase completion and accuracy of surveillance data reporting and analysis
- Stronger culture of data-based decision making
- A network of well-trained field epidemiologists and public health managers in the country
- Graduates count towards the World Health Organization and Global Health Security goal of 1 epidemiologist per 200,000 population

135

Intermediate FETP
graduated

55 Afghanistan, 17 Egypt,
15 Morocco, 11 Sudan and
37 Tunisia

98

Mentors were trained

41 Afghanistan, 10 Egypt,
30 Tunisia, 11 Morocco, and
6 Sudan

By the Numbers

143

Current residents intermediate
47 Afghanistan, 32 Bangladesh,
21 Egypt, 29 Sudan and 14
Tunisia

78

Current Mentors

25 Afghanistan, 20 Bangladesh,
10 Egypt, 13 Sudan and, 10
Tunisia

77

residents will be
integrated into the
program in 20
Afghanistan, 37
Bangladesh, 20 Morocco

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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