Global Health Development

Development the Arabic UNIGE Community Health Course

Project Information

- **Program: Center of Excellence for Applied Epidemiology**
- **Department: Research and Policy**

OBJECTIVES

The project aims to build the capacities of refugees and practitioners in community health by providing access to the Arabic version of the University of Geneva's Certificate of Open Studies (COS) in Community Health. Through accessible and socio-culturally adapted learning, the collaboration between EMPHNET and the University of Geneva (UNIGE), through its InZone program, seeks to advance inclusive higher education opportunities for refugees and support localized public health learning.

REGIONS OF WORK

The project will be implemented in Azraq and Zaatari refugee camps in Jordan.

BENEFICIARIES

Approximately 50 learners annually in Azraq and Zaatari refugee camps in Jordan.

PROJECT PHASES

Phase 1 – Create the Arabic course interface on UNIGE's Moodle platform and manage course content. Review and adapt existing Arabic learning materials to learners' socio-cultural contexts, and develop new video lectures and activities as needed.

Phase 2 – Support outreach and learner selection, provide tutoring and regular guidance meetings, and facilitate online discussions to answer questions and reinforce course concepts. Organize six practical workshops in both camps, lasting two days each, to complement theoretical learning through skills development and fieldwork.

Phase 3 – Translate and adapt UNIGE's ADEVEN evaluation as needed and gather learner feedback through additional methods, including focus group discussions. Use findings to inform program improvements, next steps, and potential expansion.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

EMPHNET will collaborate with the University of Geneva (UNIGE), through its InZone program, to implement the Arabic Certificate of Open Studies in Community Health for approximately 50 learners annually in Azraq and Zaatari refugee camps. Accredited in Switzerland with 12 ECTS, the program will be delivered through UNIGE's Moodle platform.

Activities will include adapting Arabic learning materials, managing course content, supporting outreach and learner selection, providing tutoring, facilitating online discussions, and organizing two practical workshops. Learner feedback and program evaluations will inform improvements and future expansion. An additional 20 learners in Chad may participate, subject to confirmation, funding, and an amendment to the agreement.

Project Start and End Date	**September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026**
Partner Organizations	**University of Geneva (UNIGE)**
Project Funders	**University of Geneva (UNIGE)**

Currently . . .

Access to higher education opportunities adapted to refugees' language and socio-cultural contexts is central to UNIGE's InZone program, which has operated in Azraq refugee camp since 2016. The COS in Community Health was developed by UNIGE's Faculty of Medicine following a global consultation in 2021 involving organizations working in public and community health.

During the 2023–2024 pilot, Jordanian learners faced significant challenges with the program's English-language delivery. These challenges highlighted the need for an Arabic version with culturally relevant learning materials to make community health education more accessible to refugees.

What's next . . .

EMPHNET and UNIGE will use feedback from learners and partners to inform updates and potential redesign of the program. Evaluation findings will guide improvements to course content, learner support, and future implementation.

The partners will also contribute to plans for scaling up the program. Potential delivery in Chad will remain subject to confirmation, successful fundraising, and an amendment to the existing agreement to include the additional learners.

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