
Rwanda Field Epidemiology & Laboratory Training Programme (FELTP): Brief Overview

Program Directors/Coordinators meeting,
Nov 2013

Objectives of Rwanda FELTP

- ◆ Strengthen capacity to respond to public health emergencies
 - Provide evidence for decision makers
 - Improve laboratory participation
- ◆ Train public health leaders with emphasis on data utilization for problem solving
- ◆ Provide epidemiologic service to national and sub-national health authorities

FELTP Training Components

- ◆ Taught (or didactic) component
 - Introductory module (6 weeks)
 - 4 intensive courses (each lasting 1- 3 weeks)
 - Modular design
- ◆ Practical Attachment (or Field placement)
 - 20 months
 - Onsite supervision and mentoring
 - Competency development in outbreak investigations, surveillance systems, data analysis, protocol based studies, scientific communication

Rwanda FELTP

- 2008- Needs Assessment done
 - Few public health emergencies reported and investigated
 - Low capacity of health system and personnel to detect and respond to disease outbreaks
 - Weak collaboration between Epidemiology and Lab
- 2009- FELTP short courses for national and district level personnel
- 2010- First cohort of 15 residents enrolled in FELTP long course
- 2012- Second cohort of 15 residents enrolled in FELTP long course

The overarching goal is to build capacity to respond to major public health problems in Rwanda

Partnerships and collaborations

- **Partnerships**

- **Government of Rwanda**
 - **Rwanda Ministry of Health**
 - **School of Public Health-National University of Rwanda**
- **USG**
 - **CDC-Rwanda, Division of Global HIV/AIDS**
- **African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET)**

- **Sponsors**

- **Government of Rwanda (2008-present)**
- **PEPFAR (2009-present)**
- **World Bank (2010-present)**
- **PMI (2012)**

Program Implementation Progress

Cohort 1 (admitted Apr 2010)

- Class of 15 (medics, scientists, vets, laboratorians)
- 13 residents have completed

Cohort 2 (admitted Apr 2012)

- 13 residents
 - senior program managers at MoH
 - backgrounds similar to cohort 1 but no vets
- Have completed didactic component



Hon. Minister for Health Dr. Agnes Binangwaho in Classroom Teaching Cohort 1 Residents

Strong country ownership!

Major achievements

- Outbreak investigations (over 30 outbreak responses)
- Training mid-level health staff in surveillance and outbreak response (> 300 health workers trained)
- Data analysis and surveillance evaluation in various programs (>30 data sets/surveillance evaluations done)
- Improvements in communication of epidemiological information
 - Presentations in national, regional and international conferences (e.g. 14 abstracts accepted for this week's AFENET conference; overall > 40 conference presentations)
 - Publications in peer reviewed journals and peer reviewed journals
 - 1st Rwanda Field Epidemiology Conf. held in March 2013

Acknowledgment

- Government of Rwanda institutions
 - NUR
 - MoH
 - EID
 - RAB
- US Government (CDC, USAID, PMI)
- African Field Epidemiology Network
- World Bank

THANK YOU