Strengthening Communicable Diseases Surveillance and Response Capacities

Project Information

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

OBJECTIVES

- Train 42 frontline professionals through two cohorts to form multidisciplinary One Health epidemiology teams in the 14 governorates.
- Equip frontline health workers with essential competencies in disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, case reporting and basic data analysis.
- Establish the FETP as an ongoing, Ministry of Health-led program embedded within the national health workforce development strategy.
- Deliver training that reflects Palestine's national health priorities and local disease challenges while promoting a One Health, multisectoral approach.
- Develop a cadre of experienced field epidemiologists, supervisors and mentors who can support future FETP cohorts and public health response.

BENEFICIARIES

- 42 frontline public health professionals will be trained through two cohorts of 21 participants each. The intended multidisciplinary One Health teams will ideally include one medical doctor from the Ministry of Health, one veterinarian from the Ministry of Agriculture, and one environmental health inspector from the Ministry of Health's environmental health department or the Environment Quality Authority.
- Mentors: A pool of 10 experienced health professionals, such as senior epidemiologists and disease control officers, will be identified and trained to support each cohort during field-based learning.

REGIONS OF WORK

Palestine – Ministry of Health central level and 14 governorates; Gaza participation enabled through online modalities as needed.

PROJECT PHASES

1. Inception and program setup – Activate the existing National FETP Steering Committee and Technical Committee; finalize governance arrangements; customize the One Health curriculum and LMS materials; identify mentors; recruit and select 21 participants for Cohort 1; and finalize the detailed implementation plan.
2. Cohort 1 implementation – Launch Cohort 1 through LMS orientation, online self-paced learning, intensive training, field-based practice and mentorship. Participants will apply their learning in their workplaces through surveillance and outbreak-related field assignments.
3. Cohort 1 evaluation – Conduct pre- and post-training assessments, participant feedback surveys and stakeholder discussions; document lessons learned; and revise curriculum and implementation arrangements as needed.
4. Cohort 2 implementation – Launch a second cohort of 21 participants using the refined approach, expanding geographic and sectoral coverage and incorporating lessons from Cohort 1.
5. Consolidation and handover – Conduct a comprehensive review, support updates to relevant guidelines or SOPs, develop a sustainability plan for continuation of the basic FETP, integrate trained mentors and graduates into routine surveillance and response activities, and establish groundwork for a future Intermediate FETP.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project aims to strengthen Palestine's public health workforce and national capacity for detecting, investigating, and responding to public health threats through the implementation of a Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP). The program will provide applied, competency-based training to public health professionals, combining structured learning with practical, on-the-job experience and mentorship.

Through two FETP cohorts, participants will develop essential skills in surveillance, outbreak investigation, data analysis and interpretation, public health response, risk assessment, and evidence-based decision-making. The program will emphasize practical application within the Palestinian health system, enabling participants to address priority public health challenges while contributing to stronger and more sustainable epidemiological capacity at national and subnational levels.

Project Start and End Date	**July 5, 2026 to December 31, 2027**
Funded by	**Ministry of Health of Palestine**

Currently . . .

The Palestinian health system continues to face significant public health challenges, including the need to strengthen disease surveillance, outbreak detection and investigation, data analysis, and timely public health response. These challenges are further compounded by the need for stronger coordination and collaboration across human, animal, and environmental health sectors.

These factors highlight the need to strengthen the national public health workforce with trained frontline epidemiologists who can apply essential epidemiological skills within their routine work and contribute effectively to the detection, investigation, and response to public health threats.

GHD|EMPHNET, in collaboration with the Palestinian Ministry of Health, is planning to implement a customized Frontline Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) in Palestine. The program will adopt a One Health approach and will be delivered through two cohorts, reaching 42 frontline public health professionals from relevant sectors and governorates.

What is next . . .

The expected outcomes following the implementation of the Frontline FETP cohorts in Palestine are:

- Develop the capacity of frontline public health professionals from human, animal, and environmental health sectors to conduct disease surveillance, analyze and interpret public health data, investigate outbreaks, and contribute to timely public health response.
- Strengthen multidisciplinary and multisectoral collaboration by promoting the application of a One Health approach to surveillance, risk assessment, outbreak investigation, and public health response.
- Establish and strengthen a sustainable, Ministry of Health-led FETP structure that can be integrated into the national public health workforce development strategy and support the continued development of field epidemiology capacity in Palestine

By the Numbers

42 frontline professionals (21 participants per cohort) will be graduated from the Frontline FETP cohort in Palestine

10 mentors will be selected, trained and fully involved in the Frontline FETP cohort in Palestine

14 governorates represented

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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