Strengthening Climate Change & Environmental Epidemiology Capacity within Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programs (FETP) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Project Close-Out Brief

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

OBJECTIVES

This project aimed to strengthen climate change and environmental epidemiology capacity across the Eastern Mediterranean Region by finalizing and digitizing a standardized FETP curriculum and equipping regional FETP mentors with the technical and instructional capacities to integrate climate change and environmental epidemiology competencies into national Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs), contributing to implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005), the One Health approach, and regional health security.

BENEFICIARIES

FETP/PHEP directors, coordinators, mentors, and trainers from ten EMR countries, with a particular focus on the Frontline (Basic FETP) level.

REGIONS OF WORK

Ten participating countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR): Morocco, Egypt, Iraq, Yemen, Lebanon, Pakistan, Syria, Palestine, Tunisia, and Jordan

PROJECT PHASES

This project consisted of four main phases:

Project Initiation and Planning: GHD|EMPHNET, in collaboration with UKHSA, finalized the Climate Change and Environmental Epidemiology curriculum and its standardized training package. The curriculum comprises eight competency-linked modules, five teaching case studies, practical fieldwork activities, and supporting training and assessment materials. It was designed to strengthen existing FETP/PHEP competencies rather than establish a parallel training programme.

Project Implementation: GHD|EMPHNET and UKHSA delivered a five-day regional Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop in Jordan (1–5 November 2026), bringing together FETP/PHEP personnel from ten countries. The workshop combined practical teaching exercises, case studies, fieldwork planning, mentoring and assessment activities, and peer learning. Participants also developed draft national integration plans and contextualized teaching materials to support adaptation of the curriculum within their respective programmes.

PROJECT PHASES

Project Monitoring and Evaluation: Overall project implementation was monitored against the agreed workplan, deliverables, and timelines, with follow-up on progress and coordination with relevant stakeholders. At the workshop level, progress was assessed through pre- and post-training assessments (26 matched pairs) and an end-of-workshop evaluation (24 responses). Results indicated improvements in knowledge and self-reported confidence. Additionally, country follow-up checkpoints at 30, 60, and 90 days were proposed to track progress toward national approval and delivery.

Project Closure: The project concluded with a finalized standardized curriculum, the delivery of the regional ToT, draft national integration plans from ten participating countries, and a workshop report documenting key achievements, lessons learned and recommendations. The report provides a foundation for continued technical support and follow-up to facilitate national adaptation and integration of the curriculum within existing FETP/PHEP programmes.

Project Start and End Date	**September 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027**
Partner Organizations	**United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA), Field Epidemiology Training Programmes (FETPs), Ministries of Health**
Funded by	**UKHSA**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Building on the standardized curriculum developed with UKHSA during the previous phase, the project strengthened regional workforce capacity in Climate Change and Environmental Epidemiology. This included finalizing the curriculum and delivering a five-day regional Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop in Jordan (1–5 November 2026), targeting FETP/PHEP personnel.

The curriculum integrates climate and environmental health competencies into existing FETP/PHEP programmes through eight competency-based modules, practical case studies, and fieldwork activities. Using regional collaboration and One Health approaches, the project supports countries in strengthening their capacity to address climate-related health risks and advance regional health security in line with the International Health Regulations (2005).

CURRENTLY

The standardized Climate Change and Environmental Epidemiology curriculum has been finalized and delivered through a regional Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop. The workshop brought together participants from ten countries, who developed draft national integration plans outlining potential pathways for incorporating the curriculum into existing FETP/PHEP programmes.

Six countries also submitted contextualized teaching materials to support national adaptation. Pre- and post-training assessments indicated improvements in participants' knowledge and self-reported confidence.

The next phase focuses on translating these workshop outputs into approved and actionable national training programmes. National approval, cohort start dates and resource requirements remain to be confirmed, with implementation dependent on institutional commitment, mentor availability and financing.

What's next . . .

The next phase will focus on translating country-level plans into approved and actionable training programmes through:

- **Country Follow-up:** Track national approval, planned cohort start dates, focal points, mentor availability and technical support needs.
- **Technical Support:** Provide targeted virtual guidance on curriculum adaptation, fieldwork, assessment and mentoring, alongside peer learning opportunities.
- **Training Resources:** Share a consolidated training package, including presentations, facilitator guides, case studies and assessment tools.
- **Implementation Monitoring:** Conduct 30-, 60- and 90-day follow-ups to monitor progress toward national approval, cohort preparation and training implementation.

By the Numbers

5
day regional Training of Trainers held in Jordan (1–5 November 2026)

10
countries took part, each developing a draft integration plan

24
participants trained through the regional Training of Trainers workshop

6
countries submitted contextualized teaching materials

GHD|EMPHNET Information: Global Health Development (GHD) 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.

- Abdallah Ben Abbas St, Building No. 42, Amman, Jordan
- Email: comm@emphnet.net
- Tel: +962-6-5519962
- Fax: +962-6-5519963
- www.emphnet.net