



Graduates ready to collect swabs to test for COVID-19. Photo courtesy of the South Africa FETP.

TEPHINET

2021-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Background

Founded in 1997, Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET) is the global network of Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs). Worldwide, FETPs build the capacity of health service agencies by providing training in field epidemiology and other public health competencies. FETPs conduct training within the context of health delivery systems through a “learning by doing” model. These programs play a vital role in developing the workforce needed to detect and respond to outbreaks and other acute public health threats. As of February 2021, TEPHINET comprises more than 70 programs working across more than 100 countries.

The TEPHINET Secretariat is based at The Task Force for Global Health, a non-profit, non-governmental organization in Decatur, Georgia, United States.

Introduction to the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan

In this plan, the TEPHINET Secretariat outlines how it will elevate the global profile of the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP), thus facilitating FETPs’ ability to effectively integrate in country and secure sustainable long-term funding so that every country in the world has the applied epidemiology capacities needed to protect and promote the health of its population.

A major guiding force for the future of TEPHINET and the global network of FETPs is the Global Field Epidemiology Roadmap, a multi-partner effort which was finalized in February 2019 at a meeting at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters in Geneva. TEPHINET was designated as the Secretariat for a Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) which would oversee the implementation of the Roadmap’s recommendations for enhancing and accelerating the development of field epidemiology capacity worldwide.

This strategic plan was formed to support and guide TEPHINET in its role as the Secretariat of the SLG and the global network of the “FETP Enterprise,” defined within the Roadmap as “the totality of the leaders, funders, implementing partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders engaged in this global effort, along with associated workforce competency targets, standards, agreements, technologies, etc. that undergird this work.”



Pakistan FELTP airport health activities.
Photo courtesy of Sara Saeed.

Vision

All people are protected by a field epidemiology workforce capable of detecting and responding to health threats.

Mission

Our mission is to develop, connect, and mobilize a global field epidemiology workforce to strengthen public health systems and advance health security.

Strategic Goals

TEPHINET will work toward achieving four strategic goals, and their associated objectives, over the next five years to elevate the global profile of FETP:

1. Assure the quality of FETPs and FETP network-level elements*.

- Objective 1.1: Support the quality improvement of FETPs.
- Objective 1.2: Improve the quality of FETP network-level elements.

2. Build knowledge and skills of the FETP community.

- Objective 2.1: Increase access to, and availability of, high-quality learning resources.
- Objective 2.2: Improve learning delivery and support.
- Objective 2.3: Expand opportunities to engage in collaboration and exchange.
- Objective 2.4: Improve lifelong learning opportunities.

3. Strengthen and prepare a field epidemiology workforce and define its role in global public health systems.

- Objective 3.1: Improve FETP fellow and alumni ability to respond to public health emergencies in-country and across borders.
- Objective 3.2: Advocate for institutionalization of FETPs.
- Objective 3.3: Professionalize the field epidemiology discipline.

4. Continue organizational excellence of the TEPHINET Secretariat.

- Objective 4.1: Establish the SLG to implement the Roadmap recommendations.
- Objective 4.2: Improve operations, communications, technical capacity, and collaboration across Secretariat work areas.
- Objective 4.3: Procure diversified and dependable funding.
- Objective 4.4: Formalize TEPHINET's relationships with regional FETP networks.
- Objective 4.5: Formalize TEPHINET's role during public health emergencies.

*From the Global Field Epidemiology Roadmap:

"Network-level elements" include program accreditation, learning resource development, network communications and mobilization, and global and regional scientific conferences.

TEPHINET Secretariat

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