Mini-Grants to Advance Adoption of the 7-1-7 Target in Select MENA Countries

Project Information

- **Department: Public Health Programs**
- **Unit: Public Health Emergency Management**

OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of this project was to advance adoption of the 7-1-7 target for outbreak detection, notification, and response in select MENA countries, through mini-grants supporting targeted interventions in Lebanon, Iraq, and Tunisia.

REGIONS OF WORK

Lebanon, Iraq, and Tunisia.

BENEFICIARIES

Public health professionals and surveillance and response teams at national and subnational levels in Lebanon, Iraq, and Tunisia.

PROJECT PHASES

The project involved three phases:

Phase I – Selection of Lebanon, Iraq, and Tunisia and award of mini-grants for targeted 7-1-7 interventions.
Phase II – Country-level implementation: trainings, engagement sessions, workshops, assessment, field review, and platform adaptation.
Phase III – Review of results and recommendations, including Iraq's joint analysis and after-action review workshop.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

'Mini-Grants to Advance Adoption of the 7-1-7 Target in Select MENA Countries' supported Lebanon, Iraq, and Tunisia in implementing targeted interventions to adopt the 7-1-7 approach (detect within 7 days, notify within 1 day, and complete early response actions within 7 days), with CDC and GHD support. In Lebanon, activities included a Training of Facilitators (20 August 2026) and three engagement sessions with peripheral teams, the central team, and partners. In Iraq, a national Early Action Review (EAR) workshop using 7-1-7 was held in Baghdad with 25 national participants; 7-1-7 was piloted on the CCHF outbreak in Dhi Qar Governorate; an assessment and field review identified nine bottlenecks and ten corrective actions; and a joint analysis and after-action review workshop with 30 participants produced 14 recommendations. In Tunisia, a national workshop on event-based surveillance (EBS) and 7-1-7 integration (27–29 July 2026), organized by the National Observatory of New and Emerging Diseases (ONMNE), brought together 46 personnel from the four pilot governorates, and an IT consultant was recruited to adapt the Episurveille platform to 7-1-7 requirements.

Project Start and End Date	**October 2025 – September 2026**
Funded by	**U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
Collaborators	**National teams in Lebanon, Iraq, and Tunisia (incl. ONMNE)**

Currently . . .

The 7-1-7 target sets timeliness benchmarks for outbreak response: detect within 7 days of emergence, notify public health authorities within 1 day, and complete early response actions within 7 days. Mini-grants enabled Lebanon, Iraq, and Tunisia to integrate the approach into their surveillance and early response systems.

In Iraq, the analysis identified nine bottlenecks, with ten corrective actions under follow-up, and the after-action review workshop produced 14 recommendations, including improved laboratory data management and a central surveillance hub. Lebanon engaged peripheral and central teams and partners including Amel, UNFPA, LRC, Action Against Hunger, WHO, and UNICEF.

What's next . . .

Next steps include following up on Iraq's ten corrective actions and implementing the 14 after-action review recommendations, including improved laboratory data management and a central surveillance hub, and adapting the Episurveille platform (EBS and WNV networks) in Tunisia to meet 7-1-7 requirements through the recruited IT consultant.

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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