



EMPHNET's Newsletter

**Special Edition: The Seventh EMPHNET
Regional Conference**

**Towards Public Health Resilience
in the Eastern Mediterranean Region:
Breaking Barriers**

November 2021

A Word from the Executive Director



The Seventh EMPHNET Regional Conference was the largest gathering for the Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETP) and the larger public health community from the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) since the start of the pandemic. With colleagues participating in person and online, the conference showed that together we can find ways to beat a pandemic, avert impending threats, and address existing problems.

FETPs from across the region presented studies, evaluated by expert panelists. Their presentations reflected their first-hand experiences responding to COVID-19, evaluations, and observations to improve surveillance systems, and aspects relevant to the health of those living in vulnerable communities- mothers, children, or people living with chronic yet preventable conditions. All these studies offered unique insight on the health needs of our region.

Notable figures from the global health community led roundtable discussions on emergency preparedness and response and other aspects for strengthening health systems resilience. The keynote speeches heard during the conference were also beyond impressive, filled with important lessons learned from the pandemic offering a blueprint for the way forward.

We look at the Conference as one of the steps in building resilience, together as a region and around the globe.

Mohannad Al Nsour, MD, MSc, PhD, FFPH
EMPHNET Executive Director

The Conference In Numbers

5 Days

6 Preconference Workshops

10 Roundtables

6 Keynote Speakers

101 Oral Presentations

12 Poster Presentations

256 Received Abstracts

25 Countries

44% Abstracts'

Acceptance Rate

240 Onsite Workshops Participants

450+ Virtual Workshop Participants

400 Opening Ceremony

Attendees

320 Conference Sessions Participants

500 Virtual Attendees

Conference Sessions

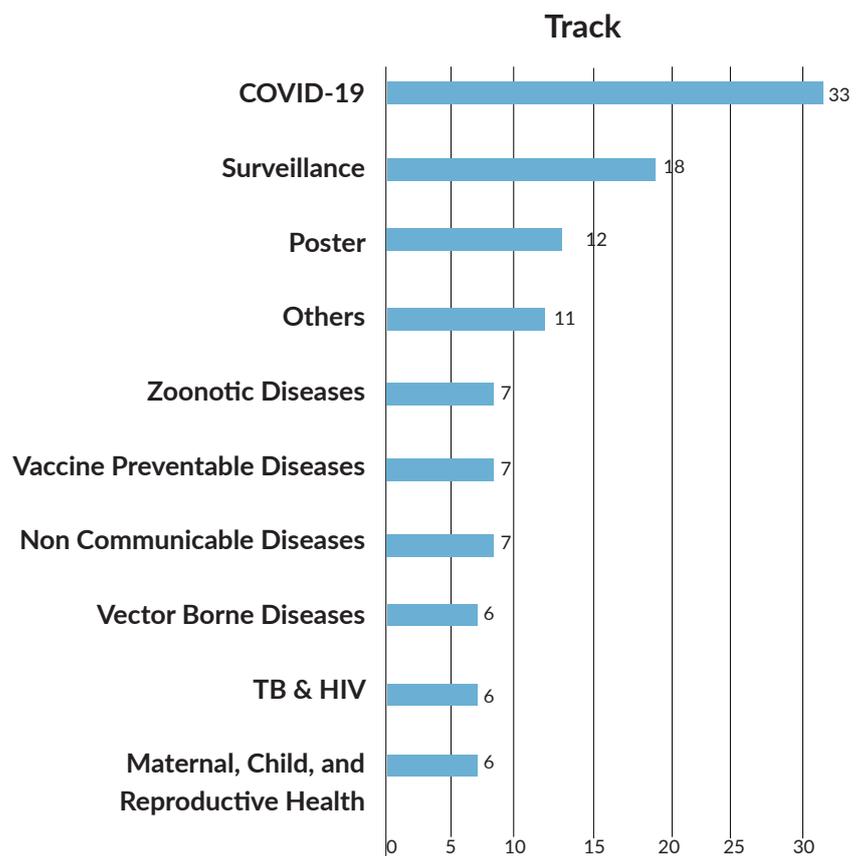
Oral and Poster Abstract Sessions

Public health professionals from the EMR and beyond presented abstracts at the Seventh EMPHNET Regional Conference on a set of topics. Their presentations offered opportunities to critically discuss the new lessons learned from the past years and explore new opportunities to reach more resilient health systems. These presentations were examined by a panel of experts from the region and beyond.



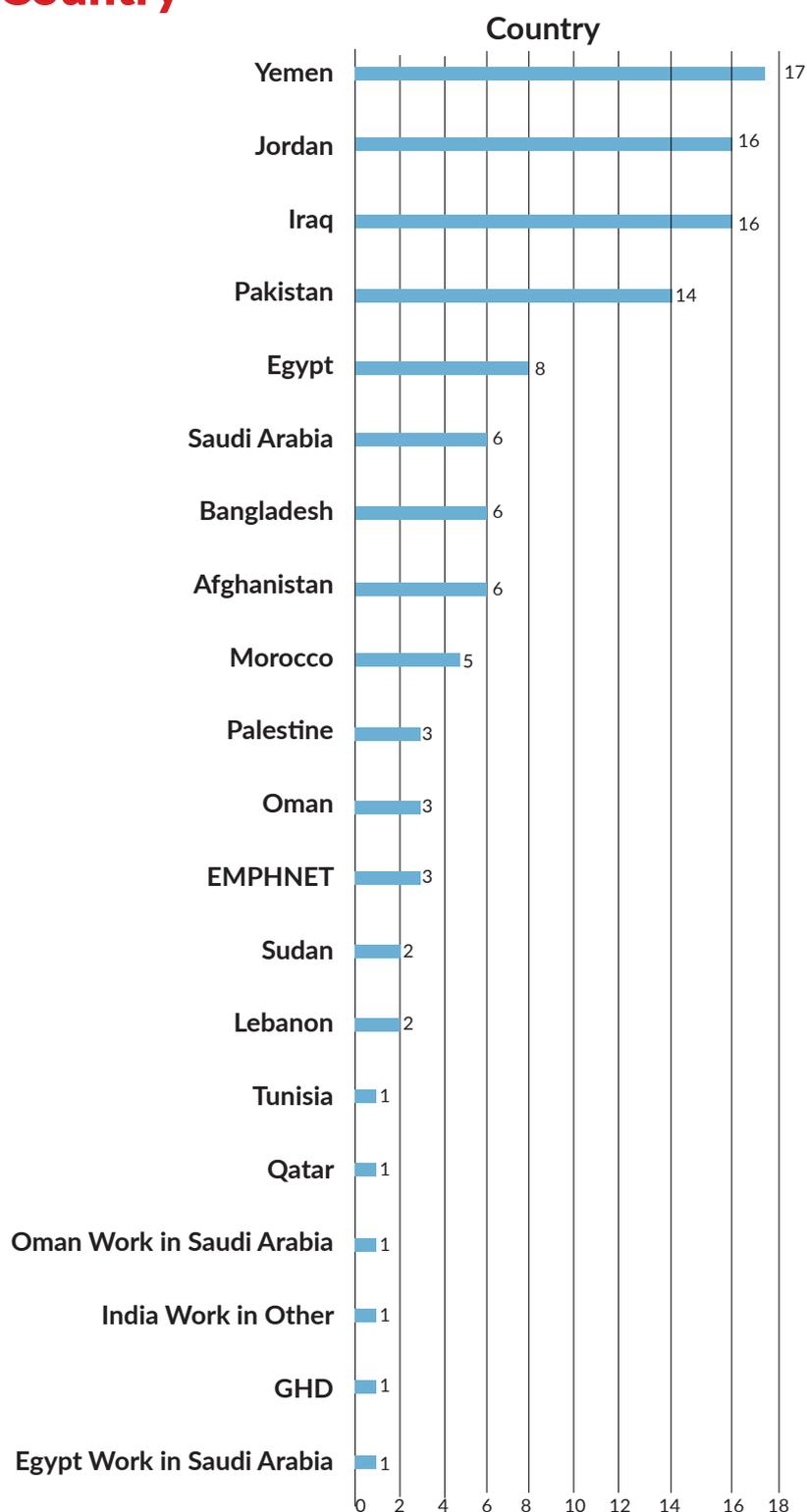
Accepted Abstracts By Track

Updated Track	Count
Maternal, Child, and Reproductive Health	6
TB & HIV	6
Vector Borne Diseases	6
Non Communicable Diseases	7
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	7
Zoonotic Diseases	7
Others	11
Poster	12
Surveillance	18
COVID-19	33
Grand Total	113



Accepted Abstracts By Country

Updated Track	Count
Egypt Work in Saudi Arabia	1
GHD	1
India Work in Other	1
Oman Work in Saudi Arabia	1
Qatar	1
Tunisia	1
Lebanon	2
Sudan	2
EMPHNET	3
Oman	3
Palestine	3
Morocco	5
Afghanistan	6
Bangladesh	6
Saudi Arabia	6
Egypt	8
Pakistan	14
Iraq	16
Jordan	16
Yemen	17
Grand Total	113



Six Pre-conference Workshops Offering Opportunities for Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing from the Region and Beyond

In keeping with the conference’s theme “Towards Public Health Resilience in the EMR: Breaking Barriers” the conference agenda included six pre-conference workshops. These workshops contributed to creating an organizational learning culture responsive to crises in the EMR. The workshops brought the region’s public health experts together in one space effective for securing an efficient flow of information. Achieving this outcome is crucial for the building of public health resilience in a region like the EMR.

The Highlights

A Workshop on the Mobilization of FETPs and Rapid Responders in EMR Countries

Within their role as frontline responders during the COVID-19 pandemic, FETP residents, graduates, and mentors have significantly contributed to response efforts in their respective countries. Rapid Response Teams (RRTs), FETPs, and Public Health Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs) proved to be critical assets within a country's public health emergency response. They manage disease outbreaks and other events. Within this understanding, a pre-conference workshop was held as part of the Seventh EMPHNET Regional Conference agenda. The workshop brought together key players working within RRTs, or EOCs, as well as FETP residents and graduates to introduce a framework for operationalizing FETPs and RRTs mobilization in coordination with Emergency Operation Centers.



A Workshop on Brucellosis Surveillance, Diagnosis, and Control using the “One Health” Approach

Brucellosis is known to be widespread in Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) countries, yet many of these countries do not have well-established surveillance systems or laboratory capacity to confirm brucellosis in humans or animals. As part of its conference agenda, EMPHNET held a pre-conference workshop for health professionals to explore experiences in brucellosis surveillance gained from several studies conducted in different countries such as Jordan, Iraq, and Pakistan. This pre-conference workshop presented the implementation of brucellosis studies in Jordan, Iraq, and Pakistan as a means to share knowledge and experiences in the area of disease management and related best practices among both the human and animal health sectors. The session served to build the capacities of participants in the areas of surveillance, diagnosis, and control. Workshop facilitators also shed light on the importance of multi-sectorial collaboration to mitigate the disease burden under the umbrella of “One Health”.



A Workshop on the Fundamentals of Health Information Systems: Identifying Barriers and Strategies to Integrate and Utilize NCDs Data Sources

The generation of high-quality health data is a prerequisite for evidence-based decision-making and national planning. An effective Health Information System (HIS) provides accurate and timely information on health indicators to guide national health system management efforts. In Jordan, there is a need to improve the efficiency of the national health information system to be able to deliver on its requirements and perform its functions. Within this context, the pre-conference practical discussion on all aspects of HIS development and management. It provided insight into the operations of HIS while focusing on the fundamental stages and challenges often faced when developing an effective system.



A Workshop on Border Health Approaches to Mitigate Cross-Border Communicable Disease Spread

Within the understanding that border health strategies must remain innovative, and resilient, in order to effectively mitigate the cross-border spread of communicable diseases, in support of the International Health Regulations (IHR). Innovations are needed to achieve an understanding of the dynamics of creatively integrating mobile populations in public health surveillance, preparedness, and response efforts. This workshop offered a space to define and discuss cross-border public health communication and coordination strategies through aligned expectations. Achieving this goal contributes to improving cross-border public health collaboration and securing more rapid response to the risk of international importation or exportation of public health events, while also preparing personnel who support border health response activities during public health emergencies.



A Workshop Tackling FETP Accreditation and Program Quality for FETPs

For the first time, TEPHINET will be rolling out an accreditation process for intermediate-level programs in 2022. The new process was further introduced in a pre-conference in which the eligibility requirements, the quality standards, and the documentation required for an intermediate program in addition to the advanced FETP to be accredited were highlighted. Participants also got a peek into the brand-new online application system, and they learned about TEPHINET's opportunities for quality improvement of programs.



A Workshop on Continuous Professional Development for Public Health Workforce

Training and professional development strengthen the public health workforce by helping professionals learn new skills that will enable them to advance their careers. The COVID-19 pandemic provides an opportunity to raise the topic of continuous professional education and development (CPD) for FETP graduates. Such an approach has several benefits. First, it increases productivity and efficiency by developing or refreshing staff capabilities. Second, it increases workforce commitment, empowerment, and motivation. Third, it decreases the rates of staff turnover. The approaches for CPD encounter a broad scale of methods. Typical examples are On- the- Job Training, Formal and Structured Classroom Training, Workshops, Seminars, and Conferences. This workshop examined gaps, needs, and opportunities that can help plan for FETP's CPD in the EMR. The workshop brought together FETP directors and advisors from the region in a space where they shared insights and engaged in proactive discussions towards future visions and anticipated steps that need to be taken to further enhance the CPD for the FETPs.



Ten Roundtable Sessions offering Fruitful Discussions Amongst Public Health Professionals

Governance strategies for enhancing health system resilience include effective and participatory leadership with strong vision and communication, and organizational learning culture that is responsive to crises, effective information systems and flows, and surveillance enabling timely detection of shocks and their impact, and it increases public health resilience. Thus, the conference agenda included ten roundtable sessions enabling participants to effectively exchange experiences and discuss the way forward.

The Highlights

Role of FETPs in Responding to COVID-19: Lessons Learned and Challenges

This roundtable session created momentum for leveraging approaches brought by FETPs during COVID-19. There are lessons learned and challenges faced by FETPs during the new emerging public health threats to be translated into guidelines and action. Thus, the roundtable provided a forum for participants to discuss and share their experience, view, and to highlight the importance of identifying the role of FETP, as well as the barriers and challenges for future pandemic outbreaks.



Sustaining IHR in Iraq – Enhancing Multisectoral Coordination in the Face of Conflict

The objective of this roundtable was to share experiences and best practices for building compliance towards International Health Regulations (IHR) with specific examples of building connections in a federalized system. In this session, panelists spoke about their experiences creating appropriate messaging to advocate for IHR compliance within and across ministries. The focus was on developing whole-of-government action plans and the role of public health professionals in promoting health systems across various sectors. The session ended with a recommendation for building capacities, establishing, and maintaining connections between sectors for health system strengthening, and specifically IHR.



Institutionalization of Rapid Response to Public Health Emergencies in EMR Countries

In this roundtable, discussions shed light on the importance of operationalizing the process of FETPs and RRTs mobilization and creating an open space to share countries' experiences. The discussion focused on ways to achieve integration of the response management and SOPs within the official structure of EOC or any other emergency response body within countries. The panelists discussed how to identify the needs and gaps, and then how they can work together to build on the existing capacities to move forward. This roundtable aims to discuss the current situation and practical recommendations to institutionalize the rapid response framework in EMR countries.



Health Systems Resilience

In this new era, our local, national, regional, and global capacities face different issues and problems. As in any other part of the world, our region needs to prepare for and respond to such challenges by taking appropriate actions. This session brought together a panel of public health experts representing FETPs, CDC, WHO, GHD|EMPHNET affiliates, universities/academia, and research institutions at regional and global levels to provide their insights and critically discuss lessons learned from the past, while exploring new opportunities to reach to more resilient health systems to break current barriers.



The Anticipated Future of Public Health Post COVID-19

The experience of COVID-19 has further stressed the significance of coordination and collaboration across countries and stakeholders. The COVID-19 pandemic even sparked a broad debate about enhancing international and national approaches to preparing for and responding to similar events considering readiness and response processes and instruments. The purpose of this roundtable was to present the most recent global and regional experiences and to discuss and share ideas about the future of public health after COVID-19 at the global, regional, and national levels.



Supporting Public Health Research Capacity, Quality, and Productivity in a Diverse Region

To ensure public health resilience and to strengthen our public health systems at national, regional, and global levels, it was imperative that we review and comprehensively discuss how we can support our research efforts, and how we can strengthen our research capacities and increase research productivity and quality in the region. This roundtable session provided a platform to review and discuss the mentioned support to the research agenda. This brought together a panel of public health experts representing FETPs, CDC, WHO, GHD|EMPHNET affiliates, universities/academia, and research institutions at regional and global levels. It provided a space for sharing insights on how the research agenda can be supported through strengthening research capacity and increasing research productivity and quality in the region.



Strengthening the “One Health Approach”

This roundtable was held as part of EMPHNET’s efforts in strengthening the response to zoonotic diseases using the “One Health approach”. The session encouraged discussions relevant to promoting multi-sectoral responses to risks from zoonoses, food safety hazards, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and other public health threats at the human-animal-ecosystem interface, as a means to prevent future pandemics. The purpose of this roundtable was to highlight the role of GHD|EMPHNET in transferring the concept of “One Health” from theory to practice through building countries’ capacities on zoonotic diseases detection, prevention, and response.



Monitoring and Combating Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking through Taxation and the Global Tobacco Surveillance System

Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking (WTS) is a traditional tobacco use method in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) that has resurged in recent decades. WTS rates in the EMR may be the highest worldwide, especially among youth, exceeding cigarette smoking rates in select jurisdictions. Despite its documented harm, the growing prevalence of WTS has been met with a poor regulatory response globally. At the epicenter of the WTS epidemic, countries in the EMR are in urgent need of effective tobacco control strategies that consider the specific particularities of WTS. This roundtable session was conducted to introduce the components of GTSS and how GTSS can provide important data for EMRO countries on WTS use and related WHO MPOWER policy measures including exposure to mass media campaigns and cost-related indicators and present the methods and findings to generate evidence on the taxation of WTS.



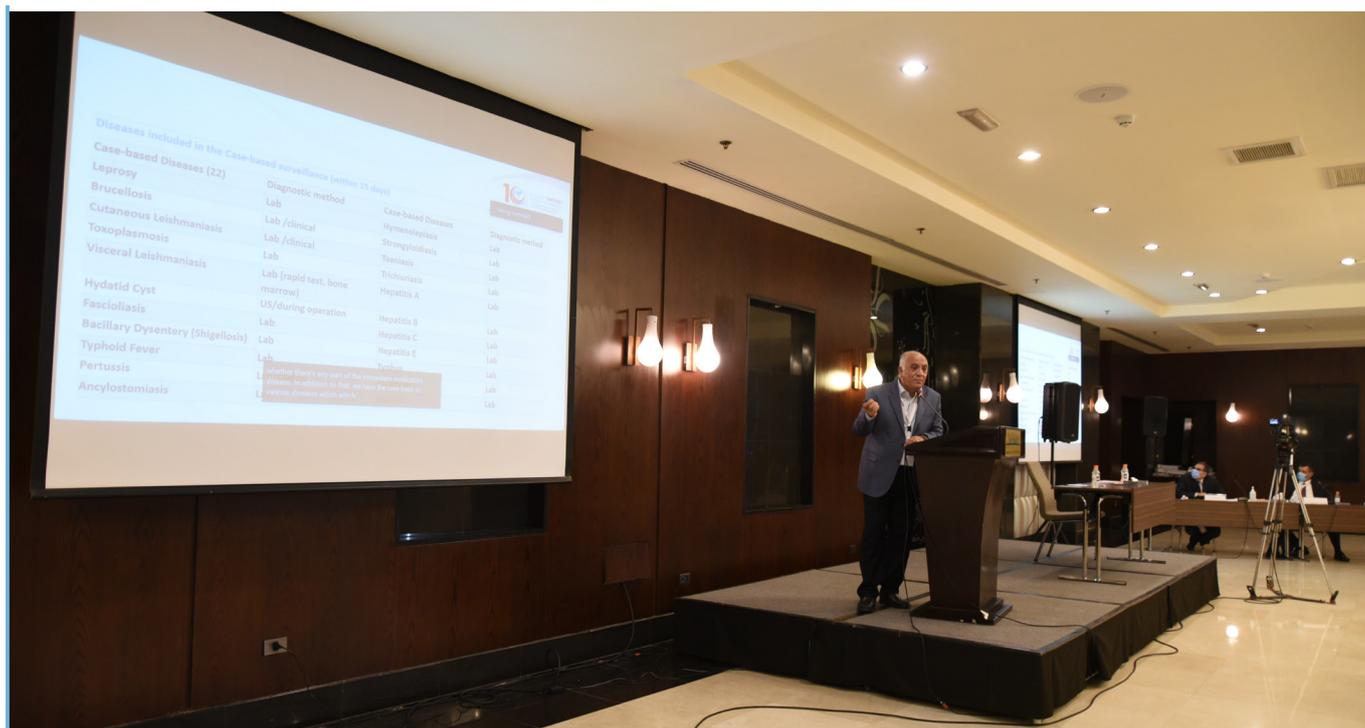
COVID-19 Vaccines and Routine Immunization Synergies and Drawbacks

Disruptions of health services due to COVID-19 have strained health systems in 2020, resulting in 22.7 million children missing out on vaccination, 3.7 million more than in 2019, and the number of “zero-dose children” increased from 13.6 to 17.1 million surviving infants. Most of these children live in communities affected by conflict, in underserved remote places, or in informal or slum settings where they face multiple deprivations including limited access to basic health and key social services. According to the latest WHO/UNICEF estimate in the EMR, the DPT3 containing vaccine coverage was 81% in 2020 compared with 85% in 2019. This session provided an update on the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the essential immunization/routine immunization and on the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine globally and summarized priority actions to achieve global COVID-19 vaccination targets.



Integration of Early Warning and Response with Event-Based and Indicator-Based Surveillance

Many countries have well-established public health surveillance systems that are capable of monitoring morbidity and mortality trends and measuring the burden of diseases. These systems are based on restrictive lists of known and predominantly infectious diseases. However, due to the emergence of unexpected hazards such as new pathogens, the changes in the global environment, and the ever-changing trends in behavioral norms of populations, the IHR has recognized the need for strengthening these routine surveillance systems as well as event-based surveillance (EBS), while also focusing on early detection of public health events that require rapid investigation and response. To ensure that events of all origins are better detected and controlled, the integration of the traditional surveillance systems with Early Warning and Response (EWAR) is a mechanism that aims at detecting and responding rapidly to signals and alerts coming from both formal and informal sources, within and outside the health sector to rapidly mobilize required resources in a flexible and responsive way. This integration will help countries comply with relevant IHR provisions so that they better contribute to strengthening global health security. The session offered participants an opportunity to better understand the current global, regional, and country initiatives on integrating EWAR, exchange of experiences, best practices, and lessons learned.



An Agenda of Keynote Addresses, Where Speakers Reflect on Lessons Learned from the COVID-19 Pandemic and Other Public Health Challenges

During the Conference, Public Health Experts reflected on experiences from their countries, through a series of keynote addresses during which they shared useful lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and other public health challenges. Such exchanges are set to benefit policymakers in their quest to implement resilience enhancing strategies, thus it is important to learn in the aftermath of the shock and to make the link between recovering from the shock and preparedness for future shocks. When such links are made, public health resilience is achieved.

Essential Public Health Functions and the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Challenge in the EMR

In his keynote address, Professor of Global Health, at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Clinical Professor of Global Health at the University of Washington, Dr. Ala Alwan spoke about Essential Public Health Functions and Universal Health Coverage. He defined Essential Public Health Functions (EPHF) as those indispensable sets of actions that fall under the primary responsibility of the state. He confirmed that EPHF are fundamental for achieving the main goals for public health which are namely to; protect, promote, and restore the health of populations through collective actions. He also defined Universal Health Coverage (UHC) during his presentation, thus stating that it is the state of ensuring that all people and communities have access to quality health services they need without financial hardship. Therefore, strengthening EPHFs is central to the urgent reforms needed to accelerate progress on UHC.

Dr. Alwan, further added that Essential Public Health Functions are cemented when we can see country-wide, country-led, multi-sectorial collaboration with Ministries of Health owning the initiative. This is achieved when all partners in the health and non-health sectors are engaged in the process. He also pointed out that improvements are needed in the creation of integrated risk factor surveillance systems that rely less on expatriate staff. Better Universal Health Coverage financing is needed, as well as more multi-sectorial/cross-disciplinary preparedness plans, and learning programs. He also pointed out that the organizational structure within ministries of health needs to be improved if we want to achieve universal health coverage for the EMR, and that the COVID-19 pandemic offers a lot of lessons MoHs can learn from.



Cohesion of Society During and After a Pandemic: How Does This Translate in the EMR Public Health Resilience

In her keynote address, Executive Director of the World Federation of Public Health Associations, and Professor at the Institute of Global Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva, Switzerland, Prof. Bettina Borisch spoke about the creation of a cohesive society during and after the pandemic and how this translates into achieving public health resilience in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. She started her session by defining cohesion as the action or fact of forming a united whole. Prof. Borisch stated that many actors want to tackle multiple global challenges at the same time, and that this can only be achieved through a rethinking of current understandings of cohabitation. She further added that the COVID-19 Pandemic highlighted the need for using a revised social context towards achieving holistic solutions for public health challenges. It uncovered why united action is needed for more robust international health architecture.

She ended her talks by stating that the crisis mode brought on by the pandemic created new ways for public and private sector entities to work together with NGOs, CSOs, and other stakeholders. This new form of collaboration is built on empathy, humbleness, realism, and humanism.



Reshaping Public Health: Post Pandemic Era: The Agenda for the Next Decade Are We Ready?

Professor Salman Rawaf, MD, PhD is chair of Public Health and Director of WHO Collaborating Centre and Director of Centre for Health System Development in the Department of Primary Care and Public Health, School of Public Health at Imperial College London. He gave an overview of the importance and the purpose of Public Health (PH). He highlighted the lessons learned from the pandemic, and particularly the gaps in PH system, and the reasons why the change in the PH is needed. He also focused on the way of how to reshape PH and close the gap for the next era.

He stressed the importance and the purpose of PH/Family Medicine/Medicine/ Health System to people and populations and why it is important for improving their health. He said that this can be achieved through; preventing diseases and disabilities, through longevity, and finally through the quality of life and he stated that many people in the Arab region have a poor quality of life. This purpose is highly linked to Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which is “Good Health and Well-being”.

He pointed out how complex is to achieve Health System Resilience (HSR) which needs to change every aspect of the health system and he will not finish if he starts talking about it. He illustrated one aspect of the HSR which is the Universal Health Coverage. It means to provide a service free of charge at the time of delivery “of course there is no country has this achieved yet.”

Then, Professor Rawaf moved to talk about what COVID-19 has taught us where the positive sides of the pandemic came in the form of a wake-up call in terms of changing our behavior, our health care system, our PH system. Moreover, the pandemic highlighted the gaps in the PH system and ways to bridge these gaps.



Evidence, Experience, Expertise: Lessons from the US Coronavirus Disease Public Health Response

Director of the Division of Preparedness and Emerging Infections at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), US, Dr. Henry Walke spoke about evidence, experience, expertise, and lessons learned from the US COVID-19 response. He stated that to date, more than 260 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 and five million associated deaths were reported worldwide. With these rising figures, governments, health systems, and societies needed to immediately implement coping strategies as new knowledge on the virus transmission and dynamics continued to unravel. After the passing of almost two years on countries responding to the pandemic, the time has come to reflect on the lessons learned and the areas in which health systems can improve their functionality and performance.

Dr. Walke used the USA as an example, concluding from the fact, figures, curves, and trends that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has burdened governments, health systems, and societies across the countries worldwide. Surveillance and response strategies were regularly updated as per the knowledge of virus dynamics and transmission parameters. Thus, outbreak control requires synergic and multi-sectoral pillars. These measures include securing continuous support of epidemiological and genomic surveillance. This is crucial for the detection and identification of circulating and potential new emerging variants, as well as enhancing surveillance in specific congregates of high-risk groups.



COVID-19 Resilient Primary Health Care: Experience and Challenge in UNRWA

Director of Health Program at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) started off his presentation by showing the Palestinian refugees and calling them the largest refugee population in the world. They are a total of 5.7 people, the UNRWA offers services including health to this segment. However, this service was affected by COVID-19. More specifically, the continuation of providing services was affected, as there was also a dependence on digital healthcare. The pandemic also uncovered a need for social care.

He added that continuity is one of the main areas where UNRWA was able to maintain, as all UNRWA's 140 clinics continued their operations and delivered services unless there was a lockdown through which they had to cease their services temporarily. A reason for that could go back to the history of these clinics which have been operating in a difficult situation for more than 70 years, and over 3,000 staff committed who were mostly Palestinians. Mechanisms to maintain their services included rapid response and utilization of innovative technology such as telemedicine.



Learning from COVID: What It Would Take to Be Better Prepared?

Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) Director of Program Management (DPM), at WHO EMRO, Dr. Rana Hajjeh spoke about the epidemiology of COVID-19, and the region's response to the pandemic. More specifically, she spoke about the WHO's response to COVID-19, while focusing on steps to be taken in the future regarding strengthening health systems and building public health capacities in the region. She stated that the context of this region makes it difficult to respond to a pandemic, as many of the region's countries are already bearing the challenges brought on by socio-political unrest. She pointed out that the EMR witnessed many outbreaks, including MERS, Cholera, Polio, and increasing vector-borne and zoonotic outbreaks. From another angle, the region also hosts almost two-thirds of the world's refugees.

With regards to the global epidemiology of COVID-19, Dr. Hajjeh described how this is the largest scale pandemic in history, with over 200 million cases and 5 million deaths. Some regions were more affected than others for various reasons. However, the EMR as well as the African Region (AFR), had relatively fewer cases than other regions. But these numbers are not trusted to be accurate, as they depend on testing levels.



The Grand Opening

On the evening of November 14, 2021, the Seventh EMPHNET Regional Commenced with an Opening Ceremony, held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Muna Al Hussein, and with His Excellency, former Minister of Health in Jordan, Yaseen Al Husban attending on her behalf. A keynote speech was given by Professor of Global Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and Clinical Professor, Global Health, University of Washington Dr. Ala Alwan.



Ending on a High Note

During the closing ceremony held on the evening of November 18, 2021, speeches were given by Director General of Health, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Pakistan, Dr. Rana Muhammad Safdar, and Director General at Tunisia's National Observatory of New and Emerging Disease and FETP Director, Prof. Nissaf Bin Alyaa.

EMPHNET also introduced the Dionisio Herrera FETP Laureate Award, which was awarded to Former Iraq FETP Director, Dr. Qahtan Al Salihi. Dr. Ghadeer Muslih from Jordan FETP, Emna Khairi from Sudan FETP, and Kashif Hussain from Pakistan FELTP won Best Abstract Awards, while Dr. Jarallah Al Tbali from Yemen FETP won the Best Poster Award.



Using Technology to Break Down Geographical Borders

A Hybrid Conference Accessible to Global Communities

After almost two years of virtual meetings, EMPHNET adopted the hybrid approach while hosting this edition of the Seventh EMPHNET Regional Conference. The online platform Zoom increased accessibility by decreasing physical barriers. The adopted approach allowed participants from around the world to attend the conference online. In addition, some participants presented their abstracts online, others gave keynote addresses online, and some conducted pre-conference workshops and roundtable discussions online.



A Mobile App Keeping Conference Participants Informed

The Technology and Innovative Solutions Team at EMPHNET customized a conference application that enabled conference participants to stay informed about upcoming conference sessions, lunch breaks, networking breaks, transportation arrangements, and changes in the conference agenda.

Participants were also able to access the abstract book and the conference agenda through the app. The application also came with a networking corner for attendees to meet new people and exchange knowledge with other participants.

On the Sidelines

While participants were moving from one session to the next, they stopped by the EMPHNET and IAPH Booths to learn more about each entity's work, and to interact with team members from each organization. They also learned more about TEPHINET at TEPHINET's promotional table.

EMPHNET's Booth Zooms in on Organization's Work

To showcase EMPHNET's work throughout the past 10 years, EMPHNET set up a booth featuring its promotional materials. The promotional materials included the ten-year report, brochures, flyers, as well as other printed materials. EMPHNET's team also gave booth visitors a glimpse of its work and projects. Participants were also invited to sign a petition raised by EMPHNET for the **Fair Distribution of COVID-19 Vaccines**.

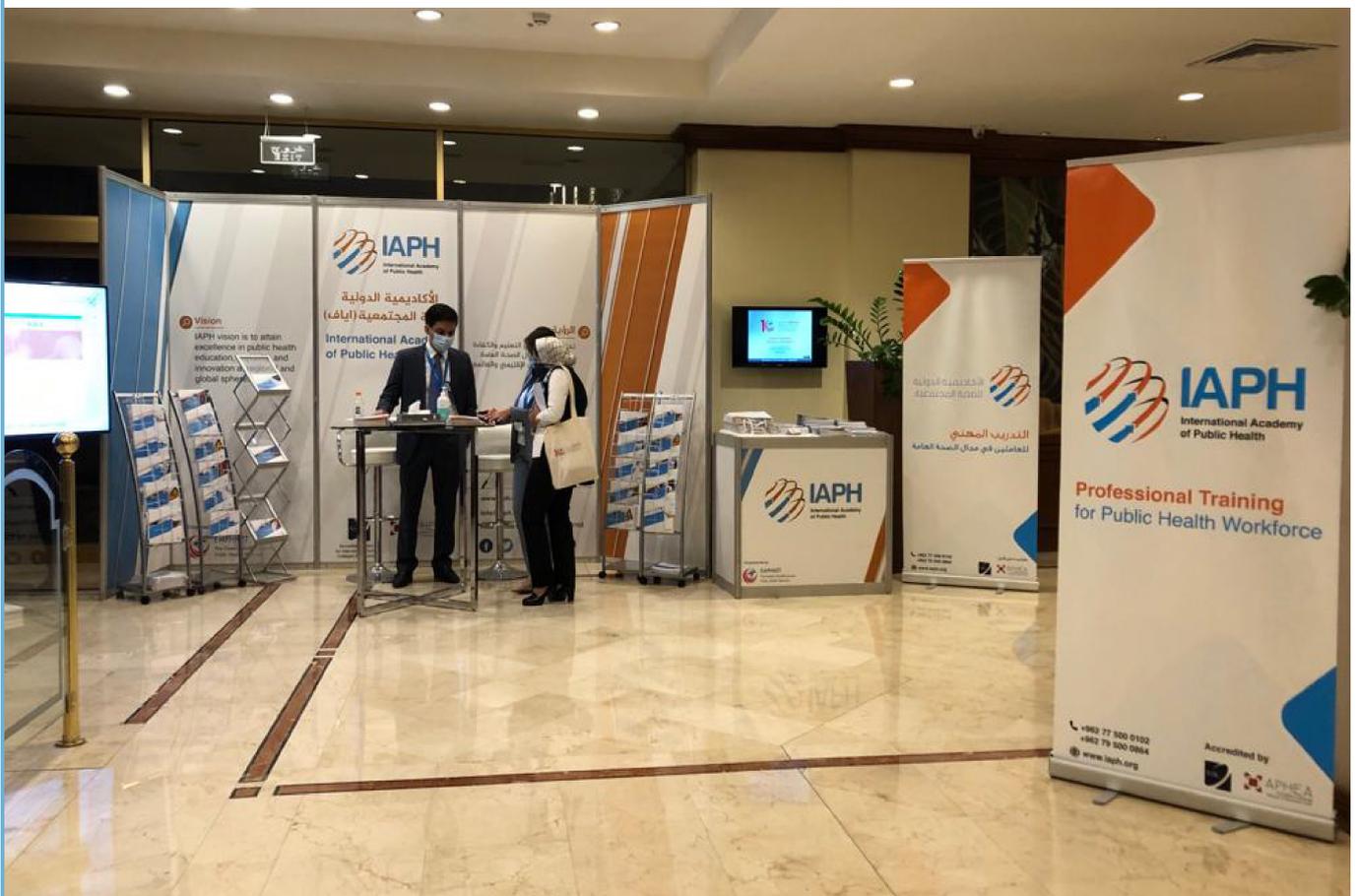
Promotional materials also included the conference abstract book. On screens surrounding the booth, different videos produced by EMPHNET were shown. These videos included a Ten-Year Movie, a video highlighting the role of FETPs during the COVID-19 pandemic, and others. You can access the promotional materials [here](#).





IAPH's Booth Introduces Visitors to the Academy's Work

From another angle, the International Academy of Public Health (IAPH) also had a presence during the Seventh EMPHNET Regional Conference. Through their booth, IAPH's staff engaged with participants. They introduced the academy, marketed their work, and promoted IAPH's upcoming courses.





TEPHINET Introduces its Different Initiatives During the Conference

The Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET) also had a table where they promoted their services.



A Space for Networking

The conference was not all work and no social interaction, as the five-day event agenda also offered opportunities for networking and social interaction on the sidelines of its sessions.

Gala Dinner

On the fourth day of the conference, November 17, EMPHNET hosted a Gala Dinner. The dinner provided an opportunity for participants to celebrate and network amongst themselves and with EMPHNET's staff. The event brought attendees together, thus helping to forge connections and relationships. It was a friendly social setting ideal for fruitful discussions, networking, and light conversations.



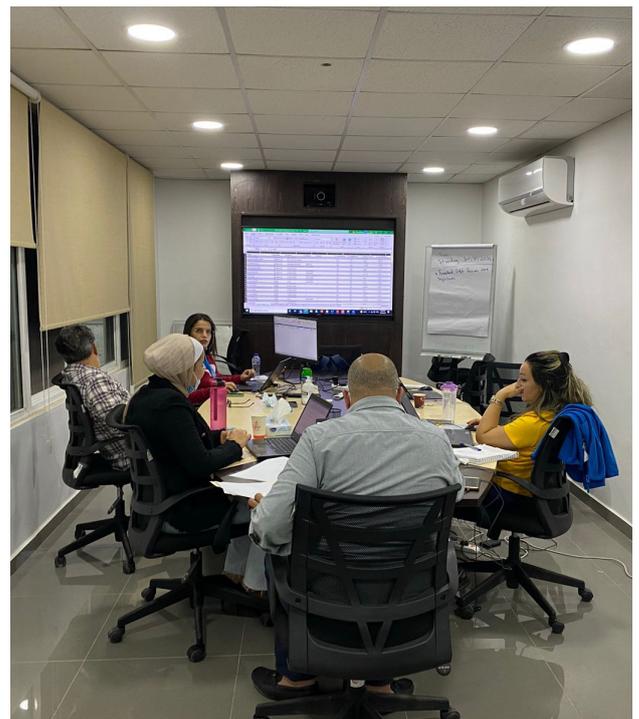
Networking Breaks

Several networking breaks were held during the conference, during which participants exchanged business cards, connected on LinkedIn, and took photos with each other. Through this informal interaction, they were able to form connections and contacts while also learning more about one another's jobs.

The Conference in the Making

Since July 2021, the EMPHNET organizing committee has been working hard to ensure that the conference runs successfully and that its objectives are met. We appreciate the team's efforts and hard work!

Below are some behind-the-scenes photos.



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