



Global Health
Development



EMPHNET
The Eastern Mediterranean
Public Health Network

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together for better health



Annual Report 2017-2018

**GHD/EMPHNET
Annual Report
2017 - 2018**

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Chairperson Message

It is my privilege to present the Annual Report for 2017-18. I am humbled and honored to work together with a group of dedicated Board members and the exceptional leadership team of EMPHNET to support health systems in the Eastern Mediterranean (EMR).

No year comes without challenges, and this one definitely had its share. The EMR continue to be impacted by instability and outbreaks. Nonetheless, we have been through difficulties before and, as committed actors in the region, have learned the importance of remaining focused towards our mission and objectives. We remain absolutely committed to supporting countries achieve better health outcomes and, eventually, sustainable development in all areas of public health.

Today, EMPHNET is in an exemplary position thanks to the skills and commitment of our teams, which remain dedicated to providing quality support to all our member programs. As the Chairperson, I am proud of EMPHNET. Proud of an organization that was able to pro-

fessionalize itself and adapt to the challenges of our times while staying attentive to what we do best: support “People in the Eastern Mediterranean Region lead healthy lives and well-being”. We need to keep working to reinforce our position while remaining organized and committed to our mission. At the same time, we must not forget that our organization does not exist on its own, but through the interaction and integration of the people who are part of it. We should also keep in mind that it cannot deliver without informed policies and strategies– the effectiveness of these requires a proactive approach and communicating appropriately, without ignoring the need to regularly monitor and assess their impact.

Since 2009, we have been gradually growing in both geographic and technical terms. Today, I am pleased to say that the efforts we made in this area resulted in tangible results. We’re on the right path! I would also like to emphasize that we have expanded our network to reach more countries: Bangladesh,



Libya, Sudan and Tunisia. The expansion of geographic presence creates a stronger network: our network is now better able to go further, to make voice of the EMR heard in forums and international meetings. Indeed, contributing to sustainable development, often in partnership with other health actors, is one of EMPHNET strengths.

In conclusion, I would like to pay special thanks to all our partner donors for the trust they vested in us, for supporting our programs in Disease Control, Health Protection and Promotion, Polio and Routine Immunization, Outreach and Emergency and Research and Policy.

To all, thank you.

Associate Prof. Dr. Bashir Noormal
Chair of the Board of Directors of FETP of the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network and Director General Afghanistan National Public Health Institute

On December 4, 2018, Dr. Dionisio Herrera, Director of TEPHINET, passed away after a life of contribution to public health across the globe. Towards EMPHNET, Dr. Dionisio showed his support from the very day our organization was established, and he had the utmost consideration for field epidemiology in the region.



Foreword

This has been a very successful year for GHD/EMPHNET. Our organization has expanded significantly over the last twelve months and we have made a number of particularly notable achievements. Major projects that we recently embarked on are progressing very satisfactorily. And many new opportunities are opening up for us. We face a very exciting future. GHD/EMPHNET presence has expanded to multiple country offices in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Yemen. We have also established new partnerships to add to already existing ones with renowned international organizations.

We are especially looking forward to the growth of our organization because this opens up new opportunities for us to act as an umbrella network for country programs to come together, to share their experiences and knowledge, and to support each other.

None of what we have achieved would have been possible without an active and supportive board and the generous efforts of our staff, who made GHD/EMPHNET an outstanding success.

Despite the fact that EMR is a troubled part of

the world, all parties recognize that the future of the region depends on insuring healthier communities. However, instability continues to hamper any attempt to reach that common goal.

Our strategy to overcome this is to establish ourselves as the point of linkage between international collaborators and local partners in countries of the region. We have made a lot of progress but there is still a lot of work to be done. In all countries within our geographic scope we are privileged to be able to work with inspiring, committed and creative people, and we are very pleased about the level of sustainability of the work that's being accomplished.

GHD/EMPHNET faces many challenges, including the need to preserve the flexible structure of the organization as we continue to expand. Also, in these times of shrinking resources for development purposes, there's always the challenge of finding the source of funding to support our projects. In order to address this issue, we are examining ways to diversify our funding sources.

In summary, I believe it has been a great year.



Dr. Mohannad Al Nsour
Executive Director, EMPHNET



FETP Iraq in the Field

Executive Summary

Since its establishment in 2009, EMPHNET has been an active player in the Eastern Mediterranean Region with its health system support efforts and emergency response. Building on this cumulative experience, the organization has continued to expand its coverage in geography and disciplines in response to the growing demand on the ground. To better cater to this expansion, it has grown and reorganized internally as well. This report illustrates the organization's achievements in 2017-2018, and its plans for the future.

This last fiscal year, the Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) launched an assortment of PHEP pathways; of these pathways participants were able to graduate from the Basic Field Epidemiology and Surveillance for Polio Officers programs; some of which matriculated from the intermediate to advance pathways.

GHD/EMPHNET was present in a number of international meetings and conferences, and

participated with experience and proposals in several areas including mental, sexual and reproductive health, disease surveillance, outbreak alert and response, training and others.

In terms of capacity building, workshops and training sessions for health professionals were conducted in different countries in the areas of emergency response and immunization, as well as training on new software as part of EMPHNET's digitalization efforts in public health.

The 6th EMPHNET Regional Conference was conducted in March 2018 under the theme "Innovative Approaches: Adapting to the Current EMR Context", which oversaw 6 pre-conference workshops, 6 roundtable discussions, as well as 147 oral and poster presentations. During the conference, the organization launched its 1st digital networking platform, EpiShares.

GHD/EMPHNET provided and continues to

provide support for countries in reaching their SDGs in the areas of good health and well-being, gender equality, water and sanitation, and partnership for the goals. Plans for the future include launching the Public Health Forum, the International Academy of Public Health and the Public Health Emergency Response Center.



Scientific Manuscript Writing Workshop, Jordan

Introduction

Global Health Development and the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (GHD/EMPHNET) have been operating in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) – a region that is synonymous with socio/political unrest – since 2009. Such unrest continues to affect health outcomes and impede health development. Many countries in the region are challenged by health adversities and threats that overload their health systems which are already overstrained due to inadequate resources and disease burden.

Upon its establishment, EMPHNET's primary focus was to support the Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs). These programs aim to strengthen the human resources component that serves as an essential building block for improving health systems performance. However, over the years, and with the increasing demand from several EMR countries to develop capacities in other public health areas besides field epidemiology, the organization broadened its scope to include emergency response, health protection and promotion, health security, and

bio-risk management.

Such expansion brought a demand for growth both internally and externally, prompting GHD/EMPHNET to seek collaboration with a wider range of partners in an attempt to address public health issues that are of importance to EMR countries and to the global public health community, and to find innovative approaches for its work.

Today, GHD/EMPHNET is committed to support EMR countries in strengthening their health systems performance by identifying priorities and providing new opportunities to expand their efforts to maintain and build an adequate public health infrastructure. This last fiscal year was all about growth and expansion, as the organization revamped its structure and operations to respond to the expanding number of countries, initiatives, partnerships, and causes it supports.

And with growth being an ongoing process, this year was the start of an accelerating journey towards the future.



FETP Iraq Training

Growing from Within



To accommodate the rapid growth within GHD/EMPHNET over the past few years, there was a need to strengthen internal organizational capacities. As a result, the Organizational Development Initiative (ODI) was launched during this fiscal year as a response to changing public health needs and to increase efficiency and capacity.

The ODI focuses on four internal developmental areas to prepare the organization for long-term growth: organizational restructuring, business process improvement, the development of an authority matrix, and an updated rule of procedures policy. The first phase of this initiative comprised the development of a new corporate structure, more reflective of the areas of work the organization is engaged in. This new structure included the establishment of a unit dedicated to research, as well as the environmental health department that works within the fields of environmental epidemiology, toxicology, exposure science, environmental engineering and environmental law.

In line with the increasing number of projects, GHD/EMPHNET also saw the launch of its Project Management Office (PMO) which maintains and ensures standards for project management across all levels of project implementation, and monitors the projects' status and direction, to deliver value and informed outcomes to partners.

Finally, the last fiscal year also saw a need for the establishment of GHD/EMPHNET's Executive Office, which oversees the overall operations of the organization. Its responsibilities were further enhanced to encompass units dedicated to quality management, partnerships and resource mobilization.

The office is also responsible for managing grants and the external operations as well as the organizations' country offices.

On another note, GHD/EMPHNET introduced the business automation system with the aim of becoming a paper-free organization by 2020.

Growing a Network of Partnerships and Collaborations

GHD/EMPHNET has always made knowledge sharing a main focus, thriving on partnerships and agreements, and participating in regional and global conferences. Being an active member in several organizations and working groups, it was involved in a number of activities during this last fiscal year

Global Engagement

Partnerships



GLOBAL DIGITAL HEALTH INDEX

Growing in the Area of Field Epidemiology

Over the years, GHD/EMPHNET has continued to support FETPs in the region as a mechanism for enhancing health system performance. This fiscal year, the organization saw the results of initiatives it had established in 2016-2017, including the launch of the Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP) following consultation and close collaboration with the countries it supports in the EMR.

PHEP is a three-month in-service training program that focuses on detection of and response to diseases and events of public health importance. Trainees include health workers from the governorate and district health levels, at any of the preventive sector departments and health facilities. They work in the areas of epidemiology and surveillance, communicable diseases, expanded program on immunization (EPI), infection control, environmental health, food and water safety, occupational health, vector-borne diseases, health centers, health workers at points of entry and other areas.

PHEP is offered across the EMR in two variations: PHEP-BFE (Basic Field Epidemiology) and PHEP-SPO (Surveillance for Polio Officers). This year cohorts graduated in Egypt, Sudan, and Iraq, with plans to see the launch of PHEP-Nutrition in Sudan. GHD/EMPHNET is looking to further explore online training as an option to expand its capacity building reach in the future.

The FETP advanced and intermediate programs saw the launch of the Yemen FETP fourth cohort and graduation of the first cohort in Tunisia.



Growing Rapid and Emergency Response Efforts

Populations across the EMR have been affected by natural disasters such as floods, droughts, and earthquakes, in addition to armed conflicts and disease outbreaks, thereby increasing the region's fragility and complexity. Hundreds of thousands of people have died and millions have been displaced. This suffering could be reduced if countries had the capacity to respond effectively in the immediate wake of disasters.

To this effect, GHD/EMPHNET continued to engage with health security and emergency response projects by improving emergency response capacities and assessment of biosafety.

A number of Rapid Response Team (RRT) training workshops were held in Iraq, Tunisia and Egypt between December 2017 and September 2018, targeting professionals at the national and governate levels. Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops were also held in Iraq and Sudan for RRTs, while a ToT on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) principles

within emergency rapid response was held in Yemen.

In Sudan, workshops for developing an accountability framework for Health Emergency Operations and developing state-level health emergency plan were held.

An assessment of the biosafety and biosecurity capacities of public health and animal health laboratories in main Iraqi provinces was conducted to identify training needs and opportunities for enhanced collaboration. Also in Iraq, a meeting for stakeholders involved in the Iraq Mass Gathering Project in Baghdad was organized to discuss training activities for the project's data collectors.



Growing in the Area of Routine Immunization

For the past 20 years, routine immunization coverage has shown remarkable improvement in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). However, due to humanitarian crises, poverty and other prevailing situations, some countries have seen a decline in immunization coverage. GHD/EMPHNET continues to work on raising awareness and increase demand as a contribution towards closing such gaps.

- **Capacity Building Efforts in Routine Immunization**

A number of capacity building workshops were conducted for EPI staff between October 2017 and May 2018.

In Jordan, workshops were conducted with the Ministry of Health for EPI staff from high-risk districts to address the significantly unequal immunization coverage rates attributed to the socioeconomic status of locals and the influx of Syrian refugees into the country.

Several activities were held in Iraq, including workshops to develop an improvement plan for RI supervision and monitoring, training activities to develop a communication strategy for the EPI, and ToT workshops for surveillance officers, managers and EPI supervisors on Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) and Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs) surveillance.



Microplanning Training on Routine Immunization, Iraq

• Digitalizing Immunization

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) developments are being used to respond to a necessity that has been identified in Iraq to strengthen the immunization supply chain and to support the country in achieving its goal for ensuring that vaccines are in the right place, condition, quantities, time and cost.

In collaboration with UNICEF and Iraq Ministry of Health, a nation-wide Cold-Chain Equipment Inventory Assessment (CCEIA) was conducted using a web-based, mobile data collection tool, Survey for Data. The tool provides full data on health facilities and the available cold chain equipment, ensuring wide availability of vaccines and that they remain safe and effective through the entire supply chain, particularly in remote areas.

Through this collaboration, GHD/EMPHNET introduced WHO's web-based vaccination supplies stock management (w-VSSM) system to involved parties at the Ministry, and conducted training workshops guiding both admins and software users on setting and/or configuring the data based at their respective levels.

Furthermore, GHD/EMPHNET joined forces with WHO and UNICEF in the re-launched Effective Vaccine Management (EVM) framework project. This project is a comprehensive strategy designed for continuous, optimized, and innovative immunization supply chain (ISC) quality management.

As part of this strategy, a new EVM assessment package was developed whereby countries can conduct an in-depth review of their facilities and create a comprehen-

sive improvement plan using the EVM 2.0 tool.

In April 2018, GHD/EMPHNET participated in a testing of the tool in Amman, and in June 1st and 8th, 2017, GHD/EMPHNET participated in the EVM 2.0 Beta-testing workshop conducted in Bhutan as a regional partner with UNICEF and the WHO. Later in the year it did a live test in Iraq.

Within these participations, GHD/EMPHNET facilitated technical sessions on the current situation of vaccine management in Bhutan and Nepal, and presented and managed discussions about EMPHNET's experience and lessons from EVM 1.0 and 2.0.



EVM Orientation and Planning, Bhutan

- **Demand Creation Project in Afghanistan**

The Ministry of Public Health in Afghanistan, with support from GHD/EMPHNET, implemented activities within the Demand Creation Project (DCP) for strengthening routine immunization and polio eradication services that aimed to address inadequate knowledge about vaccinations and low immunization coverage. A pre-intervention survey was conducted in 20 districts where information on knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP), vaccination history, and households' demographics were collected over a period of three months. The intervention that followed engaged parents, community health workers, elders, Mullas and teachers, who were provided with mobile phone numbers and subscriptions (of receiving voice messages) from the Afghanistan Telecom Regulatory Authority (ATRA) about risks of VPDs and benefits of vaccination.

In February 2018, a hands-on training on data management and quality was conducted to support the DCP in Afghanistan and to enable the field team to conduct accurate data entry for the Post-Intervention KAP Survey.



DCP Field Team During Pre-intervention Data Collection Afghanistan

- **Supporting Countries in the Field**

On the field level, GHD/EMPHNET is supporting the Egypt Ministry of Health and Population in its efforts to enhance surveillance of Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS) at 10 sentinel sites throughout the country in collaboration with the CDC. Its purpose is to use CRS surveillance data to monitor the impact of the national rubella vaccination strategy as well as the progress towards rubella/CRS elimination, and take necessary corrective measures in due time. The program was officially launched in Cairo on October 17, 2017.



CRS surveillance Program launching, Egypt

Growing Digitally

Today, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is being used extensively for offering efficient public health services and solutions. The popularity of mobile data collection is causing digital forms to replace paper-based forms across all areas of public health practice. New areas of ICT such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS) are also used as a technology to map outbreaks and diseases. Furthermore, social media has become an ever-present aspect of life. Decision makers can increase their influence and impact social determinants of health and health equity through social media.

In the last fiscal year and building further on previous efforts made in this area, GHD/EMPHNET has been supporting several countries in their attempt to utilize information technology solutions and digital tools.

- **Digitalizing Acute Flaccid Paralysis Control**

The Moroccan Ministry of Health collaborated with GHD/EMPHNET to enhance the surveillance of Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) and other Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD) throughout the country, and held a national and subnational review meeting in July to discuss the performance of AFP surveillance. Within this collaboration, work was done to digitalize the national notification system of AFP cases in the country. This new system will replace the current manual one, and will provide timely alerts regarding AFP cases reported in both private and public hospitals.

Furthermore, the digitalized system will generate reports compatible with WHO reporting systems and enhance effective monitoring.



AFP Surveillance Refresher Training, Morocco

• Digital Networking

GHD/EMPHNET has used advancements in social media to develop its own networking platform 'EpiShares', which was launched during EMPHNET's Sixth Regional Conference to bring together public health professionals and experts in a space where they can express thoughts, address concerns and discuss issues relevant to public health.

The platform was also developed to ensure a mechanism for sharing information and experience, serving as a home for public health experts, FETP residents, FETP graduates, or any community of practice joined by mutual interest, cause or concern. To date it brings together close to 600 public health professionals, with more on the way.

It includes features similar to those found on other social media platforms,

allowing members to be listed in a directory, like posts, share posts, share blogs, form groups, and search for jobs and announcements. This development brings GHD/EMPHNET closer to its goals for fostering ease of communication, knowledge sharing, and fostering a stronger public health network where people can work together .

In the next fiscal year, work will be done to explore how new software like District Health Information System (DHIS2) and CPR can enhance existing projects and create opportunities for new ones. Work is also to be done to enhance the functionality and capacity of EpiShares.



Supporting Sustainable Developmental Goals

GHD/EMPHNET's mandated activities have provided support for countries in reaching their SDGs namely in the areas of good health and wellbeing (SDG3), gender equality (SDG5), clean water and sanitation (SDG6), and partnership for the goals (SDG17). The Goals will be further incorporated into EMPHNET's activities in future years as part of its strategy.



• SDG 3

In May 2018, GHD/EMPHNET collaborated with Jordan's Ministry of Health to establish a harmonized Reproductive Health Registry (hRHR), as part of a global initiative to improve maternal and child health. Jordan's hRHR aims at improving maternal and child health through the improvement of data quality and data collection techniques. This project is funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), which is part of the Canadian government's foreign affairs and development efforts. At this stage, the hRHR will be implemented and, meanwhile, studied in the selected governate of Mafrq, located North of Jordan and selected due to the fact that it hosts a large ratio of Syrian Refugees within its demographic. Expected to be implemented nation-wide.

To this end, GHD/EMPHNET conducted three workshops in August 2018 for the purposes of establishing the hRHR in Jordan, and which highlighted systems for collection and data quality of RMNCAH (reproductive, maternal neonatal, child, and adolescent health) services and touched on issues related to information technology and currently used information systems, as well as legal and ethical issues related to data collection.



• **SDG 5**



EMPHNET presented a proposed strategy for community mapping and ways to involve available communities of women and coalitions in a collaboration tasked with implementation of research to improve the existing sexual and reproductive health access in humanitarian settings. The project targeted Syrian adolescent girls and young women refugees aged 15 – 24 years in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey and was brought together by the WHO Sexual and Reproductive Health Research Department and research stakeholders from the respective countries.

• **SDG 6**



Training in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) principles within emergency rapid response was conducted in Yemen to enable better assessment, development, planning, implementation, and monitoring of WASH-related responses to public health emergencies with considerations to humanitarian principles.

• **SDG 17**



Technology: making use of ICT to digitalize immunization and surveillance efforts to provide countries with better tools to collect quality data and protect the cold-chain.

Capacity building: supporting the FETPs, emergency response components, nutrition, immunization and any other areas member countries have a need for.

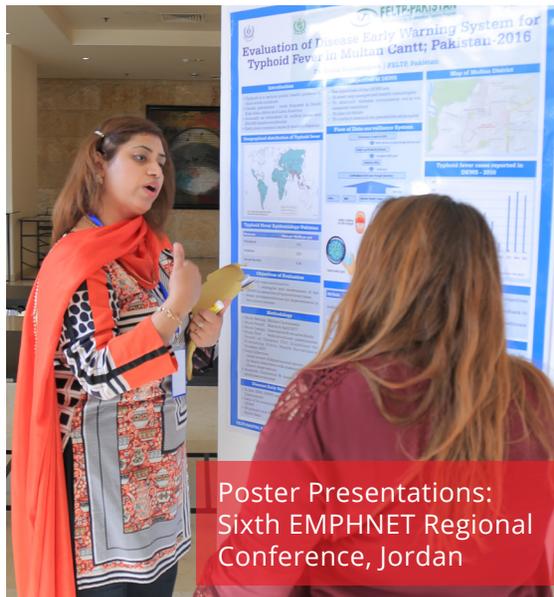
Multistakeholder partnerships: building on existing and new partnerships between national and international, government and civil society, and public and private entities to reach common goals.

The Sixth EMPHNET Regional Conference

EMPHNET held its Sixth Regional Conference between March 27 and 29, 2018, at the Landmark Hotel in Amman, Jordan under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Muna Al-Hussein and the theme “Innovative Approaches: Adapting to the Current EMR Context”. The conference’s sessions discussed how innovative approaches can be adapted to improve public health practice in countries throughout the EMR.

During the conference, the networking platform EpiShares was launched, as was the FETP Alumni Association, and a meeting was held to provide an opportunity for interested FETP graduates to meet and to lift this initiative off the ground. Prior to the conference’s official opening, six pre-conference workshops and six roundtable discussions were held. A total of 147 abstracts were accepted, 111 for oral presentations and 36 for posters. Presentations were delivered by FETP residents and graduates as well as other public health professionals from Pakistan, Iraq, Egypt, Yemen, Morocco, Jordan,

Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Bangladesh, Palestine, Tunisia, Oman, and Sudan. During the conference’s closing ceremony awards of recognition were handed to the winners of the best oral and best poster presentation.





Sixth EMPHNET Regional Conference, Jordan

Growing with plans for the future

The growing demands for health services and solutions that accommodate for changing environments, socio-political unrest, and a growing refugee population are all factors shaping GHD/EMPHNET to grow from within in order to serve its surrounding communities and beyond. Although GHD/EMPHNET is proud of what it has accomplished to date, there are still more milestones to achieve in the future.

- **Expanding Networking Efforts**

Realizing that networking has become an essential aspect of advancement whether in public health or any other field, GHD/EMPHNET strove to create a networking hub for like-minded public health professionals. This hub is to serve as a space for exchanging ideas, sharing knowledge, and a platform for its members to benefit one another. The efforts to create such a hub have materialized to include the development of the concept of the Public Health Forum.

The Forum capitalizes on GHD/EMPHNET's ability to join public health capacities, thus serving to address population needs, and provides an opportunity for public health professionals to share ideas, discuss research findings, ask questions, debate pressing issues, and listen to their peers. It will also grant them the opportunity to produce po-

sition papers and contribute to policy dialogue and development through the discussions it hosts.

In its initial stages, the forum will offer networking events and speaking opportunities. It will host seminars, lectures, and discussions, and will provide priority invitations to regional conferences, access to GHD/EMPHNET's online network and invitations to the forum's year-round calendar of events.

• Mobilization of Resources

Following a stakeholders' meeting held March 2018 on the sidelines of EMPHNET's Sixth Regional Conference, GHD/EMPHNET presented a description for a Public Health Emergency Management Center (PHEMC) and what its core functions would be. Establishing such a center was identified as a need in the EMR, in light of the socio-political unrest characterizing the region.

GHD/EMPHNET set out to establish this center based on the premise that emergency response is not the work of one organization and that a need exists to facilitate collaboration and cooperation amongst different stakeholders. Within this context, the PHEMC may work to reduce gaps affecting emergency response efforts currently made in the region, including inadequate resources and security restrictions.

The Center's conceptualization is the result of collaborative effort bringing together experts from: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), iMMAP, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Public Health England (PHE), Jordan Ministry of Health (JMOH), Marie Stopes International (MSI), South African Field Epidemiology Training Program (SAFETP), Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (WHO EMRO).

The center's core functions are identified to be networking and coordination,

capacity building and training, database and information management, mobilization and deployment, documentation, logistics and supplies support. PHEMC will work towards utilizing countries' and regional capacities in preparedness for public health emergencies and the documentation and knowledge sharing of best practices regarding the public health emergency field.

Further work is yet to be done on the identification of the areas where involved entities could collaborate and the nationalization of these collaborative efforts. More meetings are yet to be scheduled for the fiscal year of 2018-2019 in order to see this center making further progress.

Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building

Plans are underway for establishment of the International Academy of Public Health (IAPH), which will provide short and long-term training services covering several areas of public health utilizing adult learning methods. Its programs will be designed to teach skills that can be immediately applied in the field. Such programs are aimed at enhancing the leadership and performance of health systems both nationally and internationally. This academy is set to be launched mid-2019.

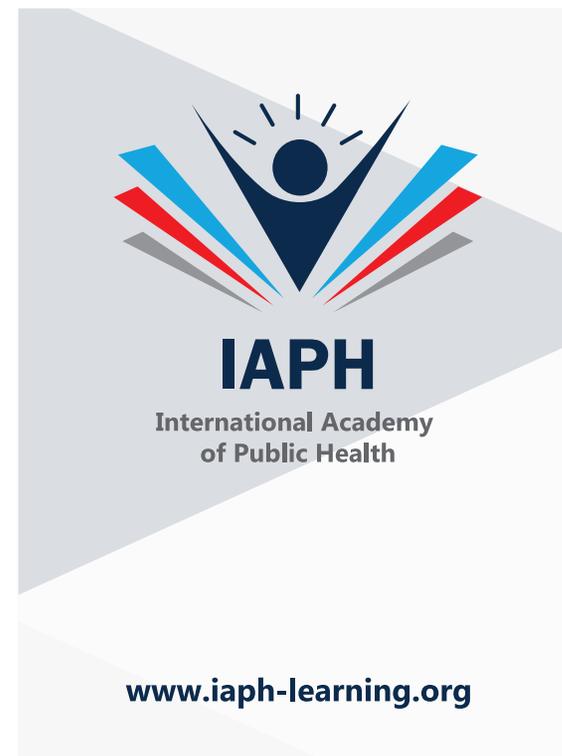
Furthermore, GHD/EMPHNET is in the process of establishing a library in its headquarters in Amman that will complement the launch of the organization's internship program, which is also set for 2019. The program will target students and professionals wishing to benefit from a hands-on experience in public health practice. Interns will be accepted through a vigorous selection process and will be subject to an assessment upon completion of their internships. Work is also underway to make participation in this program count towards university cred-

it for students participating; however, this last stipulation is yet to be open for future implementation.

GHD/EMPHNET will continue to place knowledge sharing and networking at the forefront of its priorities, as it believes collaboration is the way forward in order to respond to an ever-growing list of challenges. It plans to introduce technological advancements to the field to achieve higher levels of accuracy and timeliness in the collection and communication of data and in shared information.

Its vision for the years to come will be to expand internally to serve the region and beyond, building internal capacities and public health capacities towards achieving better health.

Within these aims do we at GHD/EMPHNET see ourselves as a link in responding to the needs of communities and countries as they require.





EVM Orientation and Planning, Bhutan



Annual Report 2017 - 2018

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