FETP Updates

April-June 2017

TEPHINET requests updates from its member programs for inclusion in each issue of TEPHINews, our quarterly newsletter. If your program would like to submit an update for a future issue, please contact trezvani@tephinet.org.
FETP BRAZIL (EpiSUS)

In early May 2017, FETP-Brazil (EpiSUS) started its 14th cohort which is composed of 14 new health professionals in training. The total number of first and second year trainees is 17 residents. For the first time in its history, the program is in the process of accepting participants from other countries including a Portuguese-speaking doctor from Guinea-Bissau (Africa) who participated in the Introductory Course of the 14th cohort. This exchange allows further cooperation and international scientific exchange in field epidemiology, health surveillance and responses to public health emergencies. The Introductory Course lasted five weeks, from May 8 to June 9, with approximately 260 hours of classes. Theoretical contents on epidemiological methods, outbreak investigation, biostatistics, public health surveillance, written and oral scientific communication, leadership and management—among other topics important for the development of Field Epidemiology Programs—were delivered according to the standard curriculum developed by the CDC and recommended by TEPHINET. In addition, during the period of the theoretical course, EpiSUS residents had the opportunity to develop their first field work: a survey on knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding vaccination against human papillomavirus (HPV) infection using complex sampling by conglomerate to assess possible reasons for low HPV vaccine acceptance as well as vaccine coverage among girls of 9 to 13 years of age. Also as practical activities, between May and June, EpiSUS participated in three further field investigations, namely: 1) Outbreak of diarrheal disease, in the Southern Region, border between Brazil and Paraguay; 2) outbreak of atypical manifestations and severe forms of Chikungunya virus infection in Ceará State, Northeast Region; and 3) an occupational histoplasmosis outbreak involving fire department soldiers in Federal District, in the Midwest of the country. In this last investigation, the integration between the areas of human, animal and environmental health is highlighted as part of the "One Health" concept in order to enhance the coordinated actions of public health.

FRONTLINE FETP BURKINA FASO

From April to June, the FETP Frontline in Burkina Faso:
1. Organized the graduation of 25 participants, of whom 2 were females (8%), 8 were medical doctors (32%), and 17 were nurse surveillance officers (68%). All of the participants carried out eight investigations (100%).
2. Selected Cohort 3 participants which will include veterinarians (8) from veterinarian’s posts and 22 health workers (21 from 7 districts and 1 from hospital of the side of human health) for a total of 30 participants of whom 7 are medical doctors (23%), 15 are nurse surveillance officers (50%), and 8 are veterinarians (27%). It will be a very good experience for the One Health approach.
FETP COSTA RICA

An advantage of the training program's development in Costa Rica is that it is within the organizational structure of social security, the only institution that provides public health services in the country. This conjunction allows access to data, management of outbreaks, and implementation or evaluation of surveillance systems.

This is why our trainees, from April to June, have been developing diverse activities, as they have been the innovation of virtual courses that have been developed so that officials from their workstation can remotely access the event.

From April to June, six outbreaks have been reported: Clostridium difficile, chickenpox in a hospital, shigellosis in schools, diarrhea in a public infant education center, and infections associated with health care, dengue fever, and Zika, among others.

In the area of research, there are three projects, two of which are in collaboration with the CDCCAP office and a third which is supported by PAHO.

In training, they have been offered course of infections in health, immunizations, Zika, arboviruses, immunopreventable diseases, cholera, and diarrheal disease.

FETP EGYPT

We are now working with two cohorts: cohort 18, which has just completed its two years of training and fulfilled all graduation requirements, and cohort 19, which is in its first year of training.

Cohort 18:

After finalizing the thirteen conducted epidemiologic studies, a three-day peer-review seminar was held from April 22-24 in Cairo. Epidemiologists, researchers and biostatisticians from MOH, WHO, and Ain-shams University were invited to discuss with residents their study methods, results, and recommendations in open discussion sessions. The studies covered several public health fields, e.g. oral health, vaccination, incidence of mumps using capture-recapture methodology, mass gathering during Hajj, antibiotic prescription, burnout among physicians, socio-economic impact of FMD, etc.
Cohort 19:
Twenty-two residents evaluated the National Egyptian Surveillance System (NEDSS) of thirteen diseases following CDC guidelines. A two-day workshop was conducted from April 18-19 in Cairo that aimed to present the potential gaps and strengths found by residents to surveillance officers and managers at MOH. In attendance were the general manager of the Epidemiology and Surveillance Department, surveillance expertise from NAMRU-3, and focal persons of the disease surveillance system.

Common field activities

- Our residents participated in assessment visits of governorates capacities for surveillance, outbreak investigations, and rapid response.
- Our residents participated in a Hepatitis C virus screening campaign targeting Upper Egypt governorates.
- Rotatory selected residents investigated gastro-enteritis outbreaks in several governorates.
- Dr. Mohamed Elghazaly, an FETP graduate, participated in investigating and applying preventive and control measures of the ongoing cholera outbreak in Somalia.

Upcoming events

- Launching the Public Health Empowerment Program – Basic Field Epidemiology (PHEP – BEF) in collaboration with GHD/EMPHNET
- Launching our website, www.egfetp.org
- Recruitment of cohort 20

You can follow us on our Facebook page, Egypt FETP.
FELTP GHANA

Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology and Disease Control
Program Director: Dr. Ernest Kenu

Didactic and Other Activities

Cohort X
Residents have finished with the first year of the programme and are preparing for Surveillance Data Analysis from June 26-July 21, 2017 in the Brong Ahafo, Eastern, Greater Accra, Volta, Ashanti, Central, Western and Northern Regions.

Visit from Dr. Nelson Adekoya
Dr. Nelson Adekoya, a lecturer from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), visited the GFELTP from May 22-June 2, 2017. The purpose of his visit was to give a lecture to Cohort X residents on Public Health Surveillance II.

Cohort XI Admissions
A total of nineteen applicants, comprising 14 Ghanaians and 5 foreigners, have been admitted into the M.Phil in Applied Epidemiology and Disease Control Programme for the 2017/2018 academic year.

Meetings
GFELTP Steering Committee Meeting
The GFELTP held its first Steering Committee meeting for the year 2017 on June 8, 2017 at the School of Public Health, University of Ghana. The meeting was held to discuss the progress of the GFELTP.
2017/2018 admissions, and the GFELTP 1st Scientific Conference and 10th Anniversary Celebration. The meetings were attended by representatives from the Ghana Health Services (GHS), World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), School of Public Health (SPH) and the faculty of the GFELTP.

Meeting with the West African Health Organization (WAHO) Team
The GFELTP had a meeting with representatives from the West African Health Organization (WAHO) on April 13, 2017 at the University of Ghana School of Public Health. The main objective of the meeting was for the GFELTP to update WAHO on the progress made by the 20 trainees who were trained by the programme through the WAHO support. Other issues discussed at the meeting included: the placement and carrier progression of graduates after completion, male-female gender ratio, the criteria for the selection of applicants and the continuous sustainability of the programme.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Dogbe Koku Sika, Coordinator-WARDS Project, Mr. Aruna Fallah, Finance Director-WAHO, Dr. Cesaire Damien Ahanhanzo, Projects Management Unit General Coordinator, Mr. Enias Baganizi-World Bank, Mr. Oluwayemisi Ayumobi-World Bank, Dr. Felicite Chokki-Laley – World Bank, Say Dona-WAHO and Anciet Khonde Nzambi-WARDS project. The meeting was also attended by Prof. Richard Adanu – Dean, School of Public Health, the GFELTP faculty and representatives from the Ghana Health Service.

Conferences and Workshops
The 20th Union Africa Region Conference
Seven abstracts from residents and alumni of the GFELTP have been accepted for the 20th Union Africa Region Conference, which will be held in Accra, Ghana, from July 10-13, 2017. Of these 7 abstracts, 4 are from the Basic FETP and 3 from the advanced programme.

List of abstracts:

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presentation Type</th>
<th>Cohort</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Mr. Stephen Ofori Yirenkyi</td>
<td>Analysis of Drug Resistant Tuberculosis(DR-TB)</td>
<td>Poster</td>
<td>Basic</td>
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### Scientific Writers Workshop

The African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) organized a 3-day scientific writing workshop for all Scientific Writers of member countries from May 29-31, 2017 in Kampala, Uganda. Ms. Delia Bandoh, the Scientific Writer of the GFELTP, participated in this workshop. The workshop created a unique

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<td>2.</td>
<td>Denis Na-Ebong Soorimwin</td>
<td>Analysis of Tuberculosis Surveillance Data, Awutu Senya District, 2016</td>
<td>Poster</td>
<td>Basic</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Mr. Phenehance Effah Konadu</td>
<td>Analysis of Tuberculosis Surveillance Data, Upper Denkyira East District, May, 2016</td>
<td>Poster</td>
<td>Basic</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Abigail B. Boateng</td>
<td>Analysis of Tuberculosis Surveillance Data, Sunyani West District, Brong Ahafo Region, Ghana, 2016</td>
<td>Poster</td>
<td>Basic</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Charles Lwanga Noora</td>
<td>Health seeking behaviour, treatment delay, and its determinants among smear positive pulmonary tuberculosis patients in rural Ghana</td>
<td>Poster</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Mr. George Adu-Asumah</td>
<td>Descriptive Epidemiology Of Tuberculosis Surveillance Data, Ga East Municipality, Greater Accra Region, Ghana, 2016</td>
<td>Poster</td>
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opportunity for Scientific Writers to refine their skills in writing scientific manuscripts and also oriented them on their roles as Scientific Writers. The workshop provided participants the opportunity to interact with fellow Scientific Writers as well as technical and administrative staff of the programme. The workshop was also attended by other AFENET member countries such as Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

The 66th Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Conference
Ms. Fortress Aku Yayra, a Cohort VIII alumnus of the GFELTP, participated in the 66th Annual Epidemic Intelligence Service Conference held in Atlanta from April 24-27, 2017. Her poster presentation was titled “Antibiotic susceptibility pattern of blood culture isolates of neonates with sepsis, Volta Regional Hospital-2016”. The conference was also attended by two faculty members of the programme.

Behavior and Communication Strategies for Epidemics workshop
Three Cohort IX residents participated in the Behaviour and Communication Strategies for Epidemics workshop which was organized by the New York University (NYU) in collaboration with UNICEF from March 30-April 7, 2017 at the Alisa Hotel in the Greater Accra Region. The course was organized to enable residents to acquire special skills to deal with emerging epidemics in the world such as Ebola Virus Disease, Zika virus, polio and cholera.

The workshop was facilitated by Prof. Chris Dickey, Director - Global Health and lecturer at NYU, Mr. Michael Coleman, C4D Specialist-Health Immunization, Dr. Erma Manoncourt - Paris School of International Affairs, Dr. Juliet Bedford - Applied Medical Anthropologist, Director of Anthrologica and a lecturer at NYU, Rafael Obregon, chief - C4D, UNICEF, Dr. Gillian K. SteelFischer, Harvard University and Charles-Antoine Hofmann, Senior Thematic Adviser - World Humanitarian Summit.

The workshop was also attended by representatives from institutions such as UNICEF, National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) and Ghana Health Service. Participants at the workshop were taken through topics such as: steps in outbreak investigation, social determinants of Health, risk perception, Fundamental Theories of Behaviour and Social Change- Understanding Human Behaviour and Community and Culture: why emergency response needs inputs from social science.

The workshop was also facilitated by Dr. Ernest Konadu Asiedu, a Cohort VIII alumnus of the GFELTP.

FETP IRAQ

Main activities (April-June):

- Deployment of a team of residents and graduates to Mosul province which is currently under tough military operations with ISIS terrorists. The objectives of the mission are to review the health situation and identify the needs in the newly liberated parts of the province. Also, assessment the health needs and identify gaps in health services provided to the IDPs in the camp. Our residents and graduates were part of a team from different
departments in the Ministry of Health.

- Through generous support from EMPHNET, Iraq FETP had deployed a team of five residents to an IDP camp in North Iraq (Khazer U2 Camp) to investigate a large food poisoning outbreak that affected more than 800 individuals during Ramadan. One of our graduates working in Erbil province had joined the team and facilitated the field work.

- In partnership with EMPHNET and Iraq FETP, Iraq MOH/EPI program completed a series of activities in Misan and Kirkuk provinces to upgrade the Routine Immunization microplans in all the PHCs in these two provinces. The work will extend to include all the remaining provinces in the country in the coming months.

- Iraq FETP and EMPHNET will launch a series of activities in the coming fiscal year including Mass Gathering surveillance, biosafety and Biosecurity and Brucellosis, rapid Response training and developing emergency response plan.

- Iraq FETP is working with WHO Polio and EPI teams to implement the Independent Review of Iraq AFP surveillance and EPI Data Quality Self-Assessment (DQS) that will be implemented in all Iraqi provinces.

- Iraq FETP is now part of the group responsible for identifying the preparedness activities for the suspected coming cholera outbreak in the coming fall. Iraq MOH will be the main implementer of these activities. Other partners will be WHO, UNICEF and IRCS.

- Iraq FETP had seven abstracts accepted for the coming TEPHINET conference; five for oral and two for poster presentations.

- Three manuscripts developed by three residents were submitted for three peer reviewed journals. These manuscripts are:
  1. “Epidemiological Characteristics of Burn Injuries in Iraq: A burn hospital-based study”
  2. Prevalence, Incidence, Trend, and Complications of Thalassemia in Iraq
  3. Epidemiology of colorectal cancer in Iraq, 2002-2014

- Iraq FETP had completed all the technical and logistic preparations to start the first series of activities for the Basic Field Epidemiology that will be implemented in five mid-provinces of Iraq. The official launch of the activity will be in mid-July 2017.
FETP JAPAN

Every year in April, FETP-J conducts an introductory course. The course consists of lectures of basic epidemiology, infectious diseases, outbreak investigation, and laws and international regulation related to acute public health events. Dr. John Kobayashi, Clinical Associate Professor, School of Public Health, University of Washington joined as one of the lecturers. This year, 19 people participated, including three new FETP trainees (19th cohort), some local public health officers, a few doctors from the Department of Foreign Affairs, and those interested in field epidemiology. The course also includes small group work in which participants conduct a small epidemiological study to a given research question. The question for this year was, “How to promote responses to measles or rubella in Japan.” With good team work, each group provided excellent presentations at the end of the course. Last but not least, Dr. David Wong from US CDC currently supporting Korean FETP, joined the course.

FETP MALAWI

Since Malawi’s FETP-Frontline training program was launched in April 18, 2016, 30 trainees have successfully graduated, resulting in an 86% graduation rate. Graduates are comprised of epidemiologists, environmental health officers, nurses, laboratory officers and veterinary officers from Malawi’s Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). Test results from all three cohorts showed improvements in post-test scores, suggesting comprehension and retention of concepts taught during the classroom training and reinforced during the course of field work. More importantly, trainees have used their skills by participating in data quality audit of surveillance programs, investigation of a typhoid outbreak, and investigation of a case of food poisoning, among other field projects. Trainees supported data collection, confirmation of diagnosis, reporting of findings, and institution of public health interventions that led to early control of the outbreak. Additionally, four graduates submitted abstracts of their FETP field work to the 9th TEPHINET Global Scientific Conference.

EIP MALAYSIA

Epidemic Intelligence Program (EIP) Malaysia conducted a short, one week introduction course in Field Epidemiology Training during the 3rd week of April 2017. The main aim of the course was to help Ministry of Health (MOH) officers at various levels better understand the disease surveillance system under MOH as well as recognize and manage outbreaks efficiently. During this course a few potential candidates were identified to join our new cohort of EIP trainees. The trainees are scheduled to commence their training as Cohort 9 on the 1st of July 2017. This course also serves as a platform for EIP graduates to share their expertise and skill as lecturers and seen as a “give back” initiatives to the society.

FETP MONGOLIA

As of May 2017, the Mongolia Field Epidemiology Training Program has 56 graduates and 8 trainees. After graduation, 89% of MFETP residents return to work at the Government (Ministry of Health, National Centers, and veterinary and inspection
FETP Updates

MFETP graduates now form a critical part of the national surveillance and response system. From 2009-2016, MFETP fellows participated in and/or conducted 33 outbreak investigations, 34 surveillance data analyses, and 55 epidemiological studies. In addition, MFETP published 21 articles, 4 of which were published in international peer reviewed journals in 2011-2016.

The recent Joint External Evaluation on APSED (Asia Pacific Strategy on Emerging Diseases) implementation and IHR (International Health Regulation) core capacity in Mongolia has concluded that MFETP is an example of best practices in sustainable workforce development.

FETP MOROCCO

Prof. Asmae Khattabi: Morocco FETP Coordinator
Dr. Germain Bukassa: CDC-TEPHINET current Resident Advisor
Prof. Abdelmounim Belalia: ENSP Director

Background

The Morocco Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) was established in 2010. It is an advanced training program in applied epidemiology and public health practice. The program is hosted at the Ecole Nationale de Santé Publique (ENSP). The ENSP belongs to the Ministry of Health and with an agreement with the Ministry of High Education. The program has been supported by TEPHINET/CDC with a full time Resident Advisor since September 2011.

Graduates from the FETP obtain a master’s degree and a CDC certificate after completion of their training. The program has so far graduated three cohorts, 28 Moroccan Field Epidemiologists. Graduates have all been integrated the MoH workforce at different level of responsibility in the system. One of the FETP graduates is part of the Office of the WHO Representative in Morocco in charge of Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP).

Programme Overview

The current 4th cohort has 20 residents from Morocco and two public health professionals from Tunisia. The 5th cohort has 15 residents from Morocco and three public health professionals from Togo, Congo and Guinea. They spent approximately 25% of their training time in class and are spending the remaining in their field assignment sites. The two Tunisian FETP, Guinean and Togolese participants are conducting their field assignments in their countries.

Current FETP residents have already been involved in a number of outbreak investigations. The surveillance and the research projects that FETP residents conduct during their field assignments are in line with the priorities of the MoH and will provide with evidence for decision making.
Priorities and challenges of the programs

Investigations of Outbreaks
All second year FETP residents engaged at least one time in outbreak investigations conducted in different provinces in Morocco and Tunisia, e.g. leishmaniasis, acute food poisoning, hepatitis A and salmonellosis, whooping cough, mussel poisoning, cluster of two cases of Legionnaires' disease associated with their stay at the same hotel, meningococcal meningitis and grouped cases of decline in visual acuity within the same family.
Since a couple of week, six FETP residents of the first year are engaged in various outbreaks. They are leading or participating in those outbreaks under the supervision of FETP graduates or guidance of the Resident Advisor and FETP coordinator and trainers, e.g. fatal intoxication due to methanol in Meknes province (13 deaths), brucellosis in Laâyoune province, and a cluster of cases of fever under chemotherapy based on Fluorouracil.

Conduction of Epidemiology studies
Those studies covered many public health subjects in both communicable and non-communicable diseases, e.g. tuberculosis multi-drug resistance, bacterial meningitis, mental health, diabetes and cancer, including as well public health surveillance evaluation.

Quality Improvement
NCD Scientific Writing Workshop
FETP residents and graduates are encouraged to elaborate manuscripts for submission in peer-reviewed journals and they have been distributed with guidelines to provide them with instructions to follow for the publication process in international standards.
In February 2017, a three-day training scientific writing was held for twenty second year FETP residents and graduates. The facilitators of this successful workshop were Prof. Yusuf Khader and Prof Asmae Khattabi. At the end of this workshop, three scientific manuscripts were submitted.

Participation in Conferences
Current FETP residents have been encouraged to submit the results of their projects to similar national or international opportunities:
One second year FETP resident will be making an oral presentation of his work at the 9th TEPHINET Global Scientific Conference in Thailand, August 7-11, 2017. Congratulations.
One second year FETP resident presented his work (two abstracts) to the EPICLIN conference, held from May 17-19, 2017. The resident gave poster presentations.
Five second year FETP residents presented their work to the MediPIET conference, held from December 6-8, 2016.
Eight second year FETP residents and graduates presented their work to the EMPHNET regional conference, held from December 6-8, 2016.
Another second year FETP was invited to attend the FETP International Night 2017, April 24-27, 2017 as an International Attendee (supported by TEPHINET).

**FELTP NIGERIA**

A. Advanced Level

- Dr. Esther Njideka Kanu, a Cohort 6 graduate, made an oral-poster presentation entitled Social Support and Adherence to Anti-Retroviral Therapy among HIV Patients in a Treatment Centre in Southern Nigeria, 2016 at the TEPHINET-sponsored FETP International Night during the 2017 CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.
- From May 2-June 17, the newly recruited 9th Cohort, comprising 59 residents that included three participants from other African Countries (two from Burundi and one from the Gambia), had its first cluster of lectures in Abuja. Topics covered included Basic Epidemiology and Public Health Surveillance, Biostatistics, Research Methods, Laboratory Methods and Computer Applications in Public Health. Lecturers and facilitators were drawn from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; University of Ibadan, Hanover Medical School (Germany); U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and the African Field Epidemiology Network in Nigeria.
- NFELTP conducted a workshop to finalize the tools and protocols for National Surgical Site Infection Surveillance in Kaduna.
- The 7th Cohort had a seminar in preparation for the internal defense of their university theses at the NFELTP facility in Abuja.
- NFELTP participated in the development of the Cholera Preparedness Plan led by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the World Health Organization in June.
- NFELTP gave presentations on workforce development during the Joint External Evaluation for Internal Health Regulations requirement and participated in the discussions and other activities leading to the evaluation in May through June.
- In April and May, staff, graduates and residents of the NFELTP participated in the NCDC-coordinated response to the epidemic of meningococcal meningitis that affected several states in northern Nigeria at the Emergency Operations Centre as well as in the field. The residents were in the field to support surveillance and reactive immunization, and conduct epidemiologic surveys and assessments in the districts.

B. Frontline Level

- The programme had several training workshops in various parts of the country facilitated mainly by graduates of the advanced programme. The participants were mentored in the field by graduates and residents of the advanced programme.
  i. The 8th cohort of the Frontline FETP graduated 70 surveillance officers from districts in Nasarawa State and the Federal Capital Territory during a workshop that held from 19 to 20 April at Akwanga in Nasarawa State.
  ii. The 9th cohort had its first workshop (April 7-13), second workshop (May 15-19) and the final workshop (June 19-20) during the 2nd quarter of 2017. This cohort comprised 77 surveillance and public health officers from Akwa Ibom State. Each LGA (district) team was given a laptop computer to facilitate its functions.
iii. The 10th cohort, comprising 76 surveillance and epidemiology officers from Katsina State, had its first training workshop at Sokoto. At the end of the training, they were presented with laptop computers for their surveillance and response activities.

- The 3rd and 4th cohorts of the Frontline FETP were evaluated 6-months post-training. The results showed improvement in all surveillance activities.

**FETP PHILIPPINES**

As a response to the public health threats challenges, the Department of Health Philippines through the Field Epidemiology Training Program serves to promote evidence-based decision-making through the conduct of epidemiological investigations and implementation of disease surveillance systems. The goal of FETP is to improve the practice of epidemiology in the government public health sector. Specifically, it aims to strengthen the epidemiological services in the following areas: 1) investigation of disease outbreaks; 2) reporting and analysis of disease surveillance data; 3) development of methodologies for disease prevention and control; and, 4) utilization of epidemiological information for planning, managing and evaluating health services.

On May 3-5, 2017, Dr. Ma. Nemia Sucaldito, FETP Philippines Program Director, attended the 8th Steering Committee Meeting ASEAN+3 Field Epidemiology Training Network at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Singapore. She presented the 2016 highlights of FETP Philippines.

On May 15, 2017, FETP Batch 28 fellows started their didactics at Epidemiology Bureau, Department of Health. The aim is to capacitate the trainees on epidemiological principles, procedures and its application to FETP in preparation for field work.
On May 23, 2017, a firefight ensued in Marawi City, Mindanao, Philippines between the military and armed group. A team from FETP Philippines was sent on June 2, 2017 to Iligan City, Mindanao, Philippines to conduct rapid health assessment survey and establish disease surveillance in identified evacuation centers and hospitals.

Epidemiology Bureau (EB) Staff welcomes Five FETP Batch 28 Fellows
Department of Health, Philippines
May 15, 2017

FETP Fellows in action Iligan City, Mindanao, Philippines
June 2-10, 2017
FETP SOUTH AFRICA

April

April 5 – SAFETP staff (Dr. Carl Reddy, Dr. Lazarus Kuonza and Ms. Pinky Manana) attend a meeting at the National Department of Health with Andrew Crichton to discuss epidemiology capacity building.

April 10-12 – Dale Carnegie training takes place at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD). Seven 1st year SAFETP residents and 7 NICD staff members attended the training which was facilitated by Eudeshi Naidu from Dale Carnegie.

April 18 – Second-year resident Rudzani Mathebula travels to Johannesburg for a measles outbreak investigation with Joy Ebonwu.

April 20 – Dr. Carl Reddy attends the AFENET subcommittee meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Dr. Tim Doyle and Pinky Manana go on a field site orientation visit for first year residents Natasha Abraham (National Cancer Registry) and Poncho Bapela (Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University).

April 21 – Dr. Reddy and Pinky Manana go on a field site orientation visit for first year residents Tracy Arendse (Gauteng Provincial Department of Health) and Itumeleng Moema (Centre for Healthcare-associated infections, Antimicrobial Resistance Mycoses).

April 24-28 – SAFETP staff (Dr. Carl Reddy, Dr. Lazarus Kuonza) attend the EIS conference in Atlanta. Ms Liliwe Shuping (SAFETP alumna) presents a poster titled, “Investigation of a cluster of extended spectrum beta-lactamase-producing Klebsiella pneumoniae infections among infants admitted to a public-sector hospital, Mpumalanga, South Africa, 2016” at the conference.

May

May 2 – Dr. Tim Doyle and Pinky Manana go on a field site orientation visit for first year residents Emelda Ramutshila (Centre for Respiratory Diseases and Meningitis) and Mpho Sikhosana (Centre for Virology and Immunology).

May 3 – Gloria Motshudi attends the operations meeting at the University of Pretoria.

Dr. Carl Reddy and Dr. Lazarus Kuonza travel to Lesotho to conduct a site visit for first year SAFETP resident Tshepang Lekhela.

May 5 – Seven SAFETP residents from the 2015 cohort graduate at the autumn graduation of the University of Pretoria: Unarine Makungo, Pinky Manana, Liliwe Shuping, Ruvimbo Chingonzoh, Ednah Baloyi, Relebogile Mapuroma, Husna Ismail

May 8-12 – SAFETP staff (Dr. Lazarus Kuonza, Mrs. Hetani Mdose and Ms. Pinky Manana) facilitate a short course on Basic Applied Epidemiology for Health Care Workers in East London in the Eastern Cape Province. 24 participants from Eastern Cape Department of Health attend the course.

May 8-18 – Second year resident Khuliso Ravhuhali travels to Thohoyandou for a suspected Malaria outbreak investigation with support from Ntsieni Ramalwa, Queen Ranoto and Mashudu Mudau from the Limpopo Provincial Health Department.
**May 15** – Dr. Carl Reddy and Dr. Tim Doyle travel to Mahikeng (North West Province) for a site visit for second year resident Mabore Morifi.

**May 15-18** – Core Learning Activities workshop for SAFETP first-year residents takes place in the NICD, facilitated by Dorothy Southern who was funded by AFENET.

**May 19** – Second scientific seminar for 2017 takes place in the NICD Auditorium. Both the 2016 and 2017 cohorts present.

**May 29-June 2** – Research Methods and Protocol Writing module takes place at the NICD for SAFETP first-year residents.

**May 31** – SAFETP 10-year paper submitted to the BMC special issue for publication.

**June**

**June 1-2** – First year residents complete the Protocol Writing Module at the NICD. The SAFETP team taught the module, which was also attended by other postgraduate students from the University of Pretoria.

**June 5-6** – Dr. Reddy attends the AFENET Human Resources Subcommittee meeting in Kenya, Nairobi.

**June 5-9** – First-year residents attend the Basis of Environmental Health module at the University of Pretoria.

**June 7** – Lazarus Kuonza and Pinky Manana meet with Dr. Babatyi Malope-Kgokong to plan for a pre-conference workshop to be delivered at the Pathred Congress on June 23, 2017.

**June 8** – Pinky Manana attends a meeting at the National Department of Health to discuss the Entrusted Practical Activities (EPA’s) for Epidemiologists.

**June 9** – Dr. Carl and Hetani Ngobeni meet with Khuliso Ravhuhali (second-year residents, Limpopo Department of Health) and his supervisor, Ntsieni Ramalwa, for a quarterly site visit to discuss his outputs progress.

**June 11-15** – Dr. Carl Reddy travels to Atlanta to attend the TEPHINET workshop on the TEPHIConnect Alumni Platform.

**June 12** – Hetani Ngobeni completed a TEPHINET survey to highlight SAFETP achievements in contribution towards TEPHINET’s 20th anniversary report.

**June 12-15** – First-year residents attend Advanced Biostatistics in Field Epidemiology module at the NICD. The course was facilitated by Alfred Musekiwa, CDC South Africa.

**June 19-23** – First year residents attend the Outbreak Investigation and Control module at NICD. The module was attended by other students from the University of Pretoria. The SAFETP team facilitated the module.

**June 20** – Second year residents Jackie Kleynhans and Alicia Cloete travel to Krugersdorp for a suspected measles outbreak investigation together with Dr Kerrigan McCarthy from the Outbreak Response Unit, NICD.
June 22 - Carl Reddy, Lazarus Kuonza, Hetani Ngobeni and Pinky Manana facilitate a dry run session for Phuti Sekwadi (2nd year resident) for his oral presentation at the PathRed conference, June 23, 2017.

Pinky Manana attends a meeting with Dr. Mayet to discuss the Epidemiology Capacity Building concept document.

SAFETP brochure is finalized.


June 27-29 – GIS training takes place at the NICD for first and second year residents.

June 27 – Hetani Ngobeni presents Basic Epidemiology lectures at a Provincial Department of Health Short Course training for district Environmental Health Practitioners, West Rand District, Gauteng Province.

Carl Reddy, Lazarus Kuonza and Pinky Manana give a presentation on SAFETP to fourth-year medical students at the Witwatersrand Medical School.

Carl Reddy and Lazarus Kuonza hold a teleconference with the CDC US office in Pretoria to discuss possible funding for two FETP Residents for the next intake (2018). The two residents will be funded through PEPFAR and will work on HIV related projects.

FETP YEMEN

Ministry of Public Health and Population
Primary Health Care Sector
General Directorate of Disease Control and Surveillance
Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program

Updates:

- With more than 120,000 cholera cases and 1,200 fatalities in the war-torn Yemen, the Y-FETP participates in assessing the cholera response activities to ensure timely investigation, adherence to standard case definition, proper case management, effective infection control practice, and improved data management and information dissemination. Furthermore, Y-FETP supports the “Hot Districts” to develop micro-plans for the cholera outbreak response.
- After the Y-FETP 3rd cohort completed their first year of residency at the central level addressing MoPHP public health priorities, residents started their second year residency where they will provide direct service to the governorates and programs/directorates. They will help with analyzing and evaluating surveillance systems, conducting outbreak investigations, and
designing and implementing planned studies tackling priority problems for their governorates and programs.

- The Y-FETP residents successfully completed designing nine automated database projects aiming to improve quality of surveillance systems where they trained and engaged the programs’ staff in designing and pilot testing of these databases.
- As part of Y-FETP’s commitment toward task force development, Y-FETP (supported by BEP and TEPHINET) organized two training workshops to strengthen Y-FETP residents/graduates and MoPHP staff competencies in biosafety, biosecurity and biorisk management.
- Recognizing the increasingly complex health challenges facing the Yemeni health system, Y-FETP (supported by EMPHNET) facilitated the implementation of stakeholders’ and mentors’ workshops to prepare for launching the Public Health Empowerment Program-Basic Field Epidemiology. This is a three-month, in-service program where governorates and district surveillance officers learn and practice the fundamental skills of surveillance and outbreak investigation.

**FETP ZAMBIA**

The Zambia Field Epidemiology Training Program (ZFETP) started in 2014. The second advanced cohort was enrolled in October 2016 with eight residents. One of the residents from cohort 1 (Dr. Nyambe Sinyange) (Figure 1) is now the program manager for ZFETP. Another graduate from cohort 1 has been promoted to the position of Public Health Specialist in one of the provinces in the country. The skills and knowledge acquired during this training are being recognized and appreciated at all levels of the Ministry of Health.

From April to June 2017, the second cohort has been involved in multiple outbreaks, including outbreaks of cholera and typhoid fever. Of particular note, all eight residents contributed to the successful investigation and control of a food-borne outbreak at a university in Lusaka (Figures 2 and 3). This outbreak, which sickened over 80 students, was solved through the rapid and appropriate application of the steps of an outbreak. Over a two-day period, residents reviewed medical records, formed an epi curve, and conducted hypothesis-generating interviews, which subsequently allowed them to perform a targeted case-control study. The residents utilized Epi Info to perform multivariable logistic regression on the study results, which identified a single food (beans served at dinner the night before the outbreak) as the culprit. Less than one week after the start of the outbreak, it was solved and cases ceased.

ZFETP has been incorporated into the Ministry of Health’s main response team to disease outbreaks through the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI). Zambia has established the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) as the center of excellence in public health, disease surveillance, epidemic preparedness and response.
Figure 2: FETP resident (Mr. Obrie Chewe) interviews a student during the case control investigation

Figure 3: ZFETP residents analyze data in Epi-Info