

DPHSWD in Morocco



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 Moroccan Ministry of Health (MMoH) to build public health work force capacity, strengthen public health systems, and strengthen public health institutions. Areas of focus include a partnership with DPHSWD's Sustainable Management Development Program (SMDP) on strengthening public health leadership and management as well as training programs in applied epidemiology that cover disease surveillance, outbreak response, and program evaluation. This collaboration includes a two-year Morocco Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP), associated short-courses for officers at the regional, national and sub-national level, and supporting outbreak investigations and response throughout the country. The overarching goal of the partnership is to reduce the burden of major public health problems in Morocco.

Program Description

Building Workforce Capacity

DPHSWD is committed to sustainably increasing public health workforce capacity in Morocco through a partnership with the MMoH. The Moroccan FETP works to develop skilled field epidemiologists capable of detecting, investigating, and responding to public health threats, conducting integrated surveillance, evaluating public health programs, and using data for decision making. The first nine residents of the program graduated in July 2012. To provide further support, CDC placed a resident advisor in Morocco to support and mentor the FETP residents, provide assistance to faculty at the National Institute of Health Administration (INAS) and increase the capacity of in-country field mentors and supervisors for FETP residents.

Based on a proposal by two high level officials from the MMoH who participated in CDC's 2010 Global Health Leadership Forum, SMDP worked with the INAS and MMoH to redesign its two existing management development programs. Together with the Moroccan partners, SMDP conducted a needs assessment and developed a list of competencies and field activities aligned with clear performance objectives. The result was the creation of the first ever competency-based management development program in Morocco that awards a Master's degree. The program will better prepare future MMoH leaders to work effectively in a large and complex health system.

Strengthening Public Health Systems

FETP residents are evaluating sections of the Moroccan surveillance systems and piloting new technologies that enable enhanced integration and transmission of information to decision makers. FETP residents are also partnering with colleagues studying in the administrative and program management Master's Program. This interdisciplinary approach to training links epidemiology to public health administration and service delivery.

The early successes of FETP residents have generated increased interest among public health officials to disseminate and share public health information in Morocco.

Accomplishments in Morocco

- Graduated the first cohort of 9 FETP residents in July 2012.
- Created the first ever competency-based management development program in Morocco that awards a Master of Public Health degree.
- FETP residents have evaluated nine different elements of the Moroccan public health surveillance system. These evaluations led to dramatic changes in how diseases are monitored in Morocco.
- Launched the first cohort of 30 students using the revised management program in October 2011.
- FETP residents shared vital lessons learned about disease detection and prevention at the 2011 CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service Conference and the EMPHNET regional meeting.
- Morocco hosted the Mass Gathering Workshop in 2011 which led to the development of 24 articles on mass gathering in the Middle East and North Africa, to be published in a supplement of the Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal.

Center for Global Health

Division of Public Health Systems and Workforce Development





U.S. and Morocco government dignitaries celebrate the launch of the new Field Epidemiology Training Program in Rabat.



Dr. Abdelkrim Meziane Belefkih, Director, Tetouan Region MMOH observes a workshop team as part of the collaboration with SMDP to reform the public health management training programs in Morocco.



The inaugural cohort for the newly formed Morocco FETP outside the host institution, the National Institute of Health Administration (INAS), Rabat, Morocco.

Strengthening Public Health Institutions

By strategically placing FETP residents at MMoH directorates and regional offices they are able to provide immediate support to critical areas of MMoH and increase public health capacity in Morocco. In addition, providing competency-based management training will promote a systems approach to addressing health problems.

Future Plans

DPHSWD will continue to support MMoH in building public health work force capacity, strengthening public health systems, and strengthening public health institutions. Priority areas include:

- Increasing FETP resident enrollment by 20% and possibly including participants from the region (Djibouti and Tunisia).
- Developing a national public health conference and a national professional association for applied epidemiology.
- Prioritizing support for residents' fieldwork, engaging residents in outbreak response, increasing mentorship, and strengthening capacity within the directorates and regional offices.
- Increasing publications and presentations from Morocco and participation in regional epidemiological activities.
- Creating an FETP alumni association and supporting increased training of field supervisors.

Key Partners

- US Department of State Bio-Engagement Program
- Ministry of Health of Morocco
- World Health Organization, Moroccan Office
- Pasteur Institute, Moroccan Office
- CDC's Center for Global Health
- National Center for Health Statistics and National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Publication Date: January 2013

For more information please contact DPHSWD at:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 Center for Global Health
 Division of Public Health Systems and Workforce Development
 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS E-93, Atlanta, Georgia 30333, USA
 Web: <http://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/dphswd/>