

Tanzania Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (TFELTP) Progress and Achievements

6th TFELTP steering committee
Acting Program Director-Dr Janneth Mghamba

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Background

- **Competency based training program in Applied Epidemiology and Public Health Laboratory Management, established in 2008**
- **Designed in recognition of the need to strengthen the Epi and Lab management capacity to meet the challenges of the current, emerging/ reemerging infectious diseases and other public health problems.**
- **Partners: MoHSW, CDC, MUHAS, NIMR, AFENET and WHO**
- **Guided by the steering committee which is chaired by CMO**

TFELTP structure

TFELTP Steering committee
Chair: Dr Donan W Mmbando

Technical Working Group

Partners:

1. Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
2. Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences
3. African Field Epidemiology Network
4. CDC
5. WHO
6. AFFNFT

Program Director;
Dr Janneth Mghamba (Acting PD)
(domiciled at MoHSW, & Head of Epidemiology)

Program Administrator
Patrick Kagumungya

TFELTP Field Coordinators
Senga Sembuche

Epi/Lab Resident Advisors
Dr Steve Weirisma (Epi)
Mr Ahmed Abade (Lab)

MUHAS Liaison Officer
Dr Germana Leyna

Project Support Office

1. Driver
2. Office Assistant

Epi/Lab Fellows
Dr Rogati Kishimba
Ms Loveness Urio

Updates on Personnel and Staffing

- **PD** –Dr Janneth Mghamba is the current acting Program Director and she takes over from Dr Mmbuji who has resigned from Government duties
- **TFELTP Resident Advisors**
 - Dr Steve Wiersma – Epi Resident Advisor
 - Mr Ahmed Abade-Lab Resident Advisor
- **TFELTP Field Coordinator and Short course Corodinator-** Ms Senga Sembuche
- **TFELTP NCD Coordinator-** Dr Zubeda Ngware
- **TFELTP Fellows**
 - Epidemiology track -Dr Rogati Kishimba)
 - Laboratory track (Ms Loveness Urío)

Potential Partners and Linkage

- **TEPHINET** (Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network) -supports hiring of NCD short course coordinator and Mini grants for fellows
- **World Bank** –supports funds for 7 lab students
- **IANPHI** (International Association of National Public Health Institutes)- funds completed. Did support 2 FELTP residents from cohort 3 with NCD thesis
- **Pan influenza group**, CDC Atlanta
- **PMI group**, CDC Atlanta
- **Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health**, CDC Atlanta
- **Abbot Foundation** in strengthening lab regional sites)
- **SACIDS**
- US Defense Threat Reduction (**DTRA**)

Enrolment progress (1/2)

- **Cohort I (2008/2010) ***
Total Applicants: 13 Epi; 5 lab (18)
Enrolled: Epi-7 ; Lab-4 (11)
All graduated in 2010
- **Cohort II (2009/2011)***
Total Applicants: 31 Epi; 12 lab (33)
Enrolled: Epi- 6; lab-4 (10)
8 graduated in 2011; 2 in 2012
- **Cohort III (2010/2012)**
Total applicants: 28 Epi; 8 Lab (36)
Enrolled: Epi-7; Lab-5 (12)
11 graduated in 2012

Enrolment progress (2/2)

- Cohort IV:

Total applicants: 38 Epi; 17 lab (55)

Enrolled: 8 Epi; 5 Lab (13); 13 graduated

- Cohort V:

Total applicants: 26 Epi; 14 lab (40)

Enrollment : 8 Epi; 5 lab (13); 12 expected to graduate in 2013

- Cohort VI*

Total applicants: 26 Epi; 14 lab (40)

Enrollment : 11 Epi; 4 Lab (15)

TOTAL GRADUATES: 58

	National level	Regional Field Sites	Other Govt sectors	Other Institutions
C1	2- Epi –Epid section (+Zbr) 2 Epi -FELTP program	1 Epi-Dodoma	1 lab –TPDF 1 lab-MUHAS 2 Lab-KCMC	1-CDC 1-ICAP
CII	1Epi- Epid Section 1Epi-TB, Zbar 1lab-NHLQATC	2 Epi-Kagera, Rukwa, 1 Lab-Dar	1 Epi-TPDF 1 lab-NIMR	1 Epi-IHI
CII	2 Epi/Lab-FELTP 1 Epi- MoHSW, PoE 1 Epi-MoHSW, DCS	2 Epi-Mbeya/Babati	1 Epi-MUHAS 1 Lab-SUA 1 Lab-NEMC	1 Epi-TFDA 1 Lab-IHI 1 Lab-CDC

Performance of the Program using the Score Card Assessment [1/2]

- ❑ Program well placed for effective performance within the MoHSW's Epidemiology Section; strong advocates within Ministry
- ❑ Program and residents valued as the primary responders for important outbreaks and emergencies in the country
- ❑ Program graduates are valued; many working in appropriate senior posts in the public health system.
- ❑ Field sites have appropriate opportunities for learning and residents are generally valued resources in the sites.
- ❑ Program has strong collaboration between major supporters in country like MoHSW, CDC, WHO-Tanzania, World Bank among others

Performance of the Program using the Score Card Assessment [2/2]

- **Areas of focus for recommendations:**
 - ❑ Assure appropriate field time for competency development
 - ❑ Strengthen competency-based curriculum implementation
 - ❑ Improve documentation
 - ❑ Assure appropriate support at field sites to allow adequate field work opportunities
 - ❑ Develop structures to support sustainability
 - ❑ Improve relevance and use of all residents' field work activities and products, including thesis project
 - ❑ Clarify expectations for laboratory track graduates
 - ❑ Assure career track for graduates in support of MoHSW priorities

Achievements [1/2]

- ❑ More than 50 outbreaks/Events/Rumours have been investigated by TFELTP. Major ones include Cholera, H1N1, Dengue Fever, Measles, Rotavirus

- ❑ Program work has been recognized at international conferences and Prizes won by students

 - ✓ The 4th AFENET conference in Dar es Salaam, one resident won an award for best oral presentation.
 - ✓ Number of accepted abstracts ranges from 15-20

- ❑ Surveillance systems have been evaluated and areas of improvement have enabled the system to become more robust

Achievements [2/2]

- ❑ Regional and District Rapid Response Teams have been trained and have been able contain outbreaks as well as institute well-coordinated responses

- ❑ TFELTP residents involvement in special investigation
 - ❑ Uganda: part of the investigation teams for Ebola, Aug 2012
 - ❑ Mahenge: part of the investigation for Nodding disease

- ❑ Alumni involvement in various projects
 - ❑ Red Cross on a special contract of analysis of their survey data
 - ❑ Blood Needs assessment within the country (special contract with Blood safety group, CDC Atlanta)
 - ❑ Mini grants (Cancer, Non Communicable diseases, Maternal Health, Injury)

Challenges

- ❑ Carrier path of the graduates
- ❑ High number of applicants-few slots
- ❑ Mentorship of the residents at field sites

Way forward [1/2]

- Solicitation of other partners Universities to meet the critical demand for Epi/Lab skills
 - Nelson Mandela, KCMC
 - Outside the country?
- Development of a retention and a career progression for TFEPTP
 - TOR for Epidemiologist and Laboratory graduates have been developed
 - An initial working group was formed as directed by the Steering committee (CDC, MoHSW); however needs to incorporate other members and develop a working document

Way forward [2/2]

- Development of a TFE LTP 5 year strategic plan
Key areas proposed to be included:
 - Strengthening the public health workforce
 - Enhancing disease surveillance and response systems
 - Strengthening evidence based decision making
 - Expanding local and national databases on health events and problems
 - Sustainability
- Initiate processes towards inclusion of Veterinary track

Program snapshots for 2011/2012



**Mr Abade/Dr Prosper-part of the investigation team in Uganda
(Ebola, Aug 2012)**

