

DPHSWD in Egypt



Overview and Goals

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), through its Division of Public Health Systems and Workforce Development (DPHSWD), is supporting the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population (MOH&P) to build public health workforce capacity, strengthen public health systems, and strengthen public health institutions. Areas of focus include disease surveillance, outbreak response, and program evaluation through training programs in applied epidemiology. This collaboration includes a two-year Egyptian Field Epidemiology Training Program (Egypt FETP), associated short-courses for officers at the regional, national and sub-national level, and supporting outbreak response investigations throughout the country. The overarching goal of the program is to reduce the burden of major public health challenges in Egypt.

Accomplishments in Egypt

- Graduated 96 public health leaders from the FETP; 21 residents currently participating including the first ever Veterinarian.
- FETP was actively involved in the prevention and control efforts for the H1N1 influenza pandemic and the Avian influenza H5N1 epidemic and it continues to support related surveillance and prevention activities.
- In 2011, DPHSWD worked with the Ministry of Health and Population to help establish non-communicable disease surveillance in the country that will be used to monitor NCD rates across the country.
- In 2011, the Ministry, in collaboration with WHO EMRO, conducted a Surveillance of NCD Risk Factors (STEPS) survey to measure the prevalence of diabetes, hypertension, overweight/obesity and associated risk factors in 10 of 27 governorates. The results were compiled and analyzed by Egypt FETP and WHO EMRO.

Program Description

Building Workforce Capacity

Since 1993, DPHSWD has supported Egyptian MOH&P to strengthen its capacity to investigate disease outbreaks and improve the country's public health surveillance systems through the Egypt FETP. To date, Egypt FETP has graduated 96 medical epidemiologists and currently supports 21 residents in the two year applied epidemiology training program.

Most of the FETP graduates (87.5%) have remained in Egypt supporting the country's public health needs and priorities. Through the strong partnership of MOH&P, USAID, CDC, WHO, and U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3 (NAMRU-3) over the last 18 years, graduates of the Egypt FETP have become responsible for core functions of the MOH&P related to disease surveillance and outbreak investigation. In 2011, DPHSWD placed a resident advisor in Egypt to support Egypt and other regional FETP activities.

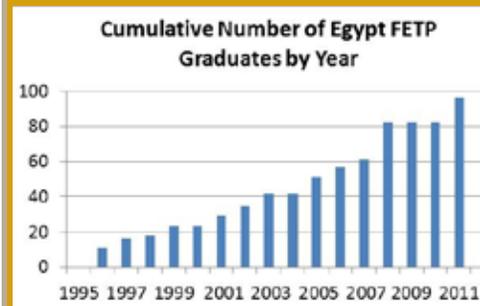
Strengthening Public Health Systems

Egypt FETP residents have been involved in many public health system strengthening activities including developing a national electronic notifiable disease surveillance system, a Nile cruise boat inspection program, core and specialized epidemiologic training, and fostering the training of hundreds of physicians at the district health level in disease surveillance and applied epidemiology. Additionally, on average, the Egypt FETP conducts 3-5 outbreak investigations per year. The program has been involved in a number of outbreak investigations including recent outbreak investigations of E. coli, Rift Valley Fever virus, viral hepatitis, typhoid, tetanus, and human rabies where FETP graduates mentored FETP residents through the outbreak response process. As a result of 3 ETP outbreak investigations, the water supply in affected areas was shut down, new pipes were installed and new guidelines for street vendors were established. In addition, E-FETP participated in a measles campaign to vaccinate a military camp and its surrounding civilian population. Egypt FETP has also been actively involved in the prevention and control efforts for the Pandemic H1N1 influenza and epidemic Avian influenza H5N1.





Egypt FETP conducting a field study with CDC medical epidemiologist, Dr. Tippavan Nagachinta, Egypt, 2005.



Graph of Egypt FETP graduates from 1995-2011.



Members of the Egypt FETP performing field work, Egypt, 2005.

Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure and Institutions

The Egyptian FETP has been instrumental in establishing the Egyptian Board of Epidemiology and the Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit within in the Ministry of Health and Population, where the FETP is positioned. CDC also helped support the decentralization of the health system through training of district and governorate health officials in the Governorate Surveillance Units and worked with partners to help establish quality control programs in Egypt's Central Public Health Laboratory.

Future Plans

With continued collaboration, Egypt FETP will help identify gaps in public health surveillance systems and support the MOPH&P with policy recommendations to build disease detection and response capacity and improve the population's health. DPHSWD's priorities over the next few years include:

- Increase CDC support team in Cairo through maintaining the resident advisor and adding a junior epidemiologist to support national and regional activities
- Support Egypt FETP to conduct a scorecard self-assessment of the program and plan next steps
- Create a FETP alumni network and provide increased training and support for field supervisors
- Leverage the co-location of resources within GDD Egypt with NAMRU3 and WHO/EMRO in Cairo to capitalize on opportunities for additional FETP partnership, mentorship from subject matter experts and collaboration on investigations
- Increase support for non-communicable diseases activities in Egypt
- Work with the Ministry Health and Population to gradually increase the number of graduates from the Egypt program to meet today's public health and epidemiologic challenges in Egypt and the region

Key Partners

- Egypt Ministry of Health and Population
- World Health Organization Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO)
- Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET)
- U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3 (NAMRU-3)

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