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.

This update has been compiled using text provided by the contributing field epidemiology training programs. Editing has been restricted to formatting and minimal corrections where necessary. The information in each program’s section is the responsibility of the respective program.
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COLOMBIA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) in Colombia of the National Institute of Health (INS), affiliated with the Network of Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions (TEPHINET), continues to work with the training of the workforce for epidemiological surveillance through the Human Talent Training Group for Public Health Surveillance (GFTHVSP). In 2018, two Frontline tutors’ workshops were held during January and February.

The first session was held from January 17 to 19 with the INS human talent, FETP graduates and specialized professionals participated; on this occasion, 19 Frontline tutors were certified. The second session was carried out with the personnel in charge of the epidemiological surveillance of the departments of Chocó, Vichadá, Norte de Santander, taking into account the border condition and epidemiological risk of these departmental entities, the Military Forces were also prioritized. On this occasion, 27 Frontline tutors were certified; the group was made up of six representatives from each department, three representatives from the army, one participant from the armed forces and four from the INS.

The certification at the Frontline level with the departmental entities selected, began on February 26 in Chocó. INS frontline tutors moved to meet with regional tutors. This process contributes to consolidate a competent field epidemiology workforce in our country. In the following weeks, certification will begin at the Frontline level in Vichada, Norte de Santander and Fuerzas militaries.
From May 15 to 18, 2018, the 10th TEPHINET Regional Scientific Conference will take place (theme: Health Security in the Americas: The Challenge of an Interdisciplinary Approach), where the results of outstanding scientific projects will be disseminated as an important input for the taking of decisions for the benefit of Public Health programs and strategies for the Americas. To assume this challenge, the INS has established four committees: academic, operational, logistical and communications committees, all of which manage the adequate preparation of the event, highlighting the status of hosts during this significant occasion.

The FETP Colombia program actively promoted the submission of abstracts to the 10th TEPHINET Regional Scientific Conference, obtaining as a result the submission of 342 abstracts from the different countries of the region, positioning the event as one of the most important for the epidemiology of field and public health in the Americas.

It is important to highlight that trainees from the advanced level have supported alert situations in different areas of the country. They also maintain permanent availability in the Emergency Operations Center (COE) in Public Health of the INS, responding in this way to the FETP mission, which seeks to consolidate a competent reserve force for the care of emergencies, outbreaks and epidemics.

GHANA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM (GFELTP)

FETP-Frontline workshops in Western and Upper East Region

The GFELTP organized FETP-Frontline Workshop 1 for Cohort IX and Cohort X in Bolgatanga - Upper East and Takoradi - Western Regions respectively. The workshops were held from February 19-23, 2018 and March 5-9, 2018 at the Extee Crystal Hotel, Bolgatanga - Upper East Region and Grand Favor Hotel, Takoradi in the Western Region respectively. Cohort IX trainees comprised 30 trainees 6 Disease Control Officers, 5 Health Information Officers, 6 Public Health nurses, 6 Laboratory Scientists, 6 Veterinary Technical Officers and 2 officials from the Food and Drugs Authority whereas Cohort X trainees comprised 30 trainees 7 Disease Control Officers, 4
Health Information Officers, 2 Public Health Nurses, 2 Public Health Officers, 6 Laboratory Scientists, 5 Veterinary Technical Officers, 2 Nutrition Officers and 2 officials from the Food and Drugs Authority. Trainees were taken through topics such as Introduction to public health surveillance, Surveillance cycle, Data collection, Case definitions, Line list, Data quality, Summarizing qualitative and quantitative data, Interpreting surveillance data and Monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Trainees had hands-on sessions on how to summarize and display surveillance data using Microsoft Excel.

Scientific Manuscript Writing Workshops

The GFELTP organized two Manuscript Writing Workshops on January 22-26, 2018 and March 19-23, 2018 at the University of Ghana School of Public Health and at the Yiri Lodge, University of Ghana respectively. The purpose of these workshops was to equip participants with the requisite writing skills to enable them convert their work into publishable materials. At the end of the workshop one, 13 draft manuscripts were submitted to the GFELTP Secretariat which are currently under review for onward submission to appropriate journals whilst draft 0 of manuscripts were submitted to the Secretariat as the first output for the workshop two.

Facilitators, mentors and participants at the 2nd manuscript writing workshop held at the Yiri Lodge, University of Ghana

Second Year of Life (2YL) Progress Analysis Survey II Training Workshop
The Ghana Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme (GFELTP) has been supporting the 2YL Project to conduct a pre and post-training assessment of selected participants in five selected districts in the Greater Accra, Volta and Brong Ahafo Regions. A 3-day workshop was held from February 12-14, 2018 at the Tenko Plaza Hotel, Accra to review findings from the pre assessment phase and also to train field workers for the post training assessment phase of the exercise. Field workers were trained on the competency tools, the newly added data collection tools for the post-training assessment, overview of 2YL competency training and supportive supervision, qualitative data collection and analysis.

**Steering Committee Meeting**

The GFELTP held its first quarterly Steering Committee meeting on January 23, 2018 at the University of Ghana School of Public Health. The meeting was organized to discuss critical issues concerning the programme such as the FETP-Frontline in Ghana, the 2018/19 admissions and the establishment of a satellite training centre at the University of Health and Allied Sciences, School of Public Health, Hohoe in the Volta Region.

**Suspected Influenza-Like Illness Outbreak in the Greater Accra Region**

A team of GFELTP residents and alumni joined the Greater Accra Regional, Accra Metropolitan Area and Okaikoi Sub-Metro Health Management Teams as well as staff of the Achimota Hospital from February 10-15, 2018 to investigate the acute respiratory illness cases suspected to be Influenza-like illness outbreak at the Achimota Secondary School, Achimota, Okaikoi Sub-Metro, Greater Accra Region. This investigation was conducted as a result of a number of students reporting to the Achimota Hospital with cough, fever and other respiratory symptoms. Eight of the suspected case-patients had been admitted to the Achimota Hospital and four of them discharged as at February 9, 2018. After an investigative review of the cases of the suspected outbreak, staff and students of Achimota Secondary School have been educated on causes and prevention of respiratory illnesses while the investigation team awaits the laboratory results.
GUINEA-BISSAU FRONTLINE FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

Key Activities & Achievements

Training

To date, seven FETP Guinea-Bissau cohorts have been trained, with 101 students in total. Two cohorts are underway with 16 and 12 students respectively. A tenth cohort of 16 students is expected to start on 26 March.

Students in training

At this stage the training of professionals is given to the Sanitary Areas of the regions of the country. The 28 students selected to attend the FETP work in several health areas at the regional level of health and animal health.

Teachers

The teachers of the FETP theoretical classes are epidemiologists and public health professionals from the Guinea Bissau FETP, professionals from the World Health Organization (WHO), INASA, the National Public Health Laboratory and partner organizations such as Portuguese Cooperation, Project Health Bandim and Doctors without Borders

Mentoring Training

Due to insufficient mentors to follow-up students in health care areas, there was a need to train regional mentors. The mentor training took place in two phases: The first 15 mentor in Gabu region and the second region in the autonomous Bissau. They were selected and trained 30 regional mentors.

Mentoring

The mentors who have accompanied and supported the work of the students are pro-FETP graduates and mentored.

Fieldwork

First fieldwork studies were carried out on several topics such as malaria, HIV in pregnant women, diarrhea in children under 5 years of age, intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in pregnant women, HIV and antiretroviral, Cases of hospitalization for Pneumonia, Diarrhea.
Outbreak investigation

All outbreaks detected and reported to INASA since the beginning of the program have been investigated with the support of FETP students. In the first phase of the field work there was no occurrence of an outbreak. Three suspected cases of measles cases involving three students are currently underway.

Main Challenges

The main challenge of the FETP in Guinea-Bissau is to ensure the sustainability of the program, involving and holding national professionals responsible for the activities. A Steering Committee is formed to discuss strengthening the program and establishing it in the national surveillance network.

The limitations in the national capacity to respond to outbreaks and to carry out laboratory investigations have prevented the advancement of some studies. The FETP and other partners such as the CDC have supported the National Laboratory in investigations and in the identification of etiologic agents circulating in the country.

Supervision and follow-up of fully-formed mentors is still a major challenge and needs to be strengthened.

Recommendations

- Strengthen the mentoring process.
- Start the implementation of the FETP Intermediate course.
JAPAN FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

End of February to early March, Japan underwent Joint External Evaluation (JEE) by WHO evaluation team. FETP trainees and facilitators contributed in many aspects during the preparation and evaluation periods. On average, Japan received high remarks, and results of prior hard work by FETP Japan were recognized in the final report. The evaluation team also encouraged enriching the public health workforce at sub-national institutes and centers by expanding capacity building through the FETP program. FETP-J will certainly make every effort to respond to this suggestion.

Workshop by Matt Griffith on surveillance evaluation and participation in international conferences.

Former FETP-J facilitator, Mr. Matt Griffith, returned to FETP-J for a week in early March to teach the surveillance evaluation course for FETP trainees. He had been with our program from 2015 October to 2017 September, and this was his first return to Japan. In addition to surveillance evaluation, he led workshops on how to present and participate at international conferences. Because Japan is an “English as a Second Language” country, presentation in English is a big challenge. Matt gave us tips to overcome this difficulty based on his considerable experience teaching abroad and then led us in activities to try using the tips. Due to his creative workshops, trainees learned and adopted many skills.

MALAWI FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Malawi FETP-Frontline program which was launched on April 18, 2018 held it is fifth graduation on February 21, 2018 in Zomba district in the Southern Region. The graduation ceremony was the culmination of the training of the fifth cohort which started on 30 October 2017. It targeted relevant
Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture (Animal Health) officials in Zomba district. Twelve trainees were enrolled, out of which 9 graduated on February 21, 2018, after they presented their final fieldwork products.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) was represented by Dr. Ben Chilima who is the Director of Technical Services at the MOH and former Team Leader of the Public Health Institute of Malawi (PHIM) which is hosting the FETP program. He was the Guest of Honor. Other guests included representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Health (Dr Gilson Njunga), I-TECH-Malawi (Dr Ireen Namakhoma, I-TECH Deputy Country Director), and officials from the MOH. Mr Luis Morfin, Deputy CDC Country Director, represented CDC at the graduation ceremony. The Guest of Honor and all invited guests congratulated the graduates for the achievement.

There was a variety of fieldwork topics presented by the graduates on February 21, 2018. However, 50% of all the project topics were HIV/TB related. The topics are:

1. Investigation of an Acute Flaccid Paralysis Case in Zomba District, December, 2017
2. Analysis of Poor Documentation of Laboratory Results of HIV-exposed Clients in the Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) Program at Matawale, Naisi and Domasi Health Centers, April-November 2017
3. Analysis of Low HIV Ascertainment in TB Presumptive Cases at Naisi Health Center, April-September 2017
4. Cholera Outbreak Investigation in Karonga, January 15th - 25th, 2018
5. Analysis of Low ART Linkage to Care at City Clinic from August to October, 2017
6. Analyzing the Causes of Poor Reporting of Rabies Surveillance Data at Mpokwa Extension Planning Area (EPA)
7. Investigation of an Acute Flaccid Paralysis Case at Kachere Township, Blantyre, February 2017
8. Analysis of Factors Contributing to Low Utilization Rate of Family Referral Slip for Pirimiti Health Center, 2017

The cholera investigation in Karonga was conducted by two trainees who co-presented the investigation’s finding at the graduation ceremony.

**MEXICO FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM**

On February 28, the graduation ceremony of the 10 medical epidemiologists of generation 32 (2015 - 2018) was held.

The names of the graduates are:

1. Gloria Paulina Alarcón Hernández
2. Guadalupe Díaz Del Castillo Flores
3. Norma Angélica Flores Bahena
4. Oscar Flores Munguía
5. Paola García Pérez
6. Eduardo López Ortíz
7. Cristian Guillermo Pérez Soria
8. Jessica Vargas Zermeño
9. Araceli Zaldívar Sánchez
10. Joaquín Eduardo Zúñiga Yee

Incorporated into the Single Plan of Medical Specialties (PUEM) of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and with duration of three years. Admission to the specialty is through the approval of the National Exam for Applicants to Medical Residences (ENARM).
Background

The specialty in epidemiology began in 1984 as a Residency Program in Applied Epidemiology (PREA), a collaborative project between the Ministry of Health and the CDC with two years of duration in order to train field epidemiologists. In 1997, the PREA obtained recognition by the Faculty of Medicine of the UNAM, joining the Single Plan of Medical Specialties (PUEM).

Our epidemiologists during their training have the opportunity to participate in various national and international forums. Some of them are the CDC of Atlanta, TEPHINET in its different locations such as Brazil, Spain, Honduras, among others, which has allowed them to obtain experience and perform in various positions in the public and private sector as well as in international institutions.

Throughout all these years, they have graduated from the Residence XXXII generations of specialists in epidemiology with many of having honorable mention.

MONGOLIA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

Graduation of eighth cohorts of Mongolia FETP

Mongolia Field Epidemiology Training Programme celebrated eighth cohort graduation on February 28, 2018. Graduates of this cohort have investigated five outbreaks including “Tuberculosis outbreak in a school, Apr-Jul, 2017”, “Undefined poisoning of workers in welding factory, Dec 2017” and three food-borne outbreaks. In addition, graduates conducted five other epidemiologic studies in the area of
immunization, infection prevention & control and zoonotic disease. As of March, 2018, Mongolia FETP has 63 graduates that are working across the country at local and national levels.

Mongolia FETP launched “Frontline FETP”

Mongolia FETP has launched pilot implementation of frontline/basic FETP for local level officers on March 6, 2018. Recruitment included multi-sectoral professionals from local health department, district and provincial hospitals, and veterinary, inspection and emergency management agencies.

Basic FETP curriculum is adopted from US CDC Frontline FETP model, customized based on local circumstances making two-month programme with initial two weeks of classroom session followed by field work.

At the end of two-month fellows are required to come back for additional lectures and final presentation of their field works in final one week classroom session.

Basic FETP is organized in Zavkhan province, Mongolia, western part of the country and recruited fellows from three other neighboring provinces. Two-week classroom session is completed and fellows are back to their workplaces doing field works with assigned mentors.
Learning by helping other FETPs in Western Pacific Region

Dr Baigalmaa Jantsansengee, Head of Mongolia FETP worked with FET Papua New Guinea in Dec 2017-Jan 2018 with the aim to assist FET PNG program planning and draft training curriculum and facilitator’s guide.

The assignment has been benefit for two programs. Dr Baigalmaa said “I have learned by helping other FETPs. This assignment was great opportunity not only to look what other program does, but also to look back at us and check the challenges we face as we go further down the road”. As a result, Mongolia FETP curriculum is reviewed and changes are being accommodated to increase and improve Mongolia FETP products and better use of fellows’ time. In addition, aim to strengthen mentoring system is also being accommodated.

Other activities to further strengthen programme structure and management are being coordinated through inclusion of Mongolia FETP into operationalizing Mongolia International Health Regulations procedure to fully become integral part of public health surveillance system and the main capacity of country’s ability to monitor and respond to health threats.

PAKISTAN FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) made notable accomplishments over the past few months. The team successfully completed the second and third frontline FELTP Pakistan courses in September 2017 and January 2018, respectively.

2nd Cohort Training

The Pakistan Army at the Armed Forces Postgraduate Medical Institute conducted the 2nd cohort of frontline-FELTP in September 2017. 14 officers from Pakistan Army Medical Corps, including doctors and nurses, completed the training.
3rd Cohort Training

The National Institute of Health (NIH) Islamabad Pakistan conducted the 3rd cohort of frontline-FELTP in January 2018. 27 doctors, scientists, medical technicians and nurses, as well as the Pakistan Army and Navy, completed the training and received certificates.

![3rd FELTP Pakistan Frontline Course Completion Picture](image)

Pakistan Mission Report

In September 2017, the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Program visited various provinces within Pakistan to assess how different programs work across the country to prepare for any future emergencies. They following excerpt in their Pakistan Mission Report recognizes Pakistan FELTP as a successful model for building the national public health workforce:

*The CDC-supported Field Epidemiology & Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) is a successful model for building national workforce capacity, whereby trainees are employed by the federal and provincial governments, developing their surveillance capability; this is again a model that might be of benefit to other countries.*
PHILIPPINES FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Philippine Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) of the Department of Health continuously trains health professionals to become competent field epidemiologists who rapidly and effectively respond to health threats across the country.
For the past 30 years, the FETP continues to strengthen the epidemiological services of the Department of Health in the following areas: (a) investigation of disease outbreaks; (b) reporting and analysis of disease surveillance data; (c) development of methodologies for disease prevention and control; and (d) utilization of epidemiological data for planning, managing, and evaluating health services.

On January 11, 2018, Philippine FETP was awarded with Certificate of Accreditation by the Global Accrediting Body of TEPHINET. Philippine FETP is the first program in Asia and seventh worldwide to be accredited. On February 19, 2018, the Certificate was presented to the Secretary of Health.

**SOUTH AFRICA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM (SAFETP)**

15 - 19 Jan

The 12th cohort of the South Africa Field Epidemiology Training Program (SAFETP) began their 2-year training. The cohort is composed of 10 residents, including one from Malawi with financial support from WHO Malawi. SAFETP is physically based at the South African National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), and a total of 87 residents have completed the training since its inception in 2006.

12 Jan

Second year resident, Emelda Ramutshila, travelled to Southern Gauteng, South Africa for an Odyssean Malaria outbreak investigation accompanied staff from the Centre for Emerging Zoonotic and Parasitic Diseases (CEZPD) based within the NICD.
18 Jan

SAFETP hosted the first Scientific Seminar for 2018. Eight presentations done by second year residents.

25 - 30 Jan

Two of our second year residents, Mpho Sikhosana and Tracey Arendse travelled to Cape Town, South Africa for a Poliovirus outbreak investigation supported by personnel from the NICD Centre for Vaccines and Immunology (CVI)

31 Jan - 2 Feb

Second year resident, Emelda Ramutshila, travelled to Sekhukhune, Limpopo Province for a Typhoid outbreak investigation accompanied by the NICD Outbreak Response Unit team

05 - 09 Feb

SAFETP ran a module, Introduction to Statistical tools, for first year residents (5) registered at the University of Pretoria

19 - 23 Feb

SAFETP ran a module, Disease Surveillance, for first year residents (5) registered at the University of Pretoria (UP). In attendance were other MPH students (8) from UP registered in other tracts.

TAIWAN FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

During March 12–16, 2018, Taiwan FETP, along with our veterinary partners from Taiwan Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine (BAPHIQ), conducted case studies at the Veterinary Epidemiology Training Workshop. In 2016, Taiwan Centers for Disease Control used the Joint External Evaluation Tool (JEE) published by the World Health Organization to evaluate our capacity in maintaining health security, which concluded that the veterinary or animal health workforce is still lacking in Taiwan. Therefore, field epidemiology trainings to increase the capacity of animal health workers in Taiwan for veterinarians began in 2017.

For the workshop in March 2018, Professor Ian Robertson from Murdoch University in Perth, Australia gave lectures in veterinary epidemiology, including measuring disease
occurrence and study design. Taiwan FETP staff and trainees developed three case studies about avian influenza using the concepts taught in the lectures, and facilitated the case studies with veterinarians from the Taiwan BAPHIQ during the workshop. The collaboration between human and animal public health sectors can boost outbreak response capacity, strengthen disease surveillance, and improve control and prevention of human and animal diseases in Taiwan.

UGANDA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Uganda Public Health Fellowship Program holds its 2nd Graduation of Fellows

On Wednesday, 24 January 2018, the Uganda Public Health Fellowship Program held its 2nd annual graduation ceremony for the Fellows who completed their Advanced Field Epidemiology Training. The program is implemented by the Ministry of Health (MoH) in conjunction with Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It is a two-year training-in-service program aimed at equipping public health professionals with skills to manage public health challenges and become the next generation of public health leaders.

The ceremony was officially opened by the Director of Health Services at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Charles Olara who highlighted the critical role played by the program in the effective response to and control of disease outbreaks. Other dignitaries who made remarks at the opening of the function were the CDC Resident Advisor Dr. Bao-Ping Zhu, the AFENET Executive Director Dr. Chima Ohuabunwo and Professor David Serwadda (MakSPH).

For the fellows, this day marked the climax to 2 years of in-service training in applied epidemiology and public health practice. Each fellow made a summary of their achievements over the 2 years plus a detailed presentation of one of their projects. Fellows presented the evidence of competencies acquired in disease outbreak investigation, public health surveillance, oral and written scientific and nonscientific communication and public health leadership. Fellows presented work ranging from response to disease outbreaks such as Cholera, Measles, Yellow Fever, Typhoid Fever, Anthrax, among others to client
satisfaction surveys and health service delivery assessments in refugee settings. Fellows also implemented projects to improve disease surveillance and service delivery in health centers. In addition, each Fellow had some work on a project implemented or data analyzed that revealed useful information relevant to the attainment of the USAID 90-90-90 targets. For example one of the Fellows presented findings on the factors associated with HIV couple counseling among HIV infected persons.

The ceremony culminated into the award of a certificate of completion of training in Advanced Field Epidemiology to each of the Fellows. The award ceremony was preceded by remarks from the Project Director and Dean, MakSPH Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze, CDC Country Director Dr. Lisa Nelson and the WHO Country Representative Dr. Yonas Tegegn. The Director General, MoH was represented by the Commissioner, Disease Control and Project Co-Director, Dr. Patrick Tusiime. Appeals were made to the graduates to strive to remain relevant and continue contributing to improving, maintaining and protecting the public health of the country. The 9 graduating Fellows included Joy Kusiima Bbale, Leocadia Kwagonza, Lydia Nakiire, Jimmy Ogwal, Paul E Okello, Emily Atuhaire, Joselyn A Atuhairwe, Robert K Majwala and Susan Nakubulwa. After the award of certificates, one of the Fellows; Dr. Robert K Majwala (albeit in absence) scooped the award for outstanding performance. Dr. Joseph Kawuma, Head of the German Leprosy Relief Association at the National TB and Leprosy Program where Robert had been placed during his fellowship received the award on his behalf. The outstanding fellow also received a financial token awarded by the alumni of the program through their association.

YEMEN FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

1. Y-FETP Organizes the Third National Conference and Celebrates the Third Cohort Graduation: Under the patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Public Health and Population and the Minister of Planning, the Y-FETP organized its Third National Y-FETP Conference” in February 28th, 2018 under the slogan “Pushing Forward Despite War and Siege”. After welcoming speech by the Y-FETP director, the WHO acting representative gave speech where he congratulated the Y-FETP and the graduates for such accomplishment despite the difficult situation. He also renewed the WHO support to the Y-FETP program. Through the Conference’s four scientific sessions, the Third Y-FETP cohort graduates presented some of their works they have accomplished in the areas of surveillance systems analyses, surveillance systems evaluations, and outbreak investigations and planned epidemiological studies. During the Conference, the Minister handled the Third cohort
graduates the Certificates of Completion that were signed by H.E and the Chief of the Workforce and Institute Development Branch at CDC in Atlanta, USA.

2. **Y-FETP Participates in the Sixth EMPHENT Regional Conference:** The conference three-day program provided valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange regarding issues that jeopardize the health status of the region’s populations. EMR. Eight Y-FETP residents and graduates presented 11 abstracts (10 oral and one poster) at the conference. Furthermore, another abstract was presented by a graduate from the Yemen Public Health Empowerment Program on a diphtheria outbreak. Furthermore, the Y-FETP Technical Advisor participated as key note speaker on a session on "Field Epidemiology during Emergency: Yemen's Compelling Success Story". The session highlights the importance for countries in the Region to consider a comprehensive approach while developing their public health emergency response operation capacities.

3. **Y-FETP Participates in the EMPHNET Scientific Writing Workshop.** The workshop aimed to increase the visibility of the work of FETPs residents/graduates in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR). The workshop was facilitated by a team of experts from the regional FETPs and EMPHNET leaded by Prof Yousef Khader and Dr. Mohamed Chahed. Eight Y-FETP residents and graduates participated in the workshop where they prepared the final draft of their scientific manuscripts that will be ready to be submitted for publication after review by Y-FETP Technical staff and MPHNET teams.

4. **The Fourth Y-FETP Cohort Starts the Short Rotation at 32 Ministry Programs and Directorate.** Despite all the challenges, Y-FETP launched its new fourth cohort on December 2017. The new cohort started on March 2018, their Short Rotation Assignment at 33 MoPHP Central programs where they will be introduced to these program to identify priorities and needs regarding data analysis, studies, and evaluations.

5. **Y-FETP is Nominated in the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group.** The Minister of Public Health and Population nominated The Y-FETP Technical Advisor in the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG). The NITAG will be responsible to advice the ministry in issue related to vaccines’ usages both routinely and more importantly during VPD outbreaks and epidemics that are increasingly facing Yemen such as Cholera and Diphtheria. NITAG started its weekly meetings during January and February and discussed the last updates on Cholera and Diphtheria epidemics that are going on in Yemen and possible containment measures especially those involved vaccines usage.
ZAMBIA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

Since 2014 when the Zambia Field Epidemiology Training Program (ZFETP) started, residents have been involved in various public health activities. Zambia FETP is currently training a second cohort of advanced FETP. The ZFETP structure has been incorporated in the capacity building cluster at the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI). During the period January—March 2018, current advanced FETP residents were mainly involved in the response to an ongoing cholera outbreak. The residents were among the frontline health workers fighting an ongoing epidemic of cholera in Zambia. The ZNPHI used an incident management system (IMS), where the residents were incorporated into the operations section, to respond to the outbreak. The operations section was headed by the ZFETP programme manager (Dr Nyambe Sinyange). Key to the operations section were a number of studies among which residents took lead. In one of the studies, the residents collaborated with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct an investigation into risk factors of dying from cholera. Residents conducted a 1:2 matched case-control investigation, where the cases were individuals who died from cholera and the controls were individuals who survived cholera. During January through March 2018, residents interviewed 38 cases and 76 controls in Lusaka and started analyzing the data. These findings will be used by the Ministry of Health (MOH) to inform future interventions aimed at lowering case fatality.

The ZFETP residents have also played key roles in the oral cholera vaccine (OCV) campaign. From January 5 through February 14, over two million doses were provided to the highest-risk populations.

ZFETP residents have also been networking with Lusaka District Health Management Team officers to collect GPS coordinates for each cholera patient. These coordinates are then loaded into Epi Info and used to create daily spots maps in order to inform decision-making.
Apart from being involved in the cholera outbreak, one ZFETP resident had a paper published in the Pan African Medical Journal in January 2018. This paper described a case-control investigation into a foodborne disease outbreak at a college in Lusaka: https://www.academia.edu/36002866/A_foodborne_disease_outbreak_investigation_experience_in_a_College_in_Lusaka_Zambia. In addition, two ZFETP residents had papers published in the Zambia Health Press. One of these describes a response to an outbreak of cholera in a fishing camp, and one describes a response to an outbreak of typhoid fever.

**ZIMBABWE FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM**

**2018/19 Cohort**

The program enrolled 10 full time and 4 part-time residents who started their didactics on 12th January 2018. Thus far they have covered the first and second academic blocks consisting of Public health Philosophy (Mod 1.1), Epidemiology and Field research (Mod 1.2), Biostatistics and Statistical Computing (Mod 1.3), Health System Research (Mod 1.4) and Health Service Management (Mod 2.1). According to the master timetable, the residents should complete their didactics the first week of June 2018 before going for their field placements. The 2nd year residents are currently doing their field placements at different sites across the country. Since the program inception in 1993, over 230 residents have completed the training with the ZIMFETP. These have occupied influential public health positions in the ministry and civil society in line with the program’s vision to create an effective workforce in the Zimbabwean public health system and beyond.
ZIMFETP receives accreditation status

On the 24th of January 2018, the TEPHINET Global Accrediting Body reached the decision to confer full accreditation upon the Zimbabwe Field Epidemiology training program (ZIMFETP) making it one of the eight programs to be accredited worldwide. ZIMFETP becomes one of the only three African countries to be accredited after Kenya and Cameroon.

United States of America - Zimbabwe Student Exchange Program

The program is favorably regarded both locally and internationally as producing high quality graduates. It has become a model for the demonstration of a successful integration and collaboration between American Universities and Colleges. In February 2018, two-second year residents from the ZIMFETP travelled to Seattle to the University of Washington for a six-week MPH practicum. The residents (Dr. Christine Gabaza and Dr. Reginald Mhene) spend time at the department of health where they get to see how the state implements public health programs. They also attend seminars and presentations at Washington University. The two residents are currently working on a potential project at the department of health; an evaluation of the timeliness and completeness of TB surveillance in Washington State.
EIS abstract Accepted

The program submitted 10 abstracts for consideration for the 67th EIS conference to be held in Atlanta 16-19 April 2018. Amongst the submitted abstracts, Ms Zvanaka Sithole’s abstract entitled “Viral Load Suppression among Adolescents on Anti-Retroviral Therapy, Harare City, Zimbabwe, 2017” was selected for an oral presentation. The program has consistently submitted abstracts to this auspicious yearly event and is privileged to have its abstracts accepted as this speaks of the high caliber of work that is produced.

ZIMFETP Monthly Seminars

Every last Friday of every month, the program religiously holds a dissemination seminar at the ministry of health headquarters. The seminar provides an opportunity for residents to share their research finding to the ministry and the civil society. This provides a platform for recommendations to be taken up at the highest level and effected in the area of study. The program held the January (7 presentations), February (6 presentations) and March (6 presentations) monthly seminars. Below is a table showing the presentations on the 23rd of March 2018 at the Zimbabwe Ministry of health headquarters. In attendance were the first and second year residents, the MPH staff (Prof Mufuta Tshimanga- MPH Director Miss Tsitsi Juru- Scientific Writer and Mr Gombe- Senior assistant Field Coordinator) , Dr Chirundu (Director Kadoma City Health department), Mr Howard Nyika ( data and research officer AIDS and TB unit).

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<tr>
<th>Presenter name</th>
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<th>Category</th>
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<td>1. Dr Steven Karim</td>
<td>An analysis of the profile and trends of HIV patients on Second Line ART, newlands Clinic, Harare 2010-2016</td>
<td>Results</td>
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<td>2. Dr Tapiwa Dhliwayo</td>
<td>Malaria Outbreak Investigation, Chiredzi District, 2017</td>
<td>Results</td>
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<td>3. Mr Simbarashe Chiwanda</td>
<td>Evaluation of the VMMC surveillance system in Mashonaland East,</td>
<td>Proposal</td>
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<td>4. Mrs Zvanaka Sithole</td>
<td>Viral Load Suppression among Adolescents on Anti-Retroviral Therapy, Harare City, Zimbabwe, 2017</td>
<td>Results, EIS presentation</td>
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<td>5. Mr Arthur Kashiri</td>
<td>Analysis of perinatal Mortality trends in Zimbabwe</td>
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<td>6. Dr Steven Karim</td>
<td>Neonatal Klebsiella Outbreak Investigation, Harare central Hospital, 2018</td>
<td>Results</td>
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