



Intermediate Field Epidemiology Training Program

Project Information

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

OBJECTIVES

- Improve the skills of middle level public health workers in data collection and analysis, interpretation, and communication.
- encourage the practice of utilizing data for decision making.
- Improve the quality and use of surveillance data at the middle level of the health system.
- Strengthen the capacity to identify, investigate and respond to outbreaks and other public health threats to the country.

BENEFICIARIES

workers, and surveillance officers responsible for public health functions, serving public health Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, at the middle level of the health system in countries all over the EMR.

REGIONS OF WORK

Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) and South Asia Region (SAR); Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, and Sudan.

PROJECT PHASES

- Workshop one covers the basic concepts of epidemiology, surveillance, outbreak investigation and role of lab in outbreak investigations, data management, and the use of Epi Info. It is followed by a fieldwork where residents apply their knowledge to manage surveillance data and write surveillance reports.
- Workshop two covers the concepts of epidemiology and biostatistics, development and design of questionnaires, and develop a research protocol. this workshop is followed by a fieldwork on surveillance and summary reports.
- Workshop three covers the concept of risk communication and abstract writing. It is followed by a fieldwork on collecting project data, writing abstract, and summary reports.
- Workshop four leads the residents to analyze their data using different analytic tests and tools. It is followed by the related fieldwork write their research report.
- Workshop five is for presenting the projects and reporting.
- In some countries, such as Afghanistan and Bangladesh, the program was extended for another 3 months by adding an additional workshop on leadership and management. Therefore, a diploma certificate is given to the residents upon completing 12 months of training one year of the intermediate extended program.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The program is a nine-month in some countries is conducted as in-service training. In other countries, leaders pursue an academic certification diploma to those who successfully complete the program and they lengthen the program to one year to meet the requirements for a diploma. The program 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 respond to outbreaks, and conduct field studies to address public health priority issues.

The program consists of mentors training, five to six didactic workshops with a total of 8-10 weeks, and about 33-39 weeks of fieldwork divided over four-five 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, and for the diploma they add the competency leadership and management. 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 study 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	October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024
Partner Organizations	Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Funded by	Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Collaborators	Ministries of Health (MOH) at targeted countries in EMR and SAR

Currently . . .

The targeted 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 regions suffer 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.

GHD established the intermediate FETP cohort in six countries including Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. So far, several cohorts were supported and 233 residents were graduated from mentioned countries. The support will continue during this year in Afghanistan and Bangladesh by graduating 45 residents.

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

By the Numbers

308

Intermediate FETP
graduated.

105 Afghanistan, 36 Egypt,
45 Morocco, 42 Sudan and
51 Tunisia, 29 Bangladesh

35

Current residents intermediate
16 Afghanistan and 19
Bangladesh

15

residents will be integrated
into the program, 15
Bangladesh

155

Mentors were trained.
48 Afghanistan, 20 Egypt, 40
Tunisia, 21 Morocco, and 6
Sudan, 20 Bangladesh

16

Current Mentors 7 Afghanistan
and 9 Bangladesh

7

Mentors will be integrated
into the program, 7
Bangladesh

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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