TEPHINET requests updates from its member programs for inclusion in each issue of TEPHI News, 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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AFGHANISTAN-TAJIKISTAN FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

Background

Residents

After several years of setting up the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP), the program finally began in August 2014 with the choosing of 14 epidemiologists for Cohort One. Chosen were 7 Afghan residents (six physicians and one veterinarian) and 7 Tajik residents (six physicians and one veterinarian). In August 2014, 13 epidemiologists were chosen for Cohort Two. Chosen were six Afghan residents (six physicians) and seven Tajik residents (six physicians and one veterinarian). Thus, during the majority of the time period of this report, we had 27 trainees who finally graduated in early December 2017.

Mentors

The program was supported by a group of mentors from both countries who had the required technical expertise and experiences from the field. The fieldwork of the residents was regularly monitored and supervised with the time-bound and appropriate feedback provided to the residents. Additionally, trainees were receiving technical support with regards to developing and preparing abstracts for international scientific conferences.

Activities

Training

Each cohort undertook 5 training modules with each resuming after 4-5 months following some required fieldwork. Modules introduced the basic concepts of critical thinking, epidemiology, and interventional thinking to the new residents. This training reinforced and extended previous training, with an emphasis on the need for comparison groups in epidemiology, analytic epidemiology, and statistical analysis with subsequent summarizing of results.
Acceptance of Afghan-Tajik Resident to Noncommunicable Disease (NCD) Workshop, Atlanta, August 24-28, 2016. In a global competitive process among FETPs, two AT-FETP trainees, one from Afghanistan and one from Tajikistan, were accepted for a week-long training in the epidemiology of NCDs. Most FETPs failed to have even one resident accepted and having two, particularly from our new program, was exceptional.

Outbreak Investigations

Of many activities done, there were four outbreak investigations performed: foodborne outbreak, botulism, traffic/pedestrian accidents, brucellosis.

Abstracts and Meetings

EMPHNET Conference (September 28-October 1, 2016). The Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network, an established organization covering principally Arabic-speaking countries, held its biannual meeting. The organization has previously invited Tajikistan to be a part of the conference. Two Residents submitted abstracts and one was accepted (Congo-Crimean Hemorrhagic Fever) with all expenses paid for the Resident.

Cochrane Collaboration Meeting, Kazan, Russia (December 7-8, 2016). The Cochrane Collaboration, an internationally-respected global organization headquartered in England, is dedicated to the concept that healthcare decisions should be based on the best evidence. The Collaboration, via its 53 Collaborative Review Groups, performs and assembles systematic reviews which are accessible to all via The Cochrane Library. The Russian-speaking world has negligibly participated in the Collaboration, and the first Russian meeting of the Collaboration occurred in Kazan, Russia. With its emphasis on critical thinking and making healthcare decisions based on high quality data, the TA-FETP sent four Tajik residents to this meeting. One resident performed a survey of needs for, and uses of, evidence-based medicine in his geographical area and presented the results at the meeting.

Graduation event for the residents (December 2017)

Both cohorts graduated in early December following a series of tests and checking their progress and achievement of milestones. The graduation event took place separately in Dushanbe and Kabul.
**BRAZIL FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM (EPIUS)**

From October to December, the FETP-Brazil (EpiSUS) contributed in five investigations: 1) A survey applied among Venezuelan migrants living in Roraima State had shown low vaccination coverage and precarious hygiene conditions, requiring a follow-up of health teams in the local area, 2) A diarrhea outbreak amidst the Scholastic Games in Distrito Federal demonstrated the importance of maintaining adequate food surveillance at mass gathering events, 3) A survey applied in day care individuals affected by fire in Minas Gerais State was an important field investigation involving mental health in post-traumatic situations, 4) The number of cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever in Minas Gerais State had changed after the insertion of laboratory diagnosis; PCR and 5) Human rabies transmitted by vampire bats in Amazonas State showed the vulnerability of riverine populations and the need to improve the vaccination schedule in areas with difficult access.

In addition, EpiSUS residents participated in different courses involving spatial analysis, risk communication, scientific writing in epidemiological newsletters, and deliberation about One Health. Besides that, they were involved in the National Meeting of Foodborne Diseases and followed the discussion regarding the important pathogens disease surveillance in Brazil. These health events are important to improve the abilities of the trainees.

Lastly, the Frontline training program in Brazil (EpiSUS-Fundamental) started the second phase of the pilot project in Minas Gerais Goiás and Amazonas States and Distrito Federal. In this period, another cohort with 19 health workers from two different states of the midwest region concluded the training program and presented descriptive analysis studies in different topics, such as dengue, malaria, syphilis, maternal mortality, and violence against children and adolescents.
BURKINA FASO FRONTLINE FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

In Burkina Faso, FETP Frontline implementation started in April 2016 by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with CDC USA and AFENET. The planning was to train at the district level (70 districts) around 210 trainees on the side of the Ministry of Health for a total of 9 cohorts.

In July 2017, Burkina Faso launched the One Health cohort of FETP Frontline through the third cohort in collaboration with the Ministry of Animal Resources and FAO. This cohort not only included the three health team members from each of the 8 districts but also included 8 veterinary post representatives from the corresponding subnational geographical areas. Together, these teams focused on improving data quality, interpreting and using data for public health action, and jointly conducting field exercises and outbreak investigations. To date, on 31 December 2017, we have trained 80 participants for 3 cohorts (33%) in whom 6 are female (8%), 8 are veterinary post representatives (10%), from 24 districts (34%). The goal is to train a multi-disciplinary team at every district level across the entire country by the end of 2018.

COLOMBIA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

From October to December 2017, FETP Colombia (FETPC) carried out different activities.

From October 18-20, 2017, with the participation of 25 tutors who graduated from FETP Colombia, the National Workshop of Tutors for the advanced level of FETP Colombia was held in Bogotá. The objectives of this workshop were to present the guidelines and list of evaluation of adjusted products for the advanced level of the FETPC, to update the information of the training process in the FETPC, to establish activities of coordination and monitoring of the professionals in training, and to inform about the Frontline processes carried out in Colombia.

From November 20-22, 2017, the XV Scientific Meeting of the National Institute of Health (Instituto Nacional de Salud) was held; within this meeting, professionals in training and graduates of FETP Colombia and the Frontline course had the opportunity to give oral and poster presentations about their work. About 30 papers were selected for this meeting of FETP field epidemiologists.

From November 27-December 6, 2017, the XXV International Course on Intermediate Methods of Epidemiology was held with an emphasis on outbreak research; 60 health professionals from different regions of Colombia and abroad participated (Guatemala, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic).

During these days, recognized foreign and national epidemiologists shared knowledge and experiences in cluster research, outbreaks of emerging and reemerging diseases, molecular biology in outbreak care, epidemiological models through the use of statistical programs, and fieldwork in different field localities of the capital of Colombia.

From the CDC, we were accompanied by distinguished epidemiologists and scientists: Dr. Molly Domínguez, Dr. Carmen Sofía Arriola, Dr. Vic Veguilla, Dr. John Klena, and Dr. Barbara Knust. From the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO): Dr. Valeska Stempliu, Dr. Desireé Pastor. Likewise,
recognized tutors of the FETP of the National Institute of Health shared their knowledge and experiences.

In December, seven new epidemiologists from the FETP 2015 cohort were certified in a graduation ceremony held on December 7, 2017.

On the same date, FETP Colombia commemorated 25 years of uninterrupted training in field epidemiology. With the support of TEPHINET and the National Institute of Health, representatives of TEPHINET (Dr. Ángela Hilmers and Dr. Mariana Mansur), from REDCEC (Dr. Anaité Díaz), as well as representatives from the Ministry of Health, met at this event. From Colombia, the event had the participation of Dr. Luis Fernando Correa (Vice Minister of Health), Dr. Martha Ospina (General Director of the National Institute of Health), and representatives of the most important universities and scientific associations in the country, highlighting the importance of field epidemiology training for Colombia and the world.

Also during the months of October, November and December, the professionals in training have been supporting different outbreak and emergency situations in Colombia with the guidance and accompaniment of the FETP tutor.

*Commemoration of 25 years of training in field epidemiology, FETP Colombia, December 2017*
EGYPT FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

Now, we are working with Cohort 19 who are in their second year of training. The selection of Cohort 20 residents was completed and we will start the first workshop in January 2018.

Cohort 1 of the Public Health Empowerment Program-Basic Field Epidemiology (PHEP-BFE) graduated on the 15th of October. We are now preparing for recruitment of the new cohort.

As for FETP Cohort 19:

*Mentorship Workshop: Epidemiological Studies Discussion*

- On 22 November, a 2-day Mentor-Resident seminar was conducted where nineteen residents defended their study proposals.
- On 20 December, 21 residents had a mid-course exam. The exam included multiple choice questions (MCQ) as well as short essay questions covering the surveillance and outbreak investigation modules.

*Recruitment of FETP Cohort 20:*

An announcement for recruitment of a new cohort was published in our newsletter and on the FETP Egypt Facebook page on September 31 for two weeks. Inclusion criteria were listed on the announcement based on ministry of health and population requirements. Interested candidates were encouraged to fill an application on the FETP Egypt website. One hundred applicants were short listed and invited by phone call to a face-to-face interview. Twenty five candidates were selected for the new cohort of FETP starting in January 2018.

*Common field activities:*

Our FETP residents and graduates, as well as PHEP-BFE graduates of Cohort 1, participated in assessment visits of governorates’ capacities for surveillance, outbreak investigations, rapid response, and mass gathering preparedness activities.

*Participation in Regional/International Trainings:*

A review module was provided by MediPIET in Spetses, Greece, 16-20 October 2017; six residents and graduates participated in this training module.

*Participation in Conferences:*

- Fifteen accepted abstracts were presented by 13 FETP residents and graduates at the 3rd annual scientific conference of MediPIET that was held in Brussels on the 27th of November.
- Three abstracts were presented by two FETP graduates at the 1st annual scientific conference of (EMARIS), Amman, Jordan, from December 11 to 14, 2017.
As for Cohort 1 of PHEP-BFE:

- A 3-day training workshop was held in Cairo during the period of 14th to 16th of October 2017. During the first two days of the workshop, 25 residents of Cohort 1 presented their second fieldwork projects with successful open discussion with their mentors. On the last day of workshop 3; the concept of leadership and management was identified.
- Twenty five sanitarians graduated from the program on October 15, 2017 after successful completion of three months of in-service training in applied epidemiology.

**INDONESIA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM**

- FETP Indonesia has expanded the number of implementer universities from four universities to five in 2017. A new FETP was established at Universitas Hasanuddin under the Faculty of Public Health. Universitas Hasanuddin is one of the top ten universities in Indonesia; it is located in Makassar, South Sulawesi Province in the Eastern Indonesia. Three students were enrolled in the first cohort of FETP Advanced at Universitas Hasanuddin.
- The total number of FETP students in the 2017 cohort was 46, from all five implementing universities.
- In response to the diphtheria outbreak in Indonesia, ten FETP students assisted the Subdirectorate of Surveillance to conduct epidemiological analysis and evaluate diphtheria surveillance and response in nine priority provinces.
- Students from the FETP at Universitas Gadjah Mada were deployed to respond to a flood disaster in Gunung Kidul district. The FETP students set up a surveillance system and conducted risk assessment in the affected area.
- Students from FETP at Universitas Udayana assisted the Bali Province Health Office to conduct a risk assessment following Mount Agung eruptions. The students also set up a surveillance system to quickly identify and to respond immediately to outbreaks or other health events that might occur and monitor the health situation among displaced populations.
JAPAN FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

FETP-J, in association with St. Luke's International University, Graduate School of Public Health, acquired a three-year grant from the Japan Science and Technology Agency. This grant enabled us to invite ten FETP trainees from abroad to participate in a seminar on a specific topic, providing an opportunity to strengthen the network among Asian FETPs. During the last week of September, we invited ten FETP trainees to Japan from six different FETP programs in Asia. We kicked off the seminar with a symposium on healthcare epidemiology, including a visit to the National Center for Global Medicine Hospital and Kawasaki City Institute for Public Health. The second half of the seminar was a lecture series by Dr Mike Bell, US CDC. We will be hosting the third seminar in the upcoming year on biostatics.

In mid-November one of our FETP trainees and a staff member were deployed to Ghana for 10 days to evaluate the ongoing acute diarrhea surveillance project in Ga West District, Greater Accra Region of Ghana. This project, supported by the Japanese Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development program, aims to introduce laboratory-based surveillance to Ghana. Five sites were designated and active diarrhea surveillance was implemented, collecting stool samples from diarrhea patients. The trainee first assessed the current national surveillance system for acute diarrhea, including for cholera, and compared the data with the results from the project sites. He also visited all the sentinel sites and interviewed the staff to uncover difficulties and challenges. His findings were summarized as a recommendation to the Ministry of Health in Ghana.
KENYA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM

TEPHINET Accreditation: The Experience of the Kenyan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (K-FELTP)

The Kenya Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) is a two-year postgraduate and competency based training program in applied epidemiology and public health laboratory management. The program was established in April 2004, designed in recognition of the need to strengthen the epidemiologic and laboratory management capacity of Kenya and East Africa region to meet the challenges of emerging infectious diseases and other public health concerns.

The K-FELTP started the journey towards accreditation in early 2017 with actual application submitted in March 2017. Independent reviewers conducted a site visit on July 10-14, 2017. The accreditation process involved an in-depth assessment of the processes and outputs of FELTP Kenya. The entire FELTP (K) team was involved from the start throughout the process, with stewardship from the program director.

Strong program leadership, good team work and support by the Ministry of Health (MOH) leadership, CDC and AFENET was key to the success of the Kenyan program towards accreditation.

Key strengths of the Kenyan FELTP

- KFELTP is anchored within the Ministry of Health as a unit
- Rated as among the best and popular public health program thus attracting the best candidates from animal and human health resulting in a highly competitive recruitment process
- Program focus on field based learning with up to 70% credit hours acquired in the field and only 30% in class for didactics
- Tracking and grading of field deliverables
• Mix of cadres enrollment which include MD, Lab, Vet, Nursing and environmentalist

Challenges:
• Rigorous documentation required for the application process, which is time consuming
• Meeting timeliness in preparation towards evaluation requires adequate preparation to avoid last minute rush

Lessons Learnt:
• A good and a committed team holds key to successful accreditation
• Strong and passionate program leadership is crucial for program success in accreditation
• The accreditation process provides an opportunity for the program staff to adequately understand the program strengths and weaknesses, thereby making it easy to institute corrective measures
• Program accreditation comes with a sense of satisfaction and motivation among the program staff and recognition within the public health fraternity

MONGOLIA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAMME
Another busy and productive year has passed for Mongolia FETP (M-FETP). M-FETP has responded to five acute public health events, conducted six surveillance projects and two ongoing epidemiologic projects. We also published 8 manuscripts in scientific journals and delivered nine presentations (six oral and three poster presentations) in international and national conferences.

Joint External Evaluations (JEE) of International Health Regulations (IHR) country capacities took place in Mongolia in May 2017. JEE concluded that Mongolian Field Epidemiology Training Programme (MFETP) graduates form a critical part of the national surveillance and response system and considered M-FETP as an example of best practice of similarly design programmes in the Western Pacific Region.

NIGERIA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAMME
Outbreak Response
• 6 residents and several graduates are participating in a cholera outbreak response in Kano, northern Nigeria.
• More than 15 residents and graduates have been participating in the multi-state monkey pox outbreak investigation since September.
• Other residents participated in hepatitis and Lassa fever outbreak investigations.
Conferences

- Residents presented abstracts at the European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE), 6-8 November 2017, at Stockholm, Sweden. One of the residents, Ummulkulthum Bajoga, won the prize for the Best Oral Presentation.
- Two Cohort 8 residents—Dr. Ramatu Abdu-Aguye and Dr. Batula B. Daggash—made oral presentation of their abstracts at the 2017 MediPIET Conference in Brussels, Belgium.
- Graduates participated in the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) symposium organized by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control in conjunction with the Federal Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Environment in collaboration with GSK and other partners on November 15 as part of the Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week.
- Four residents presented abstracts at the National Conference on Infection Control in September.

Workshops and Seminars

- During November 27-December 1, residents and graduates participated in an Epidemiology in Public Health Emergencies training workshop facilitated by epidemiologists from the US CDC.
- Graduates and residents participated in an IDSR train-the-trainers workshop 11-15 December.
- A newly developed module on Environmental Epidemiology developed to address the third component of the One World, One Health approach was tested by the program.
- Cohort 9 residents had a seminar to present projects from their first field work experience in December 11-1.

Vaccination Campaigns and Surveys

- More than 20 residents supervised yellow fever reactive and measles vaccination campaigns in different states in the country from October through December.
- Residents participated in a Routine Immunization coverage survey in northwestern Nigeria during December 15-18.

Graduation

Cohort 7 residents defended their MPH thesis at the universities during December 18-19, marking the end of their FETP training.

Frontline FETP

Cohort 12 Training: 1st (October 30-November 4) and 2nd (December 4-8) workshops held at Ibadan Oyo State. The cohort comprises 68 disease surveillance officers.
PERU FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

Major Advances in Competence Training for Field Epidemiology in Peru

Peru is a country with a high epidemic risk due to its geographical diversity and interaction between health determinants. In this context, the National Center for Epidemiology, Prevention and Disease Control of the Peruvian Ministry of Health (CDC Peru) has been achieving major strides in competency-training for field epidemiology and public health in the country. In 2017, CDC Peru initiated the Field Epidemiology Training Program (PREEC because of its acronym in Spanish) at multiple levels, intensifying its actions in recent months.

**Basic PREEC (Frontline).** Since June 2017, basic training in epidemiology and surveillance has been provided to 64 professionals of the first level of healthcare services in the respective cohorts of Iquitos, Yurimaguas and Ica city, with the support of TEPHINET. In October, a second phase began with cohorts in progress in Cusco and Piura, as well as cohorts planned in Jaén, Ica and Iquitos, reaching 130 additional professionals until May 2018.

**Intermediate PREEC.** In October 2017, the Intermediate PREEC was restarted to strengthen competencies in epidemiology, disease prevention and control, surveillance, biostatistics and scientific writing. This training will enable them to implement surveillance systems, launch prevention and control measures, as well as lead the response to outbreaks and health emergencies. Participants include 45 professionals from 20 regions of the country with training in basic epidemiology, at least 2 years of experience, and will be selected in strict order of merit. The program will end in April 2018.

**Advanced PREEC.** In 2018, CDC Peru will begin the most advanced level of the PREEC, 5 years after its last cohort. Twenty professionals from different regions of the country will participate, selected according to performance among the participants of the Intermediate PREEC, and will train under the modality of in-service training for 18 months.

**Complementary training.** Between September and December 2017, there were three five-day workshops on outbreak research and response, reaching 205 participants from across the country. These workshops integrated the work of professionals in epidemiology, environmental health, laboratory and dengue or zoonosis prevention strategies in the response to outbreaks. A major achievement of the
workshops will be to have rapid response teams in all regions of the country for timely outbreak mitigation interventions. A three-day course on geographic information systems was also offered to 50 participants from across the country, and a 10-session workshop on data analysis for 21 participants from CDC Peru. A virtual Zika Surveillance, Prevention and Control course was also developed for more than 2000 participants.

In summary, in 2017 there have been intensive efforts at multiple levels to equip the country with the necessary human resources to detect, respond to and prevent outbreaks and endemic conditions, and to implement high-quality and effective strategies and interventions. This is beginning to fill a longstanding gap in the capacities of the Ministry of Health to better respond to the country’s major public health problems.

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<th>Organizations</th>
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<td>CDC Perú</td>
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<td>Lima and Callao Health Directorates</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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Figure 1. Outbreak Investigation and Response Courses

Field Epidemiology Training, 2017

<table>
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<th>Training Level and Sites</th>
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<td>Iquitos</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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* Ongoing

PHILIPPINES FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

1. GLOBAL OUTBREAK ALERT AND RESPONSE NETWORK (GOARN) SIMULATION ACTIVITY

October 2-6, 2017, Antipolo City, Philippines

The World Health Organization GOARN Training Course is driven by a single outbreak scenario that simulates the technical and operational challenges of international outbreak responses. Participants were trained using the developing outbreak scenario, which incorporates intense group work, practical exercises and role play. With selected participants from other countries, four FETP Philippines graduates joined. Philippine FETP participants include one graduate from animal health, one from the subnational epidemiology...
and surveillance unit and one FETP Training Officer. The FETP Program Director joined as part of the GOARN faculty.

2. FETP PHILIPPINES’ APPLICATION FOR TEPHINET ACCREDITATION

October 23-27, 2017, Manila, Philippines

TEPHINET Accreditation is an opportunity to align with common standards that support quality training and increase recognition of the value of FETPs to support the country’s public health priorities. This year, FETP Philippines successfully submitted its application and was able to provide the Accreditation Review Team (ART) with substantial Readiness Assessment documents and has been selected for the ART on-site visit. Two ART members, namely Dr. Mufuta Tshimanga and Dr. Douglas Hamilton, conducted an on-site visit last October 23-27, 2017 in Epidemiology Bureau, Department of Health, Manila.

3. BUILDING CAPACITY IN INFECTION CONTROL AND OUTBREAK CONTAINMENT TO NOVEL PATHOGENS IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS
November 20-24, 2017, Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore

The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conducted a workshop on Building Capacity in Infection Control and Outbreak Containment to Novel Pathogens in Healthcare Setting last November 20-24, 2017 at Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore. This 5-day workshop hosted by the Institute of Infectious Disease and Epidemiology (IDDE) was a full-packed lecture, discussion, sharing session and simulation activities with the participation of 13 economies with two FETP alumni from the Philippines. The workshop aimed to harness collective experiences and expertise of various APEC economies to build up our capabilities and capacities to manage the challenges of healthcare associated infections in the healthcare setting.
1. **2017 FIREWORKS-RELATED INJURY (FWRI) SURVEILLANCE**

   December 21, 2017 to January 5, 2018, Manila, Philippines

Our FETP fellows conduct yearly surveillance to profile fireworks-related injuries during Christmas and New Year celebrations and compare the trends to previous years. This surveillance runs from Dec. 21 to Jan. 5 of the following year. It began in 1991 when FETP fellows investigated the cause of increased tetanus cases after New Year and discovered that these were related to injuries due to fireworks. Findings and recommendations by our fellows led to passage of policies and strengthened injury prevention programs. Over the past five years, the number of injuries has decreased. This year, President Rodrigo Duterte issued Executive Order No. 28 banning the individual use of fireworks and mandating the local government units to identify designated areas where public fireworks displays may be held. Efforts were also strengthened toward discouraging the use of fireworks among the young age group.

One hundred ninety-one injuries were reported from Dec. 21, 2017-Jan. 1, 2018, a decrease of 413 (68%) cases from last year and a decrease of 643 (77%) cases versus the 2012-2016 average. With these encouraging findings, the Philippine Department of Health continues its fight for a zero-casualty holiday celebration!

**YEMEN FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM**

1. **Y-FETP Launched its Fourth Cohort of Advanced Field Epidemiology Training:** Based on the Screening Workshop posttest results, English language assessment, and basic computer skills assessment, the top 20 were interviewed by the Y-FETP Management Team and the top 12 candidates composed the 4th Cohort. The new cohort residents sat for four weeks Introductory Training on December 2017, where they were introduced to basic concepts of epidemiology, biostatistics, surveillance and outbreak investigation. They also trained on Epi Info software including designing questionnaire and entering and analyzing data.

2. **Y-FETP Third Cohort Residents Started Data Collection for their Planned Studies:** After The 3rd cohort residents identified their planned studies’ topics in the context of the country’s public health needs and developed their final protocols after soliciting comments. They started their data collection phase that is envisaged to be completed by January 2018.
3. **Y-FETP Organized Two Training Workshops Funded by Biosecurity Engagement Program:** The Y-FETP funded by the Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP) has launched two training workshops on Outbreak Investigation and Rapid Response Team (RRT) Training. The workshops were conducted during November, 2017 with participation of 40 trainees from Y-FETP residents and Ministry of Health staff. The two workshops will develop the capacities of Y-FETP residents and the key Ministry staff to work as trainers for governorates and districts RRT.

4. **Y-FETP Participated in the Response to Diphtheria that has Recently Made an Alarming Comeback in the War Torn Yemen:** With suspected cholera cases reaching one million, Yemen is facing another fatal disease — diphtheria. The Y-FETP residents investigated the first Diphtheria outbreak that started at Ibb governorate during October 23-26, 2017 and helps rapid containment. The Y-FETP Technical Advisor (TA) was nominated in the Diphtheria Scientific Committee where he participated in developing a quick Diphtheria Reference Guidelines for Health authorities and Health-Care Provider. The TA also participated in a two-day meeting that was organized to raise the capacity of the surveillance system for early detection and response to the epidemic.

5. **Y-FETP Participated in the WHO Joint External Evaluation of International Health Regulations Capacities in Crisis Countries:** Training for National Support Networks: The workshop was held in Beirut, October 16-18, 2017 with participation of 30 participants from Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen. The participants were introduced to the JEE tool that was developed to help independently assess country capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to public health threats as part of the IHR (2005) monitoring and evaluation framework. The workshop was an excellent opportunity for participants to exchange their countries’ experiences and how to implement JEE in crises situation.

6. **Y-FETP Published Three Articles in Peer Reviewed Journals in 2017:** To increase the visibility of the Y-FETP and work that is done by our residents at the national, regional, and international levels, the Y-FETP published three articles in peer-reviewed journals. Another two more were accepted and will be published in 2018 and five are under review.

**ZAMBIA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM**

During the period of October through December 2017, FETP residents were involved in various activities at their field placement sites and the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI). Of particular importance is the level one FETP training and the involvement of the residents in the response to an outbreak of Cholera in Lusaka Province.

The Zambia FETP conducted a second level one FETP training in the third quarter of 2017. Level one FETP training is a modified tier (a mix of frontline and intermediate) of FETP. It’s a six month training which is essentially all of frontline and some modules in intermediate FETP. Workshop one was held in October 2017. During workshop one training, the residents were privileged to train while there was an ongoing outbreak of cholera. The field exercise was hands on at the actual cholera treatment centre.
The residents practiced how to make a case definition, a line list and some descriptive epidemiology while at the cholera treatment centre.

In order to encourage active participation by graduates of the advanced FETP, some lectures and mentorship sessions were conducted by them. The current advanced FETP residents were also given topics to lecture to the level one FETP residents.

Workshop two was held from November 28 through December 8, 2017. During this period, the outbreak of cholera was still ongoing. The residents again had an opportunity to learn and practice at the same time. The field exercise this time involved a knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) study towards cholera in affected areas. The households were selected from central statistical office’s standard enumeration areas that used probability proportional to size. The findings from the KAP study helped inform the Cholera Incidence Management System in decision making. The residents also used the findings of the KAP study to inform a case control study.

In addition to KAP study and the case control study, the residents are designing a mortality case-control study that will inform the IMS about risk factors associated with community and institutional deaths among cholera patients.