FETP Updates

January-March 2019

TEPHINET requests updates from its member programs for inclusion in each issue of TEPHINews, our quarterly newsletter.

This update has been compiled using text provided by the contributing field epidemiology training programs. Editing has been limited to minimal corrections where necessary. The information in each program’s section is the responsibility of the program.
# Contents

AFGHANISTAN FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM ........................................ 3  
AUSTRALIA MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN APPLIED EPIDEMIOLOGY .................................. 7  
BRAZIL FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM .................................................. 9  
CHINA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM ............................................... 12  
EGYPT FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM ............................................. 14  
ETHIOPIA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM ................. 20  
GHANA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM ..................... 22  
HONDURAS FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM ...................................... 28  
KENYA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM .................... 29  
MALAYSIA EPIDEMIC INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM ...................................................... 33  
MOZAMBIQUE FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM ............ 37  
PHILIPPINES FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM ................................... 44  
SOUTH AFRICA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM ................................ 46  
ZAMBIA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM ............................................ 49  
ZIMBABWE FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM ......................................... 51
Mentors’ workshop to support FETP Intermediate in Afghanistan

Afghanistan, with the support of CDC and GHD/EMPHNET, made strides towards establishing its own FETP at the intermediate level. As FETP is a supervised, mentor-supported and on-the-job training which builds the capacities of health professionals to conduct surveillance, epidemiologic studies and investigate health threats, a group of well-trained and well-versed mentors are a prerequisite for launching FETP in any country. Therefore, a mentors’ workshop was conducted in Amman, Jordan from 26 to 31 January 2019 in which 20 mentors from the central Ministry of Public Health, medical universities, and provincial offices attended. Additionally, five key members of the steering committee for FETP in Afghanistan, including the ex-deputy minister and senior advisor to HE ministry of public health, also participated.

The aim of this workshop was to train and refresh the potential mentors for FETP Afghanistan on the concept of mentorship in didactic as well as field training. The main topics of focus in this workshop were mentorship as a key factor for the success of the program, surveillance data quality and audit, data analysis, interpretation and utilization, outbreak investigation and action, and planned study /program evaluation/research vs. non-research. The sessions were supported by case studies to strengthen participants’ knowledge and capacity. As the first batch of FETP would be specific on polio and immunization, a few topics with respect to EPI and polio were also accommodated in the workshop. The mentors trained in this workshop will facilitate didactic sessions and also supervise the residents in field in the country.

Participants, CDC trainers, GHD/EMPHNET in a group photo on the first day
Inauguration of the workshop by MOPH, GHD/EMPHNET and CDC authorities

Participants are actively attending the mentor’s workshop in Amman

Screening workshop to select FETP residents in Afghanistan

FETP Afghanistan organized and conducted a five-day screening workshop between 9-13 February, 2019 with the objective of identifying and selecting the most eligible, relevant and committed medical doctor and paramedics to be enrolled in the FETP Intermediate first cohort.
Furthermore, the FETP aimed to build the capacity of participants on concepts of public health, epidemiology, outbreak investigations, National Diseases Surveillance and Response (NDSR) and AFP Surveillance, management of surveillance data, problem analysis and quality of data.

The workshop consisted of both theoretical and practical sessions to support each other in terms of learning. The training materials in local languages were photocopied and distributed to all participants at the end of the day. In total, 41 participants attended the workshop from 15 provinces as well as Kabul. The workshop was facilitated by local experts from national disease surveillance and response (NDSR), EPI and PEI as well as Kabul University of Medical Science (KUMS) and DG preventive medicine staff in Kabul.

In order to select 25 out of these 41 participants, a comprehensive evaluation of various aspects of trainees including experience and background, learning and knowledge, English, computer and communication skills and active participation in class was conducted. The residents are selected and there is a plan to launch the first workshop of FETP intermediate very soon in Afghanistan.
Participants and steering committee members in the screening workshop in Kabul

Group work of participants in the FETP screening workshop in Kabul
AUSTRALIA MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN APPLIED EPIDEMIOLOGY

Strengthening health security through FETP workforce development partnerships in the Asia-Pacific

The Master of Philosophy (Applied Epidemiology) (MAE) at the Australian National University is Australia’s Field Epidemiology Training Program. The MAE Team have received funding from the Australian Government Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security to implement two exciting initiatives to strengthen health security in the region.

The first initiative, the ASEAN-Australia Health Security Fellowship Program, provides opportunities for citizens from selected ASEAN countries to undertake the MAE, with a field placement in their home country. The Program also provides opportunities for Australians to undertake the MAE with a placement in an ASEAN country. This Program will contribute to strengthening the capacity for the surveillance of and response to public health threats in participating ASEAN countries and also foster relationships in the region. The first cohort of Fellows commenced in February 2019 with an intensive face-to-face course block in Canberra, Australia. They have now returned to their field placements; Vannida Douangboupha at the National Centre for Laboratory and Epidemiology in Laos and Srean Chhim at Institut Pasteur du Cambodge in Cambodia. In addition, two Australians have also been accepted into the Program; Elenor Kerr will undertake a one-year placement in Cambodia and Emily Holt will undertake a two-year placement in Laos. Applications for entry into ASEAN-Australia Health Security Fellowship Program in 2020 will open mid-2019. Details will be available at https://rsph.anu.edu.au/study/master-degrees/master-philosophy-applied-epidemiology-asean-australia-health-security-fellows.

The second initiative to contribute to strengthening health security in the region focuses on the workforce development of FETP supervisors and mentors. The MAE team, in partnership with trainers Matthew Griffith and Chiaki Kawakami, will deliver a workshop titled “Strengthening Field Epidemiology Training in the Asia-Pacific through workforce development: A train the trainer’s initiative.” The aim of the workshop is to contribute to the quality delivery of Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETP) in the Asia-Pacific region by building the training and mentoring skills of program faculty. Participants are FETP trainers and mentors in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and other Pacific Islands. The Workshop, to be held in March 2019, will be held at the Australian National University. This workshop was born from discussions with FETPs in the region at the 9th SE Asian TEPHINET conference in Laos last November. Discussions with program directors and program faculty throughout the Asia-Pacific region and across the globe indicated that one of the greatest challenges to the success of an FETP is the capacity of trainers and mentors.
ASEAN-Australian Health Security Fellows (from left to right): Vannida Douangboupha, Elenor Kerr, Emily Holt and Srean Chhim
FETP Updates

BRAZIL FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

FETP-Frontline level (EpiSUS-Fundamental)

In the period from January to March 2019, six EpiSUS-Fundamental cohorts were started and are in progress and five cohorts were completed. The number of graduates in the first quarter of 2019 was 95, coming from 20 municipalities; the percentage of graduates of 77.2%. Professionals from 45 municipalities, 6 states and all the 5 regions of the country (North, Northeast, Midwest, Southeast and South) are in training. In addition, graduates from EpiSUS-Fundamental participate with EpiSUS-Avançado in two outbreak investigations: diarrheal due Cryptosporidium in Paraná State and acute syndrome respiratory gravity in Amazonas State.

FETP-Advanced level (EpiSUS-Avançado)

During January to March 2019, the FETP-Brazil (EpiSUS-Advanced) contributed in five field investigations:

1) Due to a measles outbreak in Roraima State, immunization was performed to increase the coverage and to prevent new cases. After that, EpiSUS team realized a survey to determine the coverage of vaccination in Boa Vista municipality, Roraima State.

2) In a measles outbreak in Pará State, the active search and investigation of the suspected cases were performed and analysis of data was done.

3) An investigation was done due to the identification of a new subtype of meningococcal (serogroup W) in Santa Catarina State to describe the profile and to implement surveillance measures.

4) Acute syndrome respiratory gravity was identified in Amazonas State and an investigation was performed to identify risk factors to implement measures of control and prevention.
5) Diarrheal outbreak due to Cryptosporidium is being investigated to determine the source of infection in Paraná State.

In April, EpiSUS will realize the 11th Scientific Meeting of the Brazil Field Epidemiology Training Program – EpiSUS. The trainees will present evaluations of surveillance systems, outbreak investigations and research. At the conclusion of this event, cohort 14 will graduate.

Regarding publications, EpiSUS published:


Another conferences and events that EpiSUS-Advanced presented: 1) Influenza symposium in Minas Gerais State.

Among other modules, we completed a module of data linkage course and geospatial analysis review.
FETP NCD/TB Track Preparation Work Started

In 2018, with the support of the China-U.S. Collaborative Program on Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Disease (EID), CFETP was able to launch the joint program on Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) and Tuberculosis training. CFETP will collaborate with TB and NCD centers to build the capacity of high burden disease control and prevention in health departments. With great support from the U.S. CDC China Country Office, the U.S. CDC HIV & TB Department, and the NCD centers, the first working group meetings were held in December of 2018 and January of 2019. Experts from China CDC NCD sections, the RESOLVE China office, China CDC NCTB, UNION, and the U.S. CDC HIV & TB centers attended the meetings.

During the meetings, the residents’ management, introduction materials, field work guidance, mentor training, and workshop organization were discussed. To strengthen international communication and exchange, each resident also will be expected to submit abstracts to international conferences and to present their field work. Every 2-4 weeks, a Journal Club activity will be held by the FETP to improve communication skills.

New cohorts’ opening ceremony in 2019

On March 5, 2019 China CDC held the opening ceremony for the 60 residents of both cohort 4 of the Western Region Field Epidemiology Training Program (WFETP, including 9 months of training) and cohort 18 of the Chinese Field Epidemiology Training Program (CFETP, including 2 years of training) at the Changping campus. The China CDC Deputy Director, Dr. Liu Jianjun, Educational department director Luo Huiming, International collaboration department Wang Xiaoqi and U.S.
FETP Updates

CDC China country office Dr. RJ Simonds, FETP Resident Advisor Dr. Linda Quick, attended the ceremony.

During the ceremony, the CFETP program mentor Dr. Zhang Lijie and Dr. Liu Huihui introduced the program management manual, program ten abilities and four spirits, field work and graduate requirement etc. Deputy director Liu Jianjun encourage them to cherish this unique opportunity and improve their technical ability and leadership, so to provide a better service to the local level public health work. Dr. RJ as the representative of the US CDC China office, expressed that it is his honor to be with all the new residents. US CDC China office has been a strong supporter for the China FETP and other countries around the world. He believes that having trained epidemiologists is an essential part of the public health workforce. He wishes that all the resident would serve the public by knowing how to quickly identify, characterize, and respond to emerging health threats after the training, and translate scientific findings into recommendations for practices and policy improvement.

Up to March of 2019, China CDC has recruited 376 2-year program residents and 160 9-month western region trainees. The introductory course was started from March 4 and February 25.
EGYPT FIELD EPIDE MiOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

FETP Egypt was the second in the Eastern Mediterranean region. It started in 1993, in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease control and Prevention. We are working now with two levels of the program; advanced and basic levels.

For the advanced level:

FETP cohort 19 had been graduated last February. Now we are working with FETP cohort #20 (21 residents who are in their 2nd year of training) and we are preparing for the introductory/Screening course for FETP cohort #21 on April 2019.

For the Basic level (Public Health Empowerment Program- Basic Field Epidemiology PHEP-BFE):

We succeeded in graduation of two cohorts with 74 sanitarians at National, Intermediate and local levels with collaboration with GHD/EMPHNET. We are now preparing for recruitment of new cohort based on the recommendations and lessons learnt from the previous cohorts.

FETP Cohort #19

Graduation Ceremony

On 4th of February 2019, 21 epidemiologists were graduated from the program after fulfilling all graduation requirements. The graduation ceremony was honored by the presence of:

- Dr. Alaa Eid, Chief of Preventive Sector and Endemic Diseases – MoHP
- Dr. Mohamad Abd El-Fattah, Head of Preventive Sector Technical Office – MoHP
- Dr. Hanaa Abu Elsood, General Director of Epidemiology and Surveillance Department - MoHP
- Dr. Sahar Samy, FETP Egypt Coordinator – MoHP
- Public health professionals and FETP Alumni
FETP Cohort #20

Peer-review seminar & Mid-Course Exam

On 27th of January 2019, a five-day workshop had been conducted in Cairo where 21 residents defended their study proposals. The meeting was very beneficial and on a high scientific level that helped residents in refining their study methodology and in identifying further steps in their research projects. Public health professionals were attending this seminar to provide guidance and to share their research experiences to FETP residents.

At the end of this workshop; 21 residents took the mid-course exam. The exam included multiple choice questions (MCQ) as well as short essay questions covering the surveillance, outbreak investigation, basic biostatistics, and research methodology modules. The exam questions were designed to assess resident’s problem solving skills on the field of the epidemiology.

Module 6: Advanced Biostatistics

This course was held in Cairo during the period 17th – 21st of March, 2019. The goal of this training course is to provide residents with the knowledge and skills of common statistical methods used in epidemiology and to understand the concept of statistical inference.

This workshop was conducted with collaboration with public health department of faculty of medicine, Cairo University. After the course, Residents were able to read, interpret, and critically evaluate the statistics in different epidemiological studies.

At the end of this workshop, residents presented their progress regarding the data collection of their study projects in presence of public health professionals from ministry of health and population, CDC, and others.
FETP Updates

FETP Cohort #21

Application & Selection

An announcement for recruitment of a new cohort had been published through circulars for all sectors directorates, and districts on January 2019. Inclusion criteria listed on the announcement based on MoHP requirements.

Interested candidates were asked to fill an application on FETP Egypt website. The application consists of open and closed ended questions. Data were extracted, edited and cleaned.

One hundred applicants were short listed and interviewed face to face. Candidate evaluation was web based, it included measurement of skills, qualifications, and experience using Likert scale. Selected candidates will start the introductory/screening course on April, 2019.
Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP-BFE)

Follow-up of Field Activities after Graduation

A two-day workshop was held in Cairo during the period of 13th - 14th of January, 2019, in which PHEP-BFE Graduates from cohort 1&2 at national, intermediate and local levels were presenting their achievements on improvement of surveillance reporting as well as their contributions and responses on investigation of outbreaks and public health events and improvement in the quality of surveillance data and reporting timeliness over time after graduation in presence of leaders from ministry of health and PHEP mentors.

Common Field Activities

Participation in president’s initiative for hepatitis C and Non-communicable disease screening survey at different governorates

Participation in national Polio vaccination campaign (24-27 February, 2019)
Participation in preparation of national risk communication action plan after the recommendation of the JEE

Routine assessment visits of governorates capacities for surveillance

Outbreak investigations, and rapid response

Participation in conducting training workshops for surveillance officers to improve epidemiological capacities in directorates, districts, educational and health insurance hospitals
Participation in preparedness for the 1st Arab and African youth platform in Aswan

**Upcoming Events**

- Data Management module for FETP cohort #20
- Introductory/Screening Course for FETP Cohort #21
- Recruitment of cohort #3 of PHEP-BFE
ETHIOPIA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM

1. There were residents, field supervisors, and mentors’ manual revision conducted from March 4-8/2019, there were almost 30 participants, who were graduates of the program and resident advisors and program coordinators, which took place in Nazareth, Adama.

2. RED Pet training, (residents project tracking tool) which was given by Expert from Atlanta CDC for 13 program coordinators and Resident advisors in Nazareth from March 13-15, 2019.

3. EFELTP Mentorship training for graduates and academic mentors who were 50 in number in Nazareth from March 11-15, 2019. The training was given by Dr. Julie for Atlanta CDC and Dr. David, Resident advisor, as well as Dr. Zegeye, EFELTP program coordinator.
4. GiD support, AFP surveillance training, which took place in JIJIGA, Somali region from January 22-24/2019, with 50 participants who were graduates. Advanced and frontline and WHO surveillance officers.
FETP-Intermediate in Ghana

FETP-Intermediate is a 9-month in-service program focused on strengthening public health surveillance, outbreak investigation and response and use of survey data for decision-making. FETP-Intermediate aims at building research capacity at the middle level of the health system as pertains in regional and district levels in Ghana. The GFELTP with the support of AFENET and CDC has rolled out the FETP-Intermediate training in Ghana starting with the Northern zone (Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions).

Pre-Admission Workshop

The GFELTP in preparation to roll-out the FETP-Intermediate in Ghana, organized a 3-day pre-admission workshop for government workers mainly from Ghana Health Service, Food and Drugs Authority, Veterinary Services Department and the Environmental unit from the Ministry of Local Government from the Northern Zone (Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions) of Ghana from February 20-22, 2019 at the Miklin Hotel, Accra – Ghana. The objective of this pre-admission workshop was to select well-motivated candidates for the first cohort of the training.

A total of 27 health workers made of 10 Ghana Health Service (GHS) staff, 5 Environmental Health Service Division (EHSD) staff and 6 each from Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) and Veterinary Services Department (VSD) were selected from the three regions for the pre-admission workshop.

Of the 27 trainees who took part in the pre-admission workshop, 15 were selected for the first cohort of the FETP-Intermediate in Ghana. Of the 15 trainees selected for Cohort 1, 6 were from GHS, 3 from VSD, 3 from FDA and 3 from EHSD.

FETP-Intermediate Cohort 1

The workshop 1 for the FETP-Intermediate Cohort 1 is ongoing at Miklin Hotel, Accra – Ghana from March 11 – 21, 2019. The 2-weeks didactic workshop is being organized for the 15 trainees who were successful during the pre-admission workshop. Trainees are being taken through topics such as; Surveillance System Operations, Introduction to Descriptive Epidemiology, Ratios, Proportions andRates, Summary Statistics, Surveillance System Evaluation, Overview of Epi Study Design, Investigating an Outbreak, Role of Laboratory in Outbreak Investigation, Exercise on Role of Laboratory in Outbreak Investigation, Situational and Outbreak Investigation Report, Mentorship and case studies.

The workshop 1 was officially opened on March 11, 2019. The opening ceremony was attended by Dr. Franklin Asiedu-Bekoe – Head, Disease Surveillance Department, GHS, Ms. Hae Soo Park who represented the Country Director, KOICA Ghana, mentors and facilitators.

FETP-Frontline Cohort XIII – Workshop 1 in Ashanti Region

The GFELTP organized the FETP-Frontline Cohort XIII – Workshop 1 at the Splendor Hotel, Kumasi, Ashanti Region from March 4 – 8, 2019. Twenty-seven participants, made of 20 health workers
from GHS, 2 from FDA and 5 from the VSD took part in the training. Trainees were selected from the Asante Akim Central, Kumasi Metro, Obuasi Municipal, Ejisu-Juaben Municipal and Ahafo Ano South Districts of the Ashanti Region.

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. Orientation was done for mentors prior to the training. Each mentor was assigned to five trainees.

The opening ceremony of the workshop was attended by Dr. Emmanuel Tinkorang – Regional Director of Health Services, GHS, Ashanti Region, representatives of the CDC, FDA, the Deputy Director Public Health - GHS, Ashanti Region, mentors and facilitators. A stakeholder meeting was held with the District Directors of Health Services from the participating districts on the last day of the workshop.

Faculty and residents exchange between the GFELTP and the Burkina Faso Field Epidemiology Training Programme (BFETP)

The goal is to foster and strengthen collaboration between the Field Epidemiology Training Programmes in the Anglophone and Francophone West Africa, residents of the Burkina Faso Field Epidemiology Training Programme (BFETP) have come on an exchange programme at the School of Public Health, University of Ghana.

The objectives of this exchange programme are to;
- Foster partnership
- Improve collaboration between residents and faculty
- Learn new teaching models from other member countries
- Conduct short term research together eg. Joint one-day field work, do data analysis together or Identify problem together and come out with appropriate solutions
- Cross border/country collaboration among residents and;
- Improve on working languages (French and English)

A total of 37 BFETP residents came for the exchange programme. The residents came in three groups. The first (12 residents) and second groups (13 residents) came from February 10 – 24, 2019 and February 24 – March 10, 2019 respectively. The last group made of 12 residents will be with the GFELTP from March 10 – 24, 2019. The BFETP team had the opportunity to meet Rev. Prof. Patrick Ferdinand K. Ayeh-Kumi – Provost, College of Health Sciences, University of Ghana/Ag. Dean for the University of Ghana School of Public Health and Mr. Joseph Aidoo – Administrator, University of Ghana School of Public Health.

The first group of the BFETP residents together with the GFELTP residents had a joint one-day fieldwork titled “Seat belt use among motorists passing all the entry gates of the University of Ghana campus” on February 18, 2019. Residents were divided into five groups and positioned at the various gates on campus.
The second group of the BFETP residents took part in a Concept Development Field Project. They identified a Surveillance/Public Health Problem in their communities, described the problem, proposed ways of solving the problem and shared their findings with faculty.

The third group of BFETP residents together with the GFELTP residents have been given a data set to derive questions from based on the data. Residents will make presentations of their findings to faculty on March 20, 2019 at the University of Ghana School of Public Health.
Ms. Hae Soo Park who represented the Country Director for KOICA – Ghana giving her remarks at the workshop 1 of the ongoing FETP-Intermediate, Cohort 1 training being held at the Miklin Hotel, Accra -Ghana

(L-R): Lenox Goulbourne - Consultant for Monitoring and Evaluation of FETP-Frontline and FETP-Intermediate in Ghana, Dr. Donne Kofi Ameme – Senior Epidemiologist/Resident Advisor, GFELTP, Mr. Joseph Asamoah Frimpong – Technical Advisor, Surveillance and Outbreaks – CDC who represented Dr. Chastity Walker – Program Director, Global Health Security, CDC – Ghana, Dr. Franklin Asiedu-Bekoe – Head, Disease Surveillance Department, GHS, Ms. Hae Soo Park who represented the Country Director for KOICA – Ghana, Dr. Samuel Sackey – Field Coordinator/FETP-Intermediate Coordinator, GFELTP, Prof. Col. Edwin Afari – Coordinator, GFELTP, Dr. Frederick Wurapa – Faculty Advisor, GFELTP, facilitators, mentors, and trainees at the workshop 1 of the ongoing FETP-Intermediate, Cohort 1 training being held at the Miklin Hotel, Accra -Ghana

The fifteen FETP-Intermediate Cohort 1 trainees at the workshop 1 at Miklin Hotel, Accra - Ghana

GFELTP residents, faculty and BFELTP residents (Group 1)
(L-R): Dr. Ewudzi Yeboah - Deputy Director Public Health - GHS, Ashanti Region, Dr. Marlon George Mensah – Dep. Regional Veterinary Officer who represented the Regional Veterinary Officer, Dr. Samuel Sackey – Field Coordinator/FETP-Intermediate Coordinator, GFELTP, Dr. Emmanuel Tinkorang – Regional Director of Health Services, GHS, Ashanti Region, Mrs. Anita Owusu-Kuffour who represented the Head, Food and Drugs Authority – Ashanti Region, Mr. Joseph Asamoah Frimpong – Technical Advisor, Surveillance and Outbreaks – CDC who represented Dr. Chastity Walker – Program Director, Global Health Security, CDC – Ghana, Dr. Donne Kofi Ameme – Senior Epidemiologist/Resident Advisor, GFELTP, facilitators, mentors and trainees at the workshop 1 of the Cohort XIII FETP-Frontline held in the Ashanti Region.
Dr. Ernest Kenu – Director, GFELTP (arrow on top) and the BFELTP residents (Group 2) during the exchange programme

Rev. Prof. Patrick Ferdinand K. Ayeh-Kumi – Provost, College of Health Sciences – University of Ghana/Ag. Dean - University of Ghana School of Public Health (arrow on top), Dr. Ernest Kenu, Director – GFELTP, Mr. Joseph Aidoo – Administrator, School of Public Health, GFELTP Cohort XII residents and the BFETP residents (Group 2) during the exchange programme

Mrs. Kpaikpia Pirênam, a BFETP resident making a presentation of the Concept Development Field Project on behalf of her group (Group II) to faculty during the exchange programme
La Secretaría de Salud de Honduras graduó, el viernes 1 de marzo de 2018, a 13 profesionales de la salud del nivel intermedio del Programa de Entrenamiento en Epidemiología de Campo (FETP, por sus siglas en inglés) con apoyo de SE-COMISCA y CDC.

Este diplomado fue acreditado por la Universidad Católica de Honduras, los profesionales realizaron 4 estudios planificados: la caracterización de las Parotiditis en Honduras 2013-2017, la Prevalencia del Zika en pacientes diagnosticados con Guillan Barre en Honduras entre 2016-2018; la relación de la Hepatitis B con el cáncer y cirrosis hepática en Honduras entre 2016-2017 y la evaluación de oportunidades perdidas de vacunación en Honduras durante el 2018. Además de realizar investigaciones de brotes y análisis de sistemas de vigilancia como actividades esenciales para su currículo de formación a este nivel.
KENYA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM

**Advanced Level Kenya Field Epidemiology Training**

Cohort 15 residents have completed Course One: Didactic Training, and are now attached in various placement sites at the national and sub national level. They completed their end of semester one exams on 11th March 2019. Cohort 14 residents are working with their supervisors to develop protocol-based study proposals and submit them for ethical clearance. They sat for their end of semester three exams on 6th and 7th March 2019 and are back at their field placement sites.

**Intermediate Epidemiology**

Graduates of Intermediate epidemiology training for class 4 completed training in November 2018. Twelve of the intermediate epidemiology graduates submitted their abstracts of the field project to KEMRI Annual Scientific Conference (KASH). The abstracts were accepted and they presented in the 9th KASH conference that took place at Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya from February 13, 2019 through February 15, 2019.

![Figure 1: KFELTP Participants pose for a Group Photo at the 9th KASH Conference, Nairobi, 2019](image)

**Basic Epidemiology**

Basic Epidemiology Group 4A Training Course 1 was held at Pine Court Hotel, Malindi from 4 – 8 February 2019. Thirty-nine (39) participants completed a work plan for the field project component of the course. Participants were then allowed 3 weeks to collect surveillance data on one of the priority diseases or health conditions relevant to their sub-county, including individual case-patient data at the health facility level. Course 2 was held at the same venue from 4 – 8 March 2019 and focused on analysis of the surveillance data using descriptive epidemiologic methods. This training brought together various health care workers including 5 nurses, 3 medical officers, 4 public health officers, 6 clinical officers, 5 laboratory technologists, 3 surveillance
officers and 3 pharmacists. The health care workers were from Kilifi, Tana River, Kwale, Taita Taveta, Lamu and Mombasa counties. Course 3 will be conducted from 25\textsuperscript{th} - 29\textsuperscript{th} March 2019. During this course, participants will make presentations from their field projects.

**Outbreak Investigations**

K-FELTP supported the government in seven (7) outbreak investigations conducted in various locations across the country. Some of the outbreaks investigations conducted include;

I. **Measles outbreak investigation in Tana River County** was conducted from 10\textsuperscript{th} to 18\textsuperscript{th} January 2019 and involved three FELTP residents, one FELTP field coordinator and One MoH member of staff. Investigation indicated that most of the cases infected by measles were unvaccinated young children of the age group 1-5 years mainly from the hard to reach nomadic community, most of the facilities did not meet the minimum target of 80% vaccination coverage and health facilities not providing routine vaccination daily. Additionally, defaulter tracing mechanisms were weak and frequent cold chain breakdown may have contributed to occurrence of the measles transmission.

**Recommendations**

We recommended that Tana River County Department of Health and facilities develop micro plans to identify hard to reach populations and their vaccination needs. It also recommended organizing catch up measles vaccination campaigns targeting the nomadic populations and strengthening routine immunization activities, maintenance of cold chain and ensuring that health workers are available and carry out routine immunization activities on all week days.

II. **Measles outbreak Investigation in Wajir County, 10\textsuperscript{th} -20\textsuperscript{th} January 2019**

Four advanced level FELTP residents and one FELTP field coordinator conducted the investigation from 10\textsuperscript{th} – 20\textsuperscript{th} January 2019. The main findings from this investigation indicate that the measles infection burden is still high among vaccinated or unvaccinated children and adults in Wajir County. The response measures so far implemented may not have had impact on overall control of the epidemics since many of the people may have already been exposed and or recovered.
Recommendations

The study recommended catch-up campaign for children <15 year and supplemental immunization (SIA) for <5 years old to boost population immunity and interrupt transmission. Sensitization of healthcare workers especially in private facilities on triaging and isolating febrile or rash patients at health facilities during outbreaks to reduce risk of nosocomial transmissions and public education through radio on the dynamics of measles disease in person to person transmission

III. Cholera outbreak investigation was also held in Narok County from 14th – 5th February 2019.

Four FELTP residents and three MOH staff were involved in the investigation. From the investigation, the outbreak was most likely due to consumption of contaminated water from Olare and Ewaso Nyiro rivers which were likely contaminated through the release of effluence into the rivers. In addition, late laboratory confirmation was noted in this outbreak.

Recommendations

The investigation recommended that the health facilities improve in early detection and response of cholera outbreaks through timely case reporting. Continuous health education on treatment of water and support supervision of health care providers in the county need to be given priority so as to improve in case detection and reporting.

IV. Hepatitis outbreak investigation was held in Elgeyo Marakwet and Baringo County, 25th January-4th February 2019

Seven FELTP residents, one FELTP mentor and two members of MoH were involved in the investigation conducted from 25th January 2018 to 4th February 2019. Findings of the study revealed that most of the jaundice cases were aged >60 years and more males than female were affected. Prevalence of Hepatitis B was higher in Baringo county (13%) compared to Elgeyo Marakwet County (2.2%).

Recommendations

The study recommended that the County governments should intensify community health education on Hepatitis B through barazas and community health volunteers. A sentinel surveillance system for hepatitis B should be set up in high burden counties. Targeted vaccination for hepatitis B focusing on high risk populations and management of cases using anti-hepatitis drugs should be done.

V. Rift valley fever (RVF) outbreak investigation in Nyandarua County and Muranga County

Two RVF outbreaks were reported in Nyandarua and Muranga counties in Central Kenya. FELTP residents were part of the team that investigated the outbreaks. In Nyandarua County, three residents were involved in the investigation from 14th February to 21st February. In Muranga county three residents conducted the investigation from 30th January to 5th 2019.
Main findings

By 29th of January, seven RVF cases were reported in Muranga County Referral Hospital, with three (3) confirmed using PCR tests. The investigation revealed that the human RVF cases occurred among adult >16 years, more in male and among those who had direct contact with animals and or animal products. Pools of water were present in areas previously used as sand quarries and streams scattered in the affected villages. This provided suitable habitat for mosquitoes to breed. There was absence of mosquito control measures in the area with possibility of high exposures especially for animal. Majority of the respondents got infected through contact with blood and body tissues of the carcasses.

Recommendations

Improve timeliness in case detection and investigation at the county level, public health education on safe animal slaughtering practices and carcass disposal, vector control.

Scientific Communication

Six manuscripts were submitted to various peer reviewed journals by FELTP residents and are under consideration for publication. Two abstracts have been accepted for publication. One of the papers is titled “The Spatial distribution of snail vectors and their infection with Fasciola cercariae in different agro-ecological zones in Busia, Western Kenya, was accepted by the Pan African Medical Journal (PAMJ) while the other titled “Factors Associated with Full Immunization Coverage among Children <12 >months, Kakuma Mission Hospital, Turkana County, Kenya will be published by the Journal of Refugee & Global Health.

Strengthening VPD /Polio Surveillance in Garissa, Wajir, Mandera and Lamu counties of Kenya

The second phase of enhanced Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance in five counties in Kenya started in December 2018 and has been on going majorly to support the routine surveillance for AFP in the five counties in Kenya, which are; Mandera, Garissa, Wajir, Tana River and Lamu. During the month of January to March 2019, the county and sub county disease surveillance officers visited health facilities in the five counties and were involved in sensitization of health care workers, recruitment of community informants, active case search for detection of AFP cases and geocoding the cases on ODK. Six (6) suspected cases of AFP were reported in January 2019 and the stool specimens collected and shipped to the Kenya Medical Research Institute for laboratory testing.

IMPACT Programme

IMPACT program graduated the third Distinguished Fellows Programme (DFP) cohort on 17th January, 2019. This cohort started classes in August 2018 and was a cadre mix of surveillance coordinators, PHOs, county directors of health, and medical officers. Residents of cohort 2 of the master’s program presented their abstracts on the Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA) during the Africa Health Agenda International Conference held in Kigali, Rwanda between 5th – 7th March 2019.
**MALAYSIA EPIDEMIC INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM**

1. **January 7-11th**
   A Didactic Class was conducted for the new 10th Cohort trainees at the Malaysia's Special Search and Rescue Team (SMART) Headquarters near Putrajaya. The trainees were given input on Situational Analysis and the opportunity to present their proposals on Situational Analysis projects. Concurrent with the 10th Cohort classes, an Outbreak Management Class was also conducted for the 9th Cohort. Here the 9th Cohort trainees presented their outbreak investigation findings and benefited from feedbacks from their other trainees as well as trainers. To break the ice between the Trainers/ 9th Cohort Trainees with the new 10th Cohort Trainees, an interactive game called “Time, Place & Person” was organized. All Trainees and Trainers had the chance to visit the National Disaster Control Center (NDCC) which was also situated at SMART.

2. **March 1st**
   A group of EIP graduates were invited to work together with the Surveillance Sector, MOH Malaysia in the planning of evaluation of the Malaysian Influenza Surveillance System. The evaluation will be carried out throughout the country in 2019.

3. **March 14th**
   Dr. Thilaka Chinnayah was appointed as the new EIP Malaysia Director to succeed the soon retiring Dr. Wan Mansor Hamzah. A brief hand-over session was conducted in the presence of the Director of Disease Control, MOH Malaysia and several EIP Malaysia Committee members.

4. **March 15-19th**
   Four EIP graduates assisted in the epidemiological investigation of the toxic waste incident in Johor. The incident resulted in more than 5,000 patients with close to 1,000 admissions to hospital. The objectives were to determine the epidemiological features of affected cases, mapping of cases and conducting a risk assessment.

5. **March 18-22nd**
   Another session of Didactic Classes for the 9th and 10th Cohort trainees were conducted again at the Malaysia's Special Search and Rescue Team (SMART) Headquarters. The trainees were given input on Surveillance Evaluation, Scientific Writing and Applied Statistics. This time, presentations of their projects were conducted in the presence of not only their technical supervisors but also subject matter experts from MOH Malaysia who provided useful constructive comments for the trainees. A special session was also held to introduce the roles of Ministry of Health in During Disasters and the roles of the Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (SMART). This was followed by a rescue demonstration and display of rescue equipments by the SMART team.
A round of discussion among the Technical Supervisors

Class in progress

The “Time, Person & Place Game” for ice breaking
FETP Updates

Handing over to the new leadership

Rescue demonstration
EIP at the field during the toxic waste incident in Pasir Gudang, Johor
1) **Nosocomial infection outbreak investigation**

On January 8\textsuperscript{th} 2019, a suspected outbreak of neonatal infection with *Enterobacter* spp was reported in a hospital in Maputo City. An outbreak investigation was conducted by FETP to confirm the outbreak; characterize the cases per person, time and place; identify the risk factor for the outbreak; implement prevention and control measures and propose recommendations to avoid new cases. A descriptive study, an environmental investigation and a study of knowledge, attitudes and practices were developed. The investigation not concluded if it was an outbreak or not, due to the lack of previous information on hospital infection rate. Based on the results, the main recommendations were: immediate cleaning and deep disinfection of the nursery; apply the WHO handwashing rule in the 5 patient handling moments; elaborate and monitor the hospital infection rate by sector and period; develop and implement a rational use of antibiotics guideline based on the concept of One Health and implement indicators for biological risk assessment in all operational areas.

2) **Strengthening Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) in Lusophone Countries Workshop**

Cynthia Semá Baltazar- Mozambique FETP Director and Érika Rossetto- Resident Advisor attended the orientation session that took place in Atlanta from January 28\textsuperscript{th} to February 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2019. The Director or Resident Advisor FETPs from Angola, Brazil and Guinea Bissau were present and was a great opportunity to share experience and meet CDC branches. It was an intense week where we were able to develop our SWOT analysis and review our work plan with the objective of strengthening the program. Additionally, the FETP Lusophone network is growing up.
And to finish the week’s activities, RA Mozambique FELTP visits TEPHINET!

FELTP Resident Advisor Erika Rossetto and TEPHINET’s Tina Rezvani at TEPHINET Office

3) Independent Monitoring of Polio Vaccination in the Mozambique Center Provinces
In response to the emergence of cases of acute paralysis, the Ministry of Health of Mozambique with the support of WHO, UNICEF and other partners implemented the vaccination campaign against polio in children aged 0-59 months in the provinces of Zambezia, Nampula and Niassa. The Mozambique FELTP graduates were part of the district coordination team and participated in independent monitoring and evaluation of the vaccination campaign from January 31 to February 6. The second round of Polio Vaccination Campaign was held in the provinces of Zambezia, Nampula and Niassa from March 14th to 18th, 2019. The FELTP team went to the provinces to coordinate the Monitoring and Evaluation of this vaccination campaign.
4) 5th cohort selection process

Considering the previous discussion of strength, the Advanced FELTP, we decided to change the selection process to a dynamic model that involved a practical part of the field investigation. The 17 candidates attend the theoretical classes about outbreak investigation and descriptive epidemiology. The practical involved, journal club, write a scientific abstract and develop a malaria knowledge, attitudes and practices study. At the end of the week, the three groups present the results and delivery a final report.
5) FELTP New coordination organization
Continuing the program's strengthening line, our FELTP coordination flowchart was reformulated. Four graduates are now part of the board with specific activities. These graduates will be trained by the RA in specific subjects such as: management, supervision, leadership, IMS, scientific writing and review, among others.

6) Cyclone Idai emergency response
Six Mozambique FELTP were deployed to the red zone 2 days after the cyclone. Read more about our activities in the next TEPHINET bulletin.
FETP Updates

PHILIPPINES FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Philippine Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) of the Department of Health (DOH) is a two-year, full-time training course on applied epidemiology. It is an on-the-job and service-oriented training aimed at developing the epidemiologic expertise of public health workers for 31 years. In 2018, Philippine FETP was awarded with Certificate of Accreditation by the Global Accrediting Body of Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET). Philippine FETP is the first program in Asia and seventh worldwide to be accredited.

For the 1st quarter of 2019, there were three FETP major accomplishments as follows:

1. DOH conducted the yearly Fireworks-related Injury Surveillance (FWRI) from December 21, 2018 to January 5, 2019 to monitor injuries sustained from fireworks-use. FETP Fellows were tasked to conduct the said surveillance. A total of 340 cases were reported with a 34% decrease from the previous year. A press conference to announce the surveillance results are held every January 1 led by the Secretary of Health.

2. On January 30, 2019, FETP conducted its second screening for batch 30 at Epidemiology Bureau, Department of Health. A total of six applicants were accepted to start Didactics training on May 16, 2019.
3. FETP Long-term Study/Project Proposal Development Workshop for cohort 29 fellows was conducted on March 11-15, 2019 in Tagaytay City. This activity aims to identify their long term study/project topic and develop an initial proposal as a completion requirement for the course facilitated by the FETP staff and selected FETP graduates and consultants.
SOUTH AFRICA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

January

14 – 18 January: Orientation week

The 13th cohort of the South Africa Field Epidemiology Training Program (SAFETP) began their 2-year training. Orientation week was held at the National Institute for Communicable Disease (NICD). The cohort is composed of 7 residents (Hellen Kgatla, Masingita Maka, Zandile Nukeri, Mahlape Mahlape Titi, Jessica Ann Yun, Idah Rikhotso and Thembekile Zwane. Four of our residents are registered with the University of Pretoria (UP) and three at the Witwatersrand University (WITS). Dr Mahlape Mahlape Titi is from the neighboring country of Lesotho. She completed the Frontline course we conducted there in 2018.

17 January: Scientific Seminar

SAFETP hosted the first Scientific Seminar for 2019 at the NICD. Ten (10) presentations were done by the current second year residents. These topics were presented;

Table 1 list of topics presented at the 1st SAFETP Scientific Seminar 2019, NICD, 17 January 2019

| Prevalence and patterns of Occupational injuries among workers in the National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS) in south Africa | Makhubele Matimba |
| Anthrax outbreak in Hippos in Liwonde National Park, Malawi | Mapemba Daniel |
| Pertussis outbreak in the Nelson Mandela Bay District, January-December 2018 | Neti Mzimasi |
| An epidemiology of Hepatitis B virus infection among the general population of South Africa, 2017-2018 | Mashau Mashudu |
| Treatment outcomes among TB patients in Gauteng clinics, 2017 | Nyawose Goodman |
| Investigation of Shiga toxin-producing E. coli outbreak in a household: Sinoville - Pretoria, November 2018 | Gavhi Fhatuwani |
| Key findings associated with HIV epidemic among public school educators in South Africa, 2016 | Matjokotja Tebogo |
February

20 February 2019

SAFETP hosted a stakeholder engagement meeting to market and promote FETP frontline training. In attendance were officials from the National Department of Health (NDoH), Deputy Director of the NICD and CDC-SA resident advisor, Dr Tim Doyle. As outcomes of the meeting, SAFETP will collaborate with NDoH to rollout frontline trainings incorporating the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) framework from 2020 in the nine provinces of South Africa.

28–02 February: Statistical Tools Module

SAFETP together with the program alumni ran the module, Introduction to Statistical tools, for first year residents (4) registered at the University of Pretoria. The following statistical tools were introduced, Access, Epi Info, Google Forms, Microsoft Excel, R & RStudio, RedCap and Stata. The module was conducted at the NICD.

29 January -01 February

Second year resident Mojalefa Makae travelled to Mokopane in Limpopo Province for brucellosis outbreak investigation supported by the Provincial Epi Ms Unarine Makungo (SAFETP Alumnus).

A cow with its newly born calf in a kraal where brucellosis case was identified in Makopane, Limpopo Province, South Africa

04-08 February

Fundamental of Epidemiology module 1 of 2 took place at the NICD. The module was facilitated by FETP staff, NICD Epidemiologists and other external partners. Some of the topics covered included: Measures of central tendency, Measures of association/effect and case studies.
05-08 February
Second year SAFETP resident Babongile Ndlovu travelled to Tygerberg Hospital (Cape Town) for bacteraemia outbreak investigation accompanied by Rudzani Mathebula (SAFETP Alumnus) from the NICD Centre for Healthcare-associated Infections, Antimicrobial Resistance and Mycoses (CHARM).

11-15 February
Fundamentals of Epidemiology module 2 of 2 took place at the NICD. The module was facilitated by FETP staff. Topics covered included: Introduction to epidemiological studies (Ecological, cross sectional, case-control, cohort studies) and case studies.

12-13 February
Second year resident Teresa Mashau travelled to Tzaneen (Limpopo) for Malaria Data collection for her hypothesis driven research.

18-22 February
Disease Surveillance module took place in Seminar room 1 facilitated by FETP staff. Including our four UP residents, there was a total of 27 students in attendance from other UP tracks (Monitoring and Evaluation, Disease Control, Environmental health etc.)

March

11-15 March
Epidemiology II 1 of 2 module took place in Seminar room 1 facilitated by FETP staff. Topics covered included: Epidemiological studies, confounding, concepts of interaction and case studies.

19 March
Second year resident Fhatuwani Gavhi, went on an investigation of a suspected Adverse Effect Following Immunisation (AEFI) case in Stretford clinic, Orange Farm, Gauteng Province. The resident was supported by both the NICD and the Gauteng Department of Health.
ZAMBIA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

Zambia Field Epidemiology Training Program (ZFETP) is currently offering both advanced and frontline programs to build epidemiological skills at all levels of health security service. Currently a third cohort of advanced residents is in its first year; a fourth cohort of frontline FETP has been selected and expected to start in second quarter of 2019.

During February 27 through March 1 2019, ZFETP held the third and final workshop of the third cohort of FETP-Frontline (Figure 1 and 2). During this workshop, 21 residents, including district surveillance and medical officers, presented the results of their field deliverables, which includes investigations of outbreaks and epidemiologic analyses of public health surveillance data. They also received training in how to design questionnaires, create spot maps, and write reports.

Figure 1 and 2: Director ZNPHI officiates at the Frontline FETP cohort three graduation
During the first quarter of 2019, FETP graduates were involved in investing and responding to two outbreaks (measles and Cholera); this demonstrates the Ministry of Health’s continued utilization of graduates and residents of the program.

During the first quarter 2019 also highlights, one resident from the Zambia FETP received acceptance notification to make a poster presentation at the EIS conference scheduled for April 2019.
The Zimbabwe Field Epidemiology 2018-2019 cohort started lectures on 21 January 2019 and are very excited as they begin their great journey in the field of Epidemiology. Enrolled in the cohort are 10 full time residents and they comprise six medical officers, 2 pharmacists and two environmental health officers. Also enrolled are 6 part-timers and these are made up of 3 medical officers, 1 health promotion practitioner, 1 environmental health officer and one nurse.

In the picture from L-R: Eunnah Majuru, Nyaradzo Nyangani, Jain Rashul, Tsitsi Juru (Senior Assistant Field Coordinator), Farai Chirongoma, Brian Dhlandhlara, Courage Muwishi, Samson Pomo, Gladys Gombakomba, Gladman Mubonani, Mitchell Gadzayi, Felix Muza, Tenda Chikinje and Notion Gombe (Regional Technical Advisor AFENET)

**Strengthening Health Systems in Zimbabwe through leadership and management training**

The Zimbabwe MOHCC in collaboration with ZIMFETP and WHO started the implementation of the competency-based leadership, management and epidemiology training program for recent medical graduates deployed as District Medical Officers (DMOs). The training program is a 6 month-long on-the-job training with intensive mentorship to better equip DMOs to discharge their duties more efficiently. A one-week didactic training workshop was conducted in Bulawayo from February 25 to March 2, 2019. The didactic training was conducted with the ultimate goal of equipping the DMOs with requisite skills and knowledge that would be applied in the field. Twenty DMOs drawn across six provinces were trained with facilitators drawn from the MOHCC directorate and ZIMFETP.
DMO Participants and facilitators of the training workshop

**February MPH Monthly dissemination Seminar**
The program held the February monthly seminar at the MOHCC boardroom at Kaguvi Building, Harare and this time, the seminar was graced by AFENET Executive Director, Dr. Chima Ohuabunwo who was in the country on a working visit.

L-R: Ms T Juru (Senior Assistant Field Coordinator, ZIMFETP), Dr C Ohuabunwo (AFENET Executive Director), Professor M Tshimanga (ZIMFETP Programme director and AFENET board chairperson) and Mr S Chiwanda (Assistant Field Coordinator, ZIMFETP)