

VISION

A Healthier Africa

MISSION

AFENET is committed to ensuring effective prevention and control of epidemics and other priority public health problems in Africa.

CORE VALUES

Accountability, Professionalism, Networking and Collaboration

EDITORIAL TEAM

Allan Mwesiga- PAMJ Editor

Peter Wasswa- Scientific Writer

Racheal Chelimo- Editor

Rebecca Babirye- Grants Officer

Sheba N. Gitta- Deputy Executive Director and Head, Science
and Public Affairs Unit

PHOTOGRAPHY

Secretariat staff

Real Marketing Ltd

Courtesy photos: FELTPs,

APARET photos taken by Christian Winter

© African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET)

Plot 4B Mabua Road, Kololo

P.O. Box 12874

Kampala, Uganda

Tel: +256 417 700650

Fax: +256 312 265595

www.afenet.net

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AFENET	African Field Epidemiology Network
AFRICHOL	African Cholera Surveillance Network
BL	Burkitt's Lymphoma
CDC	U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
DTS	Dry Tube Specimen
EIS	Epidemic Intelligence Service
EMBLEM	Epidemiology of Burkitt's Lymphoma in East African Minors
EQA	External Quality Assurance
ETP	East Africa Training Program
FELTP	Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program
FETP	Field Epidemiology Training Program
FMOH	Federal Ministry of Health
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services
IDSR	Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response
NCD	Non Communicable Disease
OGHA	Office of Global Health Affairs
PAMJ	Pan African Medical Journal
SLMTA	Strengthening Laboratory Management Towards Accreditation
SURVAC	Project for Reinforcement of Surveillance in Central Africa
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization
UTCI	Uganda Tobacco Control Initiative

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
PROGRAM REPORTS	7
ANGOLA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM	7
CENTRAL AFRICA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM	8
ETHIOPIA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM	9
GHANA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM	10
KENYA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM	11
MOZAMBIQUE FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM	12
NIGERIA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM	13
RWANDA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM	15
SOUTH AFRICA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM	16
TANZANIA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM	17
UGANDA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM	19
WEST AFRICA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM	20
ZIMBABWE FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM	21
PROJECTS	23
AFENET/USAID/CDC TRAINEE GRANTS PROGRAM	23
AFRICAN PROGRAM FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING	25
ONE HEALTH INITIATIVES	26
RESPOND/EPT ONE HEALTH INITIATIVES	27
UGANDA TOBACCO CONTROL INITIATIVE	29
EPIDEMIOLOGY OF BURKITT'S LYMPHOMA IN EAST AFRICA (EMBLEM)	30
AFRICAN CHOLERA SURVEILLANCE NETWORK	31
UGANDA IMMUNISATION TRAINING PROGRAM (UITP)	32
EAST AFRICAN TRAINING PROJECT (ETP)	33
PAN AFRICAN MEDICAL JOURNAL (PAMJ)	34
AFENET-LAB	35
• HIV EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE (EQA)	35
• STRENGTHENING LABORATORY MANAGEMENT TOWARDS ACCREDITATION (SLMTA)	37
• AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR LABORATORY MEDICINE (ASLM)	38
NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PROJECT	39
RESEARCH ACTIVITIES	39
THE 7 TH GLOBAL TEPHINET CONFERENCE	40
AFENET SECRETARIAT	41
APPENDICES	42
ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN 2012	43

FOREWORD

We are pleased to present the 2012 Annual Report of the African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET). This year marks seven years of pursuing our vision of achieving a healthier Africa. This year's report highlights key events and initiatives implemented in the Network.

AFENET was awarded a research cooperative agreement by the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This agreement widens AFENET's activity scope, allowing Network members and partners to conduct a broad spectrum of research; going beyond solving operational problems to generating scientific knowledge that can improve prevention, treatment and diagnosis of priority public health diseases.

In June 2012, the first cohort of the AFENET/ CDC/EPT One Health Fellows graduated from a one-year training that aimed at strengthening public health systems and workforce capacity in One Health. The six trainees (all FELTP graduates) from Uganda and Kenya enhanced their skills in investigation, detection, response, prevention and control of infectious diseases, especially zoonoses.

AFENET participated in drafting of tobacco control policies for Sub-Saharan Africa. In East Africa, Uganda and Kenya have received funding through AFENET to support strengthening of national capacities for Tobacco Control. The two are among the five countries scheduled to implement the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) between 2012 and 2014.

These among many other activities were key to the growth of AFENET in 2012.

We thank all our partners, stakeholders, staff and trainees for the efforts at advancing AFENET's mission of ensuring effective prevention and control of epidemics and other priority public health problems.

We look forward to working together in the year ahead.



Dr David Mukanga
Executive Director



Prof. Mufuta Tshimanga
Chair, Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) continued to pursue its vision of promoting a healthier Africa in 2012. We maintained focus on our strategic priorities, especially field epidemiology and public health capacity building among others.

A new Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) is being established in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in order to address the country's unique public health challenges while the West African FELTP graduated its first cohort of 12 trainees at the beginning of the year. Since the Network's inception in 2005, nearly 1000 trainees have been enrolled and over 600 have graduated.

FELTP trainees participated in the investigation and response to over 60 disease outbreaks that included Ebola, anthrax, cholera and polio among others. They were involved in contact tracing, identifying sources of infection, conducting health education and in several instances, collected samples for laboratory investigations. AFENET, through the Nigeria Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (NFELTP) was involved in supporting efforts to stop the transmission of polio in Nigeria - the only Polio endemic country in Africa.

Through continued collaboration with her partners, AFENET was able to support trainees to attend several regional and international scientific conferences. This enables trainees to showcase their work to the broader scientific community. Such conferences included the Epidemic Intelligence Conference (EIS) in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, the Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET) conference in Amman, Jordan and the African Society for Laboratory Medicine Conference in Cape Town, South Africa. Several trainees received awards for their exceptional presentations. Most notable was Dr. Luka from Nigeria FELTP who received the prestigious William Foege Award at EIS.

Over 20 manuscripts were published in peer-reviewed journals, including the Pan African Medical Journal (PAMJ) whose editorial is housed at AFENET. Most of these publications are testimonies of the notable work being done by trainees to improve the health of their communities.

AFENET continued to support laboratory strengthening efforts in Africa and in the Caribbean region. Significant emphasis was placed on coaching and mentoring of laboratory personnel in preparation for regional and international accreditation of their laboratories.

Through collaboration with several funding and implementing partners, AFENET was involved in disease surveillance projects. The Africhol project was conducted in eight sub-Saharan African countries. The project, which aimed at establishing a cholera surveillance network, provided high quality epidemiological data on cholera disease burden in Africa and as a result, improved capacity in participating countries to investigate and respond to the disease. A number of activities were also conducted under AFENET's One Health Initiatives; including the training of Disease Surveillance Officers in Democratic Republic of Congo, AFENET's investigation of zoonotic disease outbreaks in Uganda and the Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Training Program at Makerere University.

New projects such as the East Africa Training Project and the Uganda Tobacco Control Initiative were launched in 2012. The former project seeks to strengthen Ministry of Health capabilities for routine immunization delivery and disease surveillance and response to help achieve and sustain polio eradication. The latter project aims at advocating for stronger policies and programs to reduce the consumption of tobacco in Africa.

AFENET continues to support training of FELTP graduates through several fellowships such as the African Program for Advanced Research Epidemiology Training (APARET) and the One Health Fellowship. The first cohort of One Health fellows graduated in April 2012 while the first cohort of APARET fellows completed their fellowship in October 2012.

We do hope you enjoy reading the 2012 AFENET annual report.

PROGRAM REPORTS



ANGOLA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY

The Angola Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (A-FELTP) was established by the Ministry of Health to strengthen the country's capacity in Integrated Disease Surveillance Systems (IDSR) through training in epidemiology and laboratory management. In May 2011, the program was officially launched and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the Angola MoH, Agostinho Neto University (UAN), CDC and AFENET. The first cohort of 10 trainees was enrolled in the same year:

Didactics and graduation

Cohort I trainees were taught key elements of public health and basic epidemiology. The ten trainees were then attached to nine field sites for their first field attachment from December 2011 to February 2012 during which, trainees evaluated surveillance systems. The second field attachment took place from May to August 2012. During this attachment, trainees analysed surveillance data at their sites. Trainees finalized reports on the analyses and made their presentations in September 2012.

Outbreak investigations and other field activities

Four trainees participated on a cholera outbreak investigation in Luanda Norte, Lukapa and Viana – Luanda in June 2012.

Four trainees participated in an anthrax outbreak investigation in Queilegenes Municipality, Southern Angola in August 2012. The trainees led by Dr. Claudia Sicato and Dr. L. Lances, an Epidemiologist from the Ministry of Health (MoH) alerted the MoH of the rapid cattle deaths as reported by leaders of Queilegenes Municipality. A total of 14 human deaths and 576 cattle were recorded.

Results of both outbreak investigations were presented to Ministry of Health officials.



Angola FELTP residents , Alexandre Kapapelo , Pedro Lussukamu, Paula Paixao, Isaac Francisco, Aleixo Macaia , Luis Miguel Costa



During Cholera Outbreak Investigation, Viana Municipality (standing is Dr.Celestino Teixeira and the one sitting with open book Dr. Jose Manuel Catahali

CENTRAL AFRICAN FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Central African Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (CAFELTP) was established in October 2010 at the University of Yaoundé I, faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Similar to other FELTPs, CAFELTP was established to enhance capacity for applied epidemiology and public health laboratory services in three countries: Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR) and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The program aims to strengthen the public health systems and infrastructure of the Central African region, and to enhance the capacity of the region to carry out effective disease surveillance, outbreak investigations and response.

Didactics and graduation

The FELTP began with 18 trainees in Cohort I, five each from Cameroon and CAR, and eight from DRC. Cohort I sat for their final examinations and defended their dissertations from 28 August - 17 September 2012. Cohort II was recruited in November 2011 and comprises of 17 trainees, four from Cameroon, five from CAR and eight from DRC of Congo. All didactic courses are conducted at the University of Yaoundé I, in Cameroon while practicums are conducted in the trainees respective countries.

Outbreak investigations and other field activities

Two Cohort I laboratory track residents - Norbert Dongmo and Nnode Collins carried out a project on Strengthening Laboratory Management Towards Accreditation (SLMTA) improvement from May 2012 – July 2012 at the Centre Mere Enfant. The residents were supervised by the Resident Advisors and colleagues from CDC Atlanta, and Dr. Judith Shang from the Cameroon CDC Country Office.

Cohort II trainees took part in the development of a proposal and questionnaire to evaluate use of SURVAC - supported mobile phones in health districts and health facilities to report data in Cameroon. These documents were submitted to the Chief of Epidemiology Unit, the Program Director, and le Projet de Renforcement de la Surveillance en Afrique Centrale (SURVAC) NPO for review.

Cohort II trainees participated in the investigation of meningitis cases in the North, Far North and Adamaoua regions of Cameroon. The investigation followed a vaccination campaign in May 2012 which resulted in 35 positive cases of meningitis. Trainees took part in developing a questionnaire to guide the investigation.

Meetings and Conferences

Dr. Tresor Makumbu, a Cohort I trainee from, DRC presented the results of his work on data analysis on rabies in the city of Kinshasa at a workshop organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United States Agency for International Development on 1 June 2012.

ETHIOPIA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Ethiopia Field Epidemiology Training Program (EFETP) is a partnership between CDC Ethiopia, the Federal Ministry of Health, the Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI), Addis Ababa University School of Public Health, and the Ethiopian Public Health Association. The program has enrolled four cohorts since its inception in 2009.

Didactics and graduation

Cohort IV trainees were enrolled into the EFETP on 15 October 2012 at the School of Public Health, Addis Ababa University. The 16 trainees will engage in the primary activities outlined for their two year training which include: investigating disease outbreaks and improving disease surveillance systems, responding to public health emergencies and using health data to make recommendations for field epidemiology related activities.

Twenty-two Cohort II trainees graduated in July 2012 with master's degrees in Public Health and Field Epidemiology from the Addis Ababa University. All graduates returned to their regional health bureaus to support surveillance and outbreak investigation.

Outbreak investigations and other field activities

All trainees are expected to conduct a minimum of two disease outbreak investigations using the different epidemiological study designs taught during the course. Since 2009, more than 70 outbreaks have been investigated. In 2012, some of the outbreaks investigated included: acute watery diarrhoea in Konso woreda, malaria outbreak in Ankesha and measles outbreak in Gesha among others.

Meetings and Conferences

Four abstracts were submitted and accepted for the International Society for Infectious Diseases (ISID) Annual Conference in Bangkok conference.

Two abstracts were submitted and accepted for an international scientific conference in France.



Cohort IV trainees on their orientation day at the School of Public Health, Addis Ababa University



2012 (Cohort II) graduates of the EFETP with some members of the advisory board and Project Coordinator, Dr Zegeye Hailemariam (Back row, first left)



Desalegn Dalecha, Cohort II resident, investigating Acute Watery Diarrhea outbreak in Konso Woreda.

GHANA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Ghana Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (GFELTP) developed from a collaboration agreement between CDC, Ghana Ministry of Health and the University of Ghana, School of Public Health. Ten Cohort VI trainees (eight from Ghana and two from Sierra Leone) were admitted to the program and started classes on 13 August 2012.

Didactics and graduation

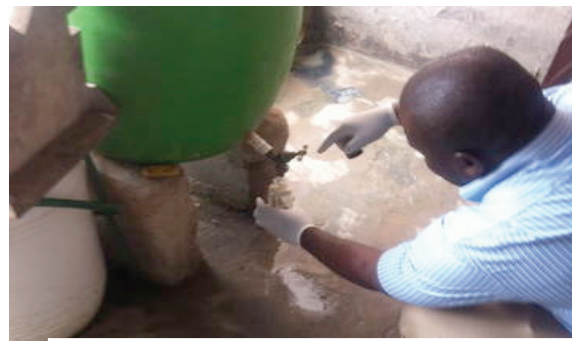
Nine trainees of the Ghana Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (GFELTP) graduated with Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology and Disease Control on 31 March 2012. The graduation ceremony was held during the 11th Congregation/Swearing-In-Ceremony for qualified Doctors, Dental Surgeons, Public Health Professionals, Allied Health Professionals and Graduate Nurses at the College of Health Science, University of Ghana.



Some of the GFELTP graduates (L-R): Dr. Joseph Opare, Ms. Joyce Der, Ms. Richael Odarkor Mills, Mr. Anthony Dongdem, Dr. Sherry Ama Mawuko Johnson, Ms. Joyce Der and Mr. Vitus Burimuah with Mrs. Cynthia Afetsi (squatting)- a staff of School of Public Health, University of Ghana

Outbreak investigations and other field activities

Six trainees from Cohorts IV and V assisted the Ghana Health Service to investigate an outbreak of Cholera at Korle-Gorno, Greater Accra Region on 3 September 2012. Out of the 13 samples tested, four were confirmed as *Vibrio cholerae*.



Dr. Donne Ameme (cohort V resident) takes water sample from the storage drum for analysis.

A suspected measles outbreak was reported in Aprozumase, Birim Central Municipality in the Eastern Region of Ghana in October 2012. A total of 43 children with similar measles-like signs and symptoms were identified. The investigation team took 19 blood samples and which confirmed that of the 9 out of 10 samples tested positive for Rubella Immunoglobulin M (IgM).

Meetings and Conferences

The Program participated in at least five meetings and conferences during 2012. In April 2012, GFELTP hosted the APARET proposal writing workshop held in Accra from 23-27 April, 2013. The main objective of this workshop was to train the eight selected APARET fellows in advanced skills of grant proposal writing. The workshop was facilitated by Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute. At the end of the workshop, participants applied the obtained skills in developing their small grant research proposals.



An investigation team briefing members of the Birim Central Municipal Health Management Team during a suspected measles outbreak.

In September 2013, two trainees, Mr Pida Brian (Cohort II) and John Tengey (Cohort IV) participated in a Ghana Urban Malaria workshop from held at Mensvic Hotel in Accra. The objective of the workshop was to preview articles on malaria parasitemia. Participants conducted a literature search on urban malaria in the Greater Accra and Ashanti Regions of Ghana.

KENYA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Kenya Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (KFELTP) was established in 2004 to strengthen the epidemiologic and laboratory management capacity of Kenya and the East Africa region to meet the challenges of emerging infectious diseases and other public health problems.

Didactics and graduation

Eighteen Cohort VIII trainees were admitted to the program and began class on 7 May 2012. The trainees were taught modules on Epidemiology, Research Methodology, Computer Applications in Health Research, Biostatistics and Demography. Trainees were sent to their various field placement sites where they were supervised from 24 - 31 July 2012.

Outbreak investigations and other field activities

Outbreak of Suspected Diphtheria/Mumps

Cohort VII and VIII trainees of the KFELTP participated in an investigation of suspected Diphtheria/Mumps in Dagahaley Dadaab Refugee Camps from 18- 26 July 2012. The investigation sought to identify the cause of a reported neck swelling among children in Dagahaley, Kenya. Thirty-two suspect cases were line listed. Of these, 17 (53%) were males. The case fatality rate was 12.5% (n=3). Nasopharyngeal swabs and blood samples were collected from five patients, 60% of which were positive for mumps IgM and IgG. None of the samples were positive for diphtheria on culture.

Epidemiology training for DMOHs

Under an initiative called Medical Education Partnership, (MEPI), KFELTP trained District Medical Officers of Health (DMOHs) in-charge of public health who were recently deployed but did not have prior training in applied epidemiology. Seventeen participants attended the training.

MedRed Handheld Device Refresher Training

Global Implementation Solutions in conjunction with MedRed conducted training on data collection using a handheld tool that could potentially be useful for outbreak responses and surveys among others. The training took place at the Intercontinental Hotel in Nairobi from 22 - 23 June 2012. A total of 40 participants were trained. This was part of a pilot study to identify any modification to the tool before rolling it out. Ten Fujitsu Stylistic Q550 tablets with safaricom modems were provided to the participants for use.



Participants and facilitators during the Epidemiology training workshop in Kisumu

Meetings & Conferences

East African Regional Bio-surveillance Workshop (RBSW) 2012

The Kenya Program Director and Field Coordinator, and staff from the surveillance division of the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation (MOPHS) attended the East African Regional Bio-surveillance Workshop (RBSW) where they made presentations on IDSR implementation in Kenya, cross border surveillance, Rift Valley Fever in Kenya, 2006-7 and an overview of the FELTPK. The meeting was held from 11-15 June 2012 at Speke Resort Hotel in Kampala, Uganda and was funded by the US Department of Defence.

MOZAMBIQUE FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Mozambique FELTP was established in 2009 through collaboration between the National Institute of Health of Mozambique and University of Eduardo Mondlane. The program aims to train epidemiologists and laboratorians to respond to emergencies and outbreak investigations through both short and long term courses. The program has so far recruited two cohorts: Cohort I was recruited in August 2010 and has 10 trainees (5 each on the epidemiology (Epi) and Laboratory [lab] tracks) and Cohort II was recruited in March 2012 with a total of 14 trainees (8 Epi and 6 Lab).

Didactics and graduation

MFELTP held its 3rd Short Course (Curso de Curta Duração do Programa de Formação em Epidemiologia de Campo e Laboratorial) in Maputo City from 13 - 29 June 2012. The course which targeted midlevel officers was attended by 26 participants from the districts of Gaza Province, Maputo Province and Maputo City. Amongst the participants were 13 surveillance supervisors and 13 heads of laboratories.

Outbreak investigations and other field activities

Two Cohort II trainees: Fernando Padamo (Epi track) and Fernando Lazaro (Lab track) conducted an outbreak investigation of febrile illness due to suspected typhoid fever in Niassa province from 11 - 23 June 2012. A total of 36 suspected cases were identified.

Trainees also conducted surveillance system evaluations during their field attachments.

Meetings and Conferences

MFELTP participated in the 6th Brazilian FELTP Scientific Meeting (6th Encontro Científico do Programa de Epidemiologia Aplicada aos Serviços do Sistema Único de Saúde (EPISUS)) from 4 - 6 June 2012 in Brasília. Cohort I Epi track resident - Celestina da Conceição made a presentation titled "Surto de Poliomielite por Poliovírus derivado de vacina em Moçambique, 2011" (Outbreak of poliomyelitis by Poliovirus derived from vaccine in Mozambique, 2011). Celestina received a prize for Best Presentation. Dr. Cynthia Semá – MFELTP Program Director and Cátia Taibo - Academic coordinator, from University Eduardo Mondlane also attended the conference



(L) Dr Cynthia Sema -MFELTP Program Director during the certificate award ceremony for participants of the 3rd Short Course



Surveillance supervisors and heads of laboratories display their certificates after the training



Celestina after receiving a prize for Best Presentation at the 6th Brazilian FELTP Scientific Conference.

NIGERIA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Nigeria Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (NFELTP) was established in 2008 as a two year in-service training program in applied epidemiology, veterinary epidemiology and public health laboratory epidemiology and management. NFELTP was started as a long-term program within the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) and Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), which aimed at training residents for leadership positions in both ministries.

Didactics and graduation

NFELTP had by 31 October 2012 enrolled four cohorts of 105 trainees. All the trainees are affiliated to either the University of Ibadan (UI) or Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) found in Oyo and Zaria states respectively

NFELTP admission rates since its inception

Year of admission (Cohort)	Track			Total
	Medical	Veterinary	Laboratory	
1 – 2008	6	4	3	13
2 – 2009	6	4	3	13
3 – 2010	17	13	9	39
4 – 2011	24	2	14	40
5 – 2012 (expected)	33	4	12	49
Total	86 (56%)	27 (17%)	41 (27%)	154



NFELTP Cohort IV Trainees

Short Courses

Twenty-five trainees and graduates attended two scientific writing workshops held in October and November 2012. During the workshops facilitated by trainers from CDC Atlanta and NFELTP, the residents developed their draft manuscripts into final manuscripts that are to be submitted to peer-reviewed journals in early 2013.

Outbreak investigations and other field activities

Trainees and graduates of the NFELTP took part in the Nomadic Polio Outreach Project to deliver vaccines to the children and adults in the northern Nigeria states through the National Stop Transmission of Polio (N-STOP) program. The program reached out to nomadic/scattered settlements and supported Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) activities in 70 Local Government Areas (LGAs) across 10 polio high risk northern Nigerian states.

Trainees were also involved in over 20 outbreak investigations on polio, lead poisoning, cerebrospinal meningitis, Lassa fever, hepatitis E, gastroenteritis, and measles, human trypanosomiasis and lead poisoning among others.



(L-R) Eric Wiesen, Dr Nguku (NFELTP Resident Advisor), Dr Gitta (Deputy Executive Director, AFENET), Dr Frieden (CDC Global Health Director), Prof Nasidi (Director, Nigeria Centre for Disease Control), Dr Nwanyanwu (Country Director, CDC Nigeria), and Dr Martins (Director General, Immunisation Division) at the front of the NFELTP building during Dr Frieden's visit on 7 March 2012

Antiretroviral treatment outcome evaluation

NFELTP trainees have been actively participating in the CDC-supported Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) Outcome Evaluation. The trainees participated in a training held in Abuja from 29 October – 2 November 2012. Trainees served as supervisors for this evaluation in Benue, Lagos, Nasarawa and Enugu states. This activity is a multi-partner initiative involving NFELTP, CDC Nigeria and the Federal Ministry of Health, and aims at estimating



Dr Waziri (NFELTP graduate) administering a vaccine to a nomadic child in Kanawa Community of Mumumsal Ward in Bauchi State, Nigeria

among other parameters the retention of adult patients on pre-ART care as well as the retention in ART as a proxy for evaluating the performance of the adult antiretroviral treatment program in the country.

HIV Data Quality Assessments (DQA) /Service Quality Assessments (SQA)

From 22 October to 9 November 2012, 14 Cohort III residents supported CDC Nigeria in data and service quality assessments in the following states: Abuja, Benue, Lagos, Nasarawa and Enugu. The DQA/SQA exercise aims at assessing the quality of data generated and services provided at selected PEPFAR-supported sites in different parts of the country. The exercise helped in assessing the quality of reported data and clinical services at 18 selected facilities. Clinical consultations were primarily focused on the ART and PMTCT SQA, which involved discussions with facility stakeholders, facility walkthroughs, and selected patient chart and register reviews.

Meetings and Conferences

Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) training

Five NFELTP trainees participated in the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) training at Lagos Airport Hotel, Lagos from 16 - 17 November 2012. Participants were taught the importance of early detection and response during outbreaks and to identify key indicators of an outbreak and the clusters of epidemic-prone diseases. They subsequently used the skills acquired to implement a flooding early warning system.

EIS Conference

Dr. Ibrahim Luka, a Cohort II graduate of the NFELTP became the first African to win the prestigious William Foege Award for the “Most Outstanding Public Health Abstract and Presentation” at the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Conference. *His presentation was titled: “Factors Associated with Interruption of Treatment among Pulmonary Tuberculosis Patients in Plateau State, Nigeria, 2011”.*

7th TEPHINET Global Scientific Conference

Fourteen trainees and five staff of the NFELTP attended the seventh global TEPHINET scientific conference held in Amman, Jordan from 10 – 15 November 2012. The trainees made seven oral and eight poster presentations.



Dr. Ibrahim Luka, a Cohort II graduate of the NFELTP poses with the William Foege Award. He became the first African to win the prestigious award for the “Most Outstanding Public Health Abstract and Presentation” at the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Conference”.

RWANDA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Rwanda Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (RFELTP) was established in 2010 as a collaboration between the Rwanda Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MoAA), National University of Rwanda School of Public Health (NURSPH), Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC), the National Reference Laboratory (NRL), the Rwanda Animal Resources Development Authority (RARDA), AFENET and the United States (US) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The program has so far enrolled two cohorts: Cohort I has 30 trainees (7 lab track and 23 epi track) and Cohort II which started on 13 April 2012 has 15 trainees (11 and 4 on the epidemiology and laboratory tracks respectively).

Didactics and graduation

Cohort II trainees were taken through a comprehensive orientation program at the School of Public Health, National University of Rwanda. Delivery of the first module began on 15 April 2012 with courses delivered on Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

Outbreak investigations and other field activities

Cholera Outbreak Investigation

Trainees from the RFELTP participated in a cholera outbreak investigation in a transit refugee camp along the Rwanda/DRC border in April 2012. Nine cases were identified, and the causative pathogen confirmed as *Vibrio cholera*. Trainees were involved in treatment of cases, active case search in communities, delivery of health education messages and community sensitization, and rapid health assessment.

Outbreak of acute food borne illness at a church function, Nyamagabe District

Trainees participated in the investigation of an outbreak of acute food borne illness following a church function in Nyamagabe District on 27 May 2012. Trainees participated in active case search in the communities and identified and recorded a total of 129 cases. Cases were treated and contaminated food was discarded. The trainees wrote a report of the investigation and shared it with the district and Ministry of Health.

Meetings and Conferences

East African Regional Bio-surveillance Workshop (RBSW) 2012

RFELTP trainees attended the East African Regional Bio-surveillance Workshop (RBSW) from 11-15 June 2012 at Speke Resort Hotel in Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda. The training was organized and funded by the US Department of Defence. RFELTP made a presentation on "the Role and scope of Rwanda FELTP in bio-surveillance".

SOUTH AFRICA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM

The South Africa Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (SAFELTP) was established in May 2006 and was the second FELTP in the Network (after Kenya FELTP) to establish a laboratory track. SAFELTP has recruited six cohorts of residents and graduated 37 trainees so far.

Didactics and graduation

Seven trainees from different cohorts were awarded Master of Public Health degrees at the spring graduation held on 7 September 2012 at the University of Pretoria.

Short-courses

SAFELTP conducted two short courses in Basic Epidemiology in the Eastern Cape Province for Public Health Monitoring and Evaluation Managers. The first course run from 9-13 July 2012 and the second course was held from 8 -12 October 2012.

In August 2012, Dr. Lazarus Kuonza and Ms. Refilwe Mokgetle (SAFELTP staff) and Ms Mmampedi Huma (SAFELTP alumni) conducted a one week data management training for Disease Control Coordinators Surveillance Officers, Environmental Health Officers and Provincial Malaria programme managers from Mpumalanga Province. The training was conducted in Nelspruit Town in Mpumalanga Province. Twenty-one participants were trained on Epi Info™ statistical software and the Microsoft Excel™ spreadsheet for managing and analyzing data.



Front row (L-R) Dr. Khin San Tint, Program Director, SAFELTP; Lungile Mbata, Esther Khosa, Thejane Motladiile and Refilwe Mokgetle- Field Epidemiologist, Miriam Malote, Kate Nkau- Program Manager, SAFELTP. Hind row (L-R) Maanda Mudau, Vusi Ntlebi, Seymour Williams- SAFELTP Resident Advisor and Dr. Lazarus Kuonza- SAFELTP Medical Epidemiologist.



Participants of the Epi Info and Data Management training with SAFELTP staff

Outbreak investigations and other related field activities

One second year trainee of SAFELTP- Mr Macala Khumalo, investigated an outbreak of acute gastroenteritis at a Children's Home in the Observatory area of Johannesburg in Gauteng province on 8 August 2012. The median age for the affected children was 6 months.

Meetings and Conferences

Four Cohort V trainees presented abstracts at the seventh Public Health Association of Southern Africa (PHASA) Conference from 5-7 September in Bloemfontein, South Africa. Mr Riyadh Manesen, won a prize for best poster presentation at the conference. The poster was titled: *Investigation of a multi-pathogen waterborne diarrheal outbreak in Vekeerdevelei, Free State Province, South Africa*.

Six abstracts were accepted for the 7th Global TEPHINET conference held in Jordan. These included two oral and four poster presentations.

TANZANIA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Tanzania Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (TFELTP) was established in October 2008 with funding from the Global AIDS Program (GAP), CDC Tanzania, the Presidential Malaria Initiative (PMI) and USAID Global Bureau. The program is managed by the Tanzania Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW), in collaboration with Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) and other partners.



(L-R): Viola Mosha, Ismail Mohamed and Boniface Panga during the 6th graduation ceremony held on 8 December 2012

Didactics and graduation

Cohort III trainees completed their two year training in September 2012. Eleven of the 12 Cohort III trainees graduated on 8 December 2012 during the 6th graduation ceremony of the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Science.

Outbreak investigations and other field activities

Cohort IV trainees participated in a survey, "Assessment of Nutritional and Health Related Problems Facing Adolescent School Children in Urban Secondary Schools, Dar es Salaam (10-19 years)". The trainees were responsible for collecting data from secondary schools, data entry using EPIINFO, data analysis and report writing. The exercise helped the residents apply the concepts they had been taught on data collection, management, analysis and report writing.

Two Cohort III trainees: Rogath Kishimba and Andrew Richard, and two Cohort IV trainees: Thomas Ndalo and Elida Wilfred participated in a measles outbreak investigation in Mikumi, Kilosa District, Morogoro region, Tanzania. During the outbreak more than 100 cases were line-listed and three deaths were recorded. The investigating team noted that one of the factors which fuelled the outbreak was the low vaccination coverage in Kilosa District.



Rogath Saika Kishimba (left) - a Cohort III resident drawing blood samples from a suspected measles case in Kilosa District, Morogoro region, Tanzania in March 2012

Nodding Syndrome and Epilepsy Survey

Dr. Justin Maeda and Mr. Simon Kubamanya, Cohort IV trainees were involved in a survey to estimate the prevalence of nodding syndrome and epilepsy in Ulanga district, Tanzania. The two-month survey from September to November 2012 was a collaborative effort of the Tanzania Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Tanzania (September - November 2012) FELTP and CDC (Tanzania and Atlanta).

Cholera outbreak in Mtwara Region

Three Cohort III trainees participated in investigating a cholera outbreak in Lukuledi Ward, Masasi district in Mtwara Region. A total of 194 cases and five deaths were reported during the outbreak. During the investigation, the trainees confirmed the outbreak and established the magnitude of its spread. A case control study was conducted to identify factors associated with the outbreak.

Meetings and Conferences

7th TEPHINET Global Scientific Conference

Tanzania FELTP had ten abstracts accepted for oral presentation and five accepted for poster presentations at the TEPHINET conference held in Amman, Jordan.

African Society for Laboratory Medicine Conference

Two FELTP trainees and the Laboratory Resident Advisor- Ahmed Abade attended the 1st Africa Society of Laboratory Medicine scientific conference held in Cape Town South Africa from 1 - 7 December 2012. During the conference trainees made the following presentations were made:

Molecular Epidemiology of Geographically Dispersed *Vibrio cholerae* in Kenya, January 2009-May 2010 by Ahmed Abade (Lab RA)

Evaluation of HIV Antigen and Antibody Combination ELISAs for Diagnosis of HIV Infection in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Cholera Outbreak Investigation in Temeke District, Tanzania, 2011 by Loveness Urio (FELTP Cohort III resident)
Investigation of Anthrax Outbreak in Moshi - Kilimanjaro Region Tanzania, March 2012 by Mura Noi (Cohort IV resident)

2nd Tanzania Field Epidemiology Alumni Association meeting

The second meeting of the Tanzania Field Epidemiology Alumni Association (TFLEAA) was held from 30 - 31 August 2012 in Dar es Salaam. The association was established in 2010 under the mentorship and support of Tanzania FELTP. During the meeting, the revised constitution of the association was adopted.



Ms. Violasia Mushi (right)- a Cohort III resident interviews the cholera index case in Lukuledi B Masasi district, Mtwara Region in January 2012



Dr Azma Simba, the interim chairperson of Tanzania Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (TFELTP) Alumni association leading a discussion during the alumni meeting.

UGANDA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Uganda Field Epidemiology Training Program was established in 1994. The program awards a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from Makerere University School of Public Health. As of December 2012, the Uganda program had 19 cohorts with a total of 225 graduates. Cohort 19 comprising of 36 trainees was enrolled in August 2012.

Didactics and graduation

Twelve trainees of the Makerere University School of Public Health were awarded Master of Public Health (MPH) degrees during Makerere University's 62nd graduation ceremony on 16 January 2012.

On 18 April 2012, Cohort 18 trainees visited the national sewerage treatment plant in Bugolobi, Kampala to observe the process of sewerage treatment and to identify occupational hazards at the plant.



Trainees listen to an official during their tour of Bugolobi Sewerage Treatment Plant

On 24 April 2012, the trainees visited Mpererwe Sanitary land fill located in Wakiso District to study methods of municipal solid waste disposal. They also toured the national water treatment plant in Gaba, Kampala on 26 April 2012. The aim of the tour was to understand the process of water treatment and identify related challenges at the plant.

Outbreak investigations and other field activities

Ms Grace Mongo, a Cohort 18 trainee participated in a cholera outbreak investigation in Kasese District from 19 -24 February 2012. She took part in line listing, conducting interviews with suspected cases, and health education at household level.



Ms. Grace Mongo (blue shirt) participates in conducting community interviews during cholera outbreak investigations in Kasese district, Feb. 2012

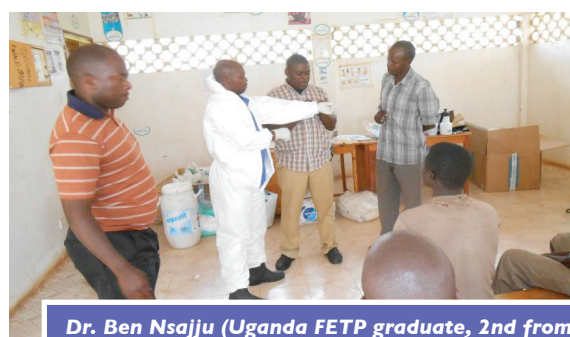
Response to Marburg Outbreak

Trainees participated in a Marburg outbreak investigation in Kabale and Ibanda districts in western Uganda. Three epidemiologists and four trainees from the School of Public Health, Makerere University were dispatched to help with the investigations.

Meetings and Conferences

2nd Uganda Field Epidemiology Training Program Alumni Association meeting

Makerere University's School of Public Health (MAKSPH) at the College of Health Sciences and Institute of Tropical



Dr. Ben Nsajju (Uganda FETP graduate, 2nd from left) demonstrates to health workers how to don personal protective equipment

Medicine (ITM) in Antwerp, Belgium hosted the 2012 Annual General Meeting of their joint Alumni Association on 4 May 2012 at Silver Springs Hotel, in Bugolobi, Kampala. The Alumni Association was formed on 22 March 2012 during the One Health Symposium held in Kampala, Uganda.

WEST AFRICA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM

The West Africa Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program was established in December 2007, to build capacity to strengthen the surveillance and response systems in French speaking countries. The Program covers four countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Togo with an overarching goal to progressively cover all French speaking countries in West Africa.

The WA-FELTP is housed at multi-disease surveillance centre (MDSC) while the University of Ouagadougou is both the host institute for the masters program, and the awarding entity for degrees attained by graduates of the program, in agreement with the other collaborating universities.

The WA-FELTP aims at strengthening the capacity of French speaking countries in West Africa to improve national surveillance systems and conduct outbreak investigation and response. The program is currently not enrolling residents as it seeks for funding from partners.

Didactics and graduation

The WA-FELTP faculty held supervisory visits for all trainees in their respective countries to review progress of theses and field work. All the trainees were provided with adequate support to complete their didactics, field assignments and presented their final theses. All trainees graduated in February 2012 at a ceremony held at the University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.



Cohort I trainees of the WA-FELTP on the graduation day. Front row (Right) is Dr. Olivia Namusisi- the WAFELTP country liaison and Head of Programs - AFENET

ZIMBABWE FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Zimbabwe Masters in Public Health Program is a 2-year competency based training that was initiated in 1993 with the aim of assisting the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare (MOHCW) create a permanent capacity to recruit, train, and employ public health practitioners to sustain the public health infrastructure. The MPH program is operated from two sites: the Department of Community Medicine (DCM) at the College of Health Sciences, of University of Zimbabwe (UZ) and the Health Studies Office (HSO) in MOHCW.

Didactics and graduation

Twenty-two trainees from cohorts 17 and 18 graduated with a Masters of Public Health degree at the University of Zimbabwe main campus in Harare on 13 October 2012. This brings the total number of graduates from the Zimbabwe FETP to 161 since its inception in 1993.

Outbreak investigations and related activities

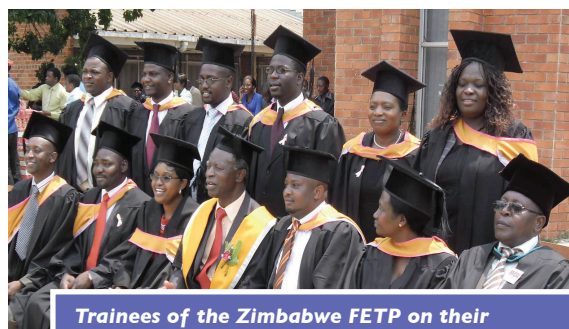
Ms. Monica Muti- a trainee based in Harare City was part of a team which investigated a typhoid outbreak in Harare City. The typhoid outbreak was initially reported in October 2011 with more than 1000 suspected and confirmed cases. Preliminary findings from the investigations indicate that the outbreak was a result of consumption of contaminated water from unprotected sources. As part of interventions to mitigate the outbreak, water purification tablets were distributed to affected trainees, six boreholes were constructed and burst sewer pipes were repaired.

Meetings and Conferences

Twenty three presentations were made at the Medical Research Day which took place at the Harare International Conference Centre on 20 October 2012. Nineteen of the presentations were oral and four were posters. Zimbabwe FETP represented 49% of the total presentations made at the Annual Medical Research Day. Two of the trainees: Dr. Brian Abel Maponga and Brian Abel Maponga each won trophies and a prize of \$200, for their presentations.

One trainee, Ms Peneope Munyengwa made an oral presentation at the 7th Global TEPHINET conference titled Non-Disclosure Status of HIV Status to Children on Antiretroviral Therapy by Parents or Guardians in Harare City, Zimbabwe, 2011.

The conference was also attended by faculty of the program, including Notion Gombe, the Senior Assistant MPH Field Coordinator.



Trainees of the Zimbabwe FETP on their graduation at the University of Zimbabwe on 13 October 2012

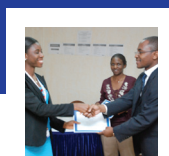


Ms Monica Muti- Zimbabwe FETP Resident, collecting a water sample from one of the newly constructed boreholes for analysis



Dr. More Mungati shows his trophy after his presentation was voted the best clinical paper at the Medical Research Day

PROJECTS



AFENET/USAID/CDC TRAINEE GRANTS PROGRAM

The AFENET/USAID/CDC Trainee Grants Program is an initiative that provides competitive small grants to trainees to support them to conduct operational research within their field attachment sites. Trainees work collaboratively with district or provincial health authorities and receive technical support from their respective program supervisors. Each award recipient is expected to disseminate his or her study findings so that public health action is taken.



Dr. Oladimeji, one of the award recipients demonstrates the use of a sphygmomanometer to research assistants prior to data collection

Ten trainees from Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe were awarded grants during 2011-2012 rounds of awards as shown in the table below. Three of them: Abyot Woyessa, Gideon Kye-Duodu and Abisola Oladimeji have drafted manuscripts out of their work due for submission to peer-reviewed journals.

Recipients of 2011-2012 Trainee Grant Awards

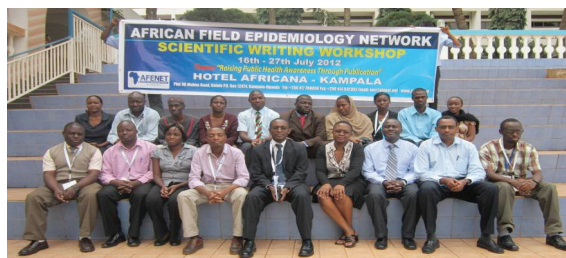
Name	FELTP	Project title
Abyot B. Woyessa*	Ethiopia	Review/Assessment of non-communicable disease prevention and control policies, legislations and enforcement in Ethiopia, 2011
Abraham Lilay	Ethiopia	Evaluation of Malaria Surveillance System, Gambella Region, 2011
Gideon Kye-Duodu*	Ghana	Strengthening Schistosomiasis Surveillance System in the Republic of Ghana
Lilian Okeke	Nigeria	Prevalence of bovine tuberculosis in cattle slaughtered in abattoirs and risk factors for handlers in Plateau State, Central Nigeria
Abisola Monisola Oladimeji*	Nigeria	Assessment of risk behaviours for non-Communicable diseases among staff of the Kaduna State Ministry Of Health, Nigeria
Christian Kahembe	Tanzania	Maximizing Paediatric HIV Care; System Bottleneck on Early Identification and Management of HIV Infected Children, Manyara, Tanzania.
Sijenu Aron	Tanzania	Review of non-Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Policies, Legislation, and Enforcement in Africa
James Bagonza	Uganda	An assessment of factors affecting the performance of village health team (VHT) members implementing the integrated community case management program in Wakiso district
John Kamulegeya	Uganda	An evaluation of prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) services in Mityana district for the period 2008 to 2010
Simon M. Nyadundu	Zimbabwe	Factors associated with delayed presentation for antiretroviral therapy in Marondera district of Mashonaland East Province

* working on draft manuscripts for subscription to peer - reviewed journals

Scientific Writing Workshop

AFENET organized a scientific writing workshop under the Trainee Grants Program for current and past FELTP trainees who were recognized for their outstanding presentations at the 6th TEPHINET and 4th AFENET Scientific Conferences. The workshop which was held at Hotel Africana, in Kampala from 16 - 26 July 2012 had eight participants. The workshop aimed at imparting knowledge and skills of writing manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed journals. Participants worked with their mentors to improve their draft manuscripts. By December 2012, four participants had since submitted their manuscripts to different peer-reviewed journals for publications. A manuscript by Dr. Landoh was published in the Malaria Journal in November 2012.

The article is accessible at Landoh et al. Malaria Journal 2012, 11:389 <http://www.malariajournal.com/content/11/1/389>



Participants and facilitators at the Scientific Writing Workshop



(Left) - Ms. Joyce Der Saayeng- Ghana FELTP receiving a certificate from Dr David Mukanga (Right), AFENET's Executive Director

Manuscripts developed during the scientific writing workshop held in Kampala, Uganda on 16-22 July 2012

Author	Title	FELTP
Germano Pires	Drug resistance pattern of Mycobacterium tuberculosis to antibiotics used to treat tuberculosis in Mozambique- Germano Pires	Submitted
James Bagonza	Yellow Fever vaccination coverage following massive emergency immunization campaigns in rural Uganda, May 2011: A community cluster survey.	Published
Joyce-Der-Saayeng	Epidemiological and Laboratory Investigation of Food Poisoning at a Salad Joint in an Urban Town of Ghana, 2009	Submitted
Landoh Essoya	Malaria incidence and mortality in Est Mono district, Togo from 2005 to 2009: A time series analysis	Published
Obeimen Moses	Treatment outcomes and associated factors among under-five children treated for malaria at primary health care facilities in Umuahia, Nigeria	Submission pending
Olufemi Ajumobi	Variation of Performance of HRP-2 Rapid Diagnostic Test in Children Less than five Years in Kaduna State	Submitted
Patience Kweza	Behavioural determinants on the use of chlorine tablets for a Typhoid Fever Outbreak—Harare, Zimbabwe 2011-2012	Submission pending
Zeinab Gura	Factors associated with obstetric fistulae occurrence among patients attending selected hospitals in Kenya, 2010: A case control study	Published

AFRICAN PROGRAM FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING

African Programme For Advanced Research Epidemiology Training (APARET) is a European Union-funded four year program whose goal is to support independent research activities by FE(L)TP post graduate fellows in Africa . The program is supported by 13 participating organizations and recruits eight fellows from Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, West Africa, and Zimbabwe FELTPs each year. The main objective of the training is for each fellow to develop a concept of a large epidemiology research project and prepare, write and submit a proposal for a major research grant.

Cohort I fellows of the African Programme for Advanced Research Epidemiology Training (APARET) attended a proposal writing workshop from 23 – 27 April in Accra, Ghana. The five day workshop was organized by the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH) and hosted by the Ghana School of Public Health. Fellows were given a detailed overview of the proposal writing process, including the proposal structure, content, planning and writing techniques. At the end of the workshop, participants had the opportunity to apply the planning tools and writing techniques to their own small grant research proposals.

On 23 October 2012, APARET held a one-day dissemination workshop prior to the European Scientific Conference on Applied and Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE) conference held in Edinburgh, Scotland. This was the final seminar for Cohort I fellows during which the eight APARET fellows presented their work on diverse topics such as low cost computers for the diagnosis of malaria, molecular epidemiology of antimicrobial resistance of Staphylococcus aureus, diabetes and hypertension, determinants of sustained use of bed nets, febrile diseases in newborns and infants, cervical cancer screening uptake and rotavirus disease burden and introduction of a vaccination.

Dr Elizeus Rutebemberwa, the programme manager of APARET presented the APARET concept while Dr Sheba Gitta, the Deputy Executive Director of AFENET made a presentation about AFENET.

More information about the program is available at <http://aparet.org/>



APARET Cohort I fellows from left to right: Michael Owusu - Kumasi, Ghana, Joseph Opere - Accra, Ghana, Aisha Abubakar - Zaria, Nigeria, Notion Gombe- Harare, Zimbabwe, Azma Simba Ayoub - Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, Isidore Bonkoungou- Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, John Bu - Kampala, Uganda, Bernard Sawadogo - Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

APARET is an advanced training initiative whose goal is to support independent research activities by graduates of Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programs in Africa.



Dr. Sheba Gitta, Deputy Executive Director of the African Field Epidemiology Network, AFENET. (Photo taken by Christian Winter)



APARET Mentors during a panel discussion at the Final Seminar in Edinburgh, Scotland

ONE HEALTH FELLOWSHIP

The AFENET/ CDC/EPT One Health (ACE OH) Fellowship is a one-year fellowship whose goal is to strengthen public health systems and workforce capacity in using a One Health approach to improve surveillance, rapid detection, investigation and, timely response to emerging pandemic threats in the Congo Basin region. The program is a collaboration among several partners including the Emerging Pandemic Threats (EPT) Program at USAID, CDC and the underlying ministries of Health, Agriculture and Animal resources. Since its establishment in 2011, six fellows from Uganda and Kenya have been trained.



Dr. Ben Nsajju (left)- a One Health fellow guides a Village Health Team member to rank priority diseases affecting children in the area

One Health Fellows enhanced their skills in disease investigation, surveillance, and detection during a Participatory Epidemiology short course from 20 February to 2 March 2012 in Mukono district, Uganda. The fellows received a variety of skills for interacting with communities to identify diseases and monitor their trends. They used participatory epidemiology techniques such as ranking and proportional piling to help communities identify the most important diseases.

One Health Graduation Ceremony

The first cohort of One Health professionals trained under the One Health fellowship jointly implemented by AFENET, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Emerging Pandemic Threats Program (EPT) at USAID graduated during a high profile event on 8 June 2012 in Kampala, Uganda.

During the one-year fellowship, the six fellows- two from Kenya and four from Uganda, enhanced their skills in investigation, detection, response, prevention, and control of infectious diseases, especially zoonoses. The graduation ceremony was attended by representatives from CDC Atlanta, Kenya, and Uganda, EPT, USAID, Ministry of Health- Uganda, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries- Uganda, Ministry of Livestock Development- Kenya, Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation- Kenya, World Health Organization, Uganda FETP, and Organization of Animal Health among others.



One Health Graduates (seated) with invited guests and AFENET staff during the graduation ceremony.

AFENET with support from RESPOND Africa is implementing the RESPOND/ Emerging Pandemic Threats (EPT) One Health Project aimed at strengthening outbreak response for multi-disciplinary teams at national and sub-national Levels in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) under a one-year grant. This project seeks to strengthen human capacity to identify and respond to outbreaks of newly emergent diseases at human-animal and environmental health interface in a timely and sustainable manner in the Congo Basin. Activities under this project focuses on two regions; Uganda (East Congo) and Eastern DRC (West Congo).

WEST CONGO

Training on zoonoses and outbreak investigation, DRC

AFENET together with RESPOND West Congo Regional Office conducted a two-week short course on zoonoses and outbreak investigation at Mbudi Theophile Center Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from 23 September to 5 October 2012. The training attracted 24 participants distributed across three sectors of agriculture, environment and public health and from three provinces: Bandundu, Bas Congo and Kinshasa. The DRC model course was anchored on the One Health approach to address zoonotic disease threats in the region.

The course aimed at building national and sub national workforce capacity to conduct disease surveillance and outbreak investigation for threats at animal-human and environment interface within the agriculture, environment and public health sectors in the three provinces. It was coordinated by Dr. Monday Busuulwa- Medical Epidemiologist at AFENET.



Participants and facilitators after the opening ceremony of the Zoonoses and Outbreaks Investigation Short course at Mbudi Theophile Center in Kinshasa, DRC.

EAST CONGO

Training on case-based disease surveillance for yellow fever and nodding syndrome, northern Uganda

Dr. Immaculate Nabukenya, a One Health Technical Advisor attached to the Ministry of Health was part of a team from the Uganda Ministry of Health (MOH) and World Health Organization (WHO) which organized a three-day training on case based disease surveillance for yellow fever and nodding syndrome for health workers from Kitgum, Pader, and Lamwo districts in northern Uganda from 28-30 March 2012.

Among the 117 participants, 91(78%) were clinicians and 26(22%) were laboratory staff. The districts were selected due to their experience with the yellow fever outbreak in 2010 and the then ongoing nodding syndrome outbreak. The training materials for this workshop were jointly reviewed by WHO, Uganda MOH and AFENET.

Support towards Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Trainees

With support from USAID RESPOND, AFENET is implementing a project to strengthen capacity of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries (MAAIF) in Uganda, in surveillance, reporting, and diagnostic capacity for better detection, diagnosis, and response to disease outbreaks in humans, livestock, and wildlife. Under this project, five veterinary doctors from MAAIF were selected for a two-year training in Applied Veterinary Epidemiology at Makerere University's College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-security (COVAB) in order to boost MAAIF's epidemiological capacity.

Trainees of the Master of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (MVPM) were deployed to Buyana, Gomba District in central Uganda from 6 -12 February 2012, where they participated in animal disease control activities as part of their didactics in "Herd Health and Production Medicine" and "Control and Eradication of Zoonoses". The trainees: Dr. Henry Mulondo, Dr. Calvin Odong, Dr. Grace Asimwe, Dr. Fred Monje, and Dr. David Mugabi were part of a team headed by Dr. Terence Odoch, from Makerere University College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-security. The team collected blood samples from 300 animals and conducted 13 Key Informant Interviews on bio-security, disease control, and environmental hazards assessment. They also interviewed the farm manager of Buyana Stock farm.

Participation in TEPHINET Conference

Five trainees from the Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Training Program attended the 7th TEPHINET Global Conference which took place from 10-15 November 2012 in Amman, Jordan. The trainees were led by their Resident Mentor- Dr. Hebert Kazoora and the Academic Mentor- Dr. Terence Odoch from the College of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Resources and Biosecurity, Makerere University, Kampala. Three presentations below were made.

- Dr. Monje Fred -Oral Presentation; Evaluation of brucellosis surveillance system in Nakasongola district.
- Dr. Henry Mulondo- Poster Presentation- Evaluation of Animal Health Surveillance system in Uganda.
- Dr. David Mugabi – Poster Presentation- Rabies Investigation in pigs and humans in Wakiso district, Uganda 2012.



Participants listen to a nursing officer (in white uniform) explaining the effects of and response to treatment for nodding syndrome among children at Kitgum Hospital



Dr. Henry Mulondo (center) and Dr. Fred Monje (right)- both Veterinary Epidemiology trainees interview a lady during a Key Informant Interview at the Buyana Stock Farm



Dr. Asimwe Grace (left) - trainee and Mr. Bernard Lubwama (right) - Resident Mentor collect blood samples from a sheep on Buyana Stock Farm



Veterinary Epidemiology Program Trainees with the Program coordinator-Dr. Odoch (Left), Resident Mentor- Dr. Kazoora (fourth from left) and the AFENET Deputy Executive Director- Dr. Sheba Gitta (fourth from right), at the at the 7th TEPHINET conference

UGANDA TOBACCO CONTROL INITIATIVE

The Uganda Tobacco Control Initiative (UCTI) aims at strengthening capacities of national ministries of health to promote tobacco control policies and programs in developing countries and to provide a multi-sector model for other NCD initiatives in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Initiated in 2012, the three year project is a collaboration among CDC, AFENET, WHO and the Uganda Ministry of Health among other partners. Five countries are targeted for the first round of funding including: Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, South Africa, and Cameroon which are scheduled to implement the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) between 2012 and 2014.

The objectives of the initiative include establishing a broad consensus among key national stakeholders on the extent of tobacco use and viable broad-based policy interventions outlined in the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

The UTCI held a workshop organized by AFENET from 24- 28 September 2012 at Metropole Hotel, Kampala, drawing participants from; CDC Uganda and Kenya, Ministry of Health-Uganda, Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation-Kenya, AFENET, MUSPH, Butabika National Referral Hospital.

The training was based on the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and sought to find ways on how the framework could be adopted in Uganda and Kenya. The objectives of the workshop were to: understand the status of tobacco control interventions globally and locally (Uganda and Kenya) and to understand Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS) surveys and MPOWER methodologies (measures intended to assist in the country-level implementation of effective interventions to reduce the demand for tobacco, contained in the WHO FCTC).



Participants at the 'Epidemiology and Evaluation of Tobacco Control' Workshop at Metropole Hotel, Kampala

Tobacco use kills more than 5 million people per year. It is responsible for 1 in 10 adult deaths.

More deaths are caused each year by tobacco use than by all deaths from human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, suicides, and murders combined.

Smoking causes an estimated 90% of all lung cancer deaths in men and 80% of all lung cancer deaths in women.

An estimated 90% of all deaths from chronic obstructive lung disease are caused by smoking.

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF BURKITT'S LYMPHOMA IN EAST AFRICA (EMBLEM)

AFENET is collaborating with the US National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health to conduct the EMBLEM Study, a multi-country, multiyear collaborative research study to discover genetic causes of Burkitt's lymphoma (BL); a fast-growing cancer that accounts for over 30% of childhood cancers in East Africa.

The study is being conducted in Kenya at Homa Bay and Webuye District Hospitals in Nyanza and Western Provinces respectively; in Tanzania at Bugando Medical Centre and Shirati Hospital in Mwanza and North Mara respectively while in Uganda, the study is being conducted at Kuluva and Lacor Hospitals in Arua and Gulu districts respectively. The table shows the number of cases that had been recruited from all the sites by 31 December 2012.

Cases	Kenya	Tanzania	Uganda
Identified	27	192	263
Enrolled	19	20	118
Male: Female	14:5	11:9	79:39



Collecting data from a child with Burkitt's Lymphoma in Tanzania

In Kenya, the study team conducted targeted health education about cancer in children and about EMBLEM at Webuye District Hospital.

In Tanzania, A regional medical meeting for Mara Region, one of the two EMBLEM Study regions in Tanzania, gave an opportunity for the Principal Investigator to present the EMBLEM Study to attendees.

The study conducted a capacity building workshop from 17- 20 September 2012 at the National Institute of Medical Research in Mwanza, Tanzania. The four-day workshop focused on: Cancer Research Methods facilitated by Professor Mayur Desai from Yale University, USA and on Research Project Management facilitated by Detra Robinson from West Hartford, USA. Participants were also trained on Ethics of Cancer Research by Professor Robert Wachbroit and on Study monitoring by Professor Moses Joloba from Makerere University, Kampala. The workshop was attended by 60 participants from EMBLEM and individuals from collaborating institutions.

In Uganda, the strategy has changed to strengthening BL case spotting. Nurses and nursing aides from Lacor Hospital were given refresher training on spotting BL patients and the case work flow. Posters in the local dialect were also distributed.

More information about the EMBLEM study is available at <http://emblem.cancer.gov/burkitt>.



Participants at the EMBLEM workshop held from 17- 20 September 2012 at the NIMR in Mwanza, Tanzania.

Site Visits to surveillance zones

Africhol is a 3-year project funded by Bill and Melinda Gates foundation to support cholera surveillance and burden estimation in eight sub-Saharan African countries. Initiated in 2011, project is implemented by Agence de Médecine Préventive (AMP) in partnership with AFENET. In East Africa, Africhol conducted supervision visits in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania between February and August 2012. The objectives of the visits were to reconcile the data for all cholera cases reported from the health facilities and laboratories.



Melissa Dahlke- Regional Coordinator leads the Africhol team as they review cholera surveillance data case forms with staff at Temeke Hospital Cholera Treatment Centre

Kenya Surveillance Activities

Thirty-six suspected cholera cases were reported from the surveillance zones and 34 specimens were tested. All results were negative for cholera. Only E. coli and normal flora were identified in any of the specimens.

Tanzania Surveillance Activities

Suspect cases were reported periodically from the sites in Mwanza and Magu districts. A total of 59 suspect cases were reported from these sites throughout 2012 (Mwanza City: 46, Magu: 13). No cholera cases were laboratory confirmed from these surveillance sites.



The Africhol team conducts interviews a household during an outbreak investigation in Kasese District, Uganda, in February 2012

Uganda Surveillance Activities

A total of 176 specimens were tested and 24 *Vibrio cholerae* strains were isolated and stored the lab in Kampala. An additional 46 strains of *Vibrio cholerae* were isolated from the outbreak investigation in Kasese district.

Summary of cholera surveillance data reported in the three countries

Surveillance Site	Cases suspected	Cases tested	# specimens positive	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate(%)	Report Forms	Household Forms	Env Forms
Kenya	36	34	0	0	0	32	18	3
Tanzania	217	112	36	3	1.4	178	121	3
Uganda	407	176	24	23	5.65	371	148	86

For more about the Africhol, visit <http://www.africhol.org/>

UGANDA IMMUNISATION TRAINING PROGRAM (UITP)

The Uganda Immunization Training Program (UITP) is a project to train mid-level immunization program personnel in Uganda using materials adapted from the World Health Organization (WHO). The five-year project which was initiated in 2007 represents a partnership between the Task Force for Global Health, Makerere University School of Public Health (MUSPH), Uganda Ministry of Health (MOH), Uganda National Expanded Program on Immunization (UNEPI) and the African Field Epidemiology Training Network (AFENET).

UITP successfully organized three mid-level managers (MLM) courses in February, June and July 2012 in Kampala (central region), Gulu (Northern region), and Fort Portal (Toro region) respectively. A total of 100 Mid-Level EPI Managers were trained- 34 in Gulu, 36 in Kampala and 30 in Fort Portal respectively. The participants included District Health Officers (DHOs), District Health Visitors (DHVs), EPI focal persons and Health Sub district (HSD) in-charges. The courses lasted 5 days each. The training was based on the seven new WHO modules namely; Making a comprehensive annual Immunization Plan and Budget, Cold Chain, Vaccines and Safe injection equipment management, Immunization Safety, supportive supervision, Monitoring the Immunization System, Partnering with Communities and integrated disease surveillance.



A child being weighed at Mukono North Health Center IV on 20 September 2012

Measles and Polio Campaigns

In May and November, UITP participated in the national measles and polio campaigns. The campaigns followed polio importations and a measles outbreak. UITP was requested by the Ministry of Health to supervise three districts namely Kiryandongo, Nakasongola and Tororo.

Scientific Conferences

Dr Nicholas Ayebazibwe, a Senior Epidemiologist coordinating the UITP program at AFENET presented a poster at the 1st Africa Vaccinology conference held in Cape Town, South Africa from 9 - 11 November 2012. The poster was titled; *Evaluation of Mid-Level Managers' immunization training in Uganda.*



Dr Nicholas Ayebazibwe and Mr Yosiah Oloo (2nd and 3rd left respectively) participate in the walk to celebrate the African Vaccination Week

Advocacy campaigns

AFENET, under the auspices of the Uganda Immunization Training Program (UITP) participated in a series of events organized by the Uganda Ministry of Health to mark the African Vaccination Week from 23-28 April 2012. Four secretariat staff took part in an awareness walk to promote community participation in immunization activities.

EAST AFRICAN TRAINING PROJECT (ETP)

The East African Training Project is a one-year project supported by CDC and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The project goal is to strengthen Ministry of Health capabilities for routine immunization delivery and disease surveillance and response to help achieve and sustain polio eradication in Uganda, Ethiopia and South Sudan. In Uganda, the project is led by the Ministry of Health with support from CDC, WHO and AFENET.

The strategic approach for this project is to build the capacity of district level officers, surveillance officers, and biostatisticians in the low performing regions of the country. This is done through a series of workshops in these regions and provision of field mentoring and Expanded Program on Immunisation (EPI)/Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD) - related field projects. With assistance from project mentors, participants engage in field projects such as determining why immunization coverage is low or drop-out rates are high in certain districts.

ETP Training Workshop in Busoga Region- Uganda

AFENET held a two-week workshop for 33 EPI and Integrated Disease and Surveillance Response (IDSR) mid level health managers (MLM) from 10 districts in Busoga region. The training participants included district surveillance focal persons, EPI focal persons and Health Management Information Systems (HMIS) focal persons. The workshop which was held from 17 – 28 September at Ridar Hotel, Wakiso District aimed at building capacity and skills of participants in planning, implementation and evaluation of EPI and IDSR services in their respective districts.



Participants listen to Dr Nicholas Ayebazibwe- Senior Epidemiologist AFENET during the Busoga Region Training at Ridar Hotel, Wakiso District

Bunyoro Region EPI/IDSR Training

The Bunyoro region EPI/IDSR training under the ETP project was the second regional training, following the Busoga training that was held in September 2012. This residential training was conducted 18-30 November 2012 Colline Hotel, Mukono. Participants included three DHT members from each of the seven districts under Bunyoro region. This training workshop had facilitators drawn from the Ministry of Health (ESD), UNEPI, WHO, CDC, and AFENET.



Workshop participants consult each other during a group exercise on epidemiology matching contest

The first week of the workshop focused on training on the EPI modules. Participants were also provided updates on current and proposed vaccines such as HPV, Rotavirus and Pneumococcal vaccine, were discussed during this session. During the second week, training focused on the IDSR modules which included a number of practical exercises.

The Pan African Medical Journal (PAMJ) is a peer-reviewed Open Access biomedical journal published in electronic format in collaboration with the African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) since 2008. With over 400 articles published and indexed in major medical databases like Elsevier, the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), African and PubMed, PAMJ is committed to maintaining high quality of scientific articles through a committed, accurate but fast peer-review process facilitated by over 700 reviewers.

The Pan African Medical Journal PAMJ received an award for its work in promoting Information Communication and Technology (ICT) development in Africa. Represented by Mr Raoul Kamadjeu- Managing Editor, PAMJ was presented a trophy for the FIRE (Fund for Internet Research and Education) Award In the E-development Category. The award was presented by Ms. Anne Rachel Inné, AFRINIC Chief Operations Officer at the 7th Internet Governance Forum (IGF) annual meeting held at the Baku Expo

Exhibition and Convention Centre from 5-9 November 2012 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The FIRE programme seeks to provide solutions by African professionals to issues such as supporting the development of affordable and efficient Internet infrastructure, developing and promoting the adoption of innovative applications and services and supporting individual rights awareness, strengthening and trust between organizations and individuals in the region.

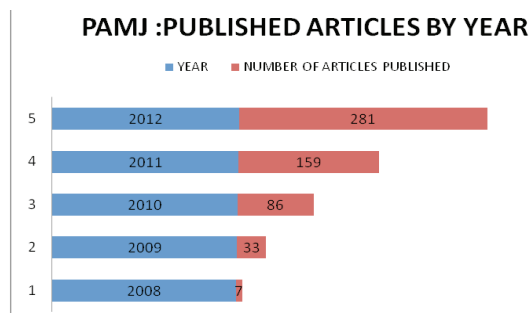
PAMJ had published 281 articles by 31 December 2012 and is looking to expand its editorial team to maintain the established standards in 2013. The record number shows the overwhelming support given by African authors towards the journal in its efforts to better health outcomes on the continent by providing an outlet for African research.

PAMJ is an online peer AFENET publications reviewed open access biomedical journal. PAMJ published its first issue in 2008 and has been indexed in PubMed since 2010.

For more information, visit the PAMJ website at: <http://www.panafrican-med-journal.com/>

Annual Editorial Office Workshop

The Pan African Medical Journal (PAMJ) held its 4th annual editorial office workshop at the AFENET Secretariat in Kampala, Uganda from 22 -25 August 2012. This workshop serves as an opportunity for the journal's editorial team to review progress and discuss strategies for the next 12 months. This year's workshop focused on training editorial interns who will review and process manuscripts for publication.



Mr Raoul Kamadjeu- PAMJ Managing Editor, receiving a trophy for the FIRE Award presented by Ms. Anne Rachel Inné- AFRINIC Chief Operations Officer at the 7th Internet Governance Forum (IGF) annual meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan.



Dr. Raoul Kamadjeu- Managing Editor, PAMJ trains interns during the Annual PAMJ Editorial Office Workshop that was held from 22-25 August 2012.

AFENET with funding from the Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) continues to provide technical and logistical support to laboratory Quality Management Systems (QMS) in Africa and the Caribbean region. These projects include expanded External Quality Assurance for HIV rapid testing; biosafety training; laboratory capacity development; and other laboratory management strengthening activities.

HIV External Quality Assurance (EQA)

Angola

Mr. Ndlovu Nqobile- AFENET Laboratory Coordinator and Mr. Davis Ashaba- a Laboratory Scientist at the AFENET Secretariat conducted a training workshop to initiate HIV External Quality Assurance (EQA) using Dry Tube Specimens (DTS) in Angola from 6-8 February 2012. The training aimed to develop capacity at the Angola Reference Laboratory to produce DTS panels and be able to roll out the training to 20 HIV testing sites in Angola's capital, Luanda.

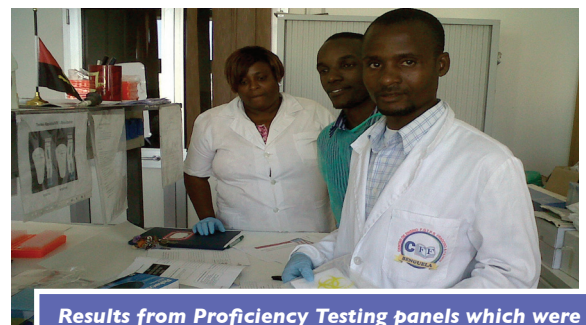
The HIV EQA project uses pre-tested dry blood specimens to monitor HIV testing sites and ensure that they produce accurate and reliable HIV rapid test results. The participating laboratories are required to test the pre-tested specimens and submit their results to the Reference Laboratory for comparison. This process promotes quality of testing and consequently boosts the public's confidence in laboratory test results.

Cameroon

The Global Health Systems Solutions through a subcontract with AFENET in collaboration CDC's Division of Global HIV/AIDS (CDC/DGHA) in Cameroon supported the Ministry of Public Health (MOH) in Cameroon to expand an external quality assessment (EQA) program for HIV Rapid Testing. The program which was initiated in 2009 by the Cameroon National External Quality Assurance Scheme (CAMNEQAS) was taken on by AFENET. The focus of EQA is on identifying laboratories or testing sites and technicians exhibiting poor performance and training them.



(Right photo) Mr Ndlovu Nqobile (extreme right) hands over the laboratory supplies to the Angola National Reference while two laboratory staff undergoing DTS training by Mr. Davis Ashaba (centre) – AFENET Laboratory Scientist (Left photo)



Results from Proficiency Testing panels which were sent to 71 testing sites in three rounds were also analysed.

A three-day training workshop attended by 92 lab personnel was held in July 2012 in the Grand Northern Region of Cameroon. Participants were trained on the use of dry tube samples, HIV rapid testing and use of the HIV standardized logbook.

Results from Proficiency Testing panels which were sent to 71 testing sites in three rounds were also analysed.

Swaziland

In Swaziland, external quality control is directed through the quality assurance laboratory at the National Reference Laboratory. To ensure the quality of rapid HIV testing results, the National Reference Laboratory has implemented a proficiency testing (PT) program for rapid HIV testing using Dried Tube Specimen (DTS).

Among several activities done in 2012, quarterly, panels of specimens with known reactivity were sent to all clinicians and health workers who performed HIV rapid testing in the four regions of the country. These were; Hhohho, Manzini, Lubombo and Shiselweni. False results included inconclusive, invalid results, actual incorrect results and incomplete results.

Tanzania

AFENET Tanzania has provided proficiency testing panels for EQA to 500 HIV testing facilities in the country. The program is coordinated through the National Health Laboratory Quality Assurance and Training Centre (NHL-QATC). The production of Dried Tube Specimen (DTS), logbooks, training and training materials and site supervision are coordinated by the NHL-QATC. Lessons learned and way forward is always shared and discussed by stakeholders in the field of HIV/AIDS.

In August and September 2012, training for non laboratory personnel in Eastern, Southern Highlands and Northern zones of the country was conducted. The training covered topics on HIV Rapid Test by using DTS and use of HIV logbook. A total of 200 HIV testers from PMTCT and VCT sites were trained. During this training HIV logbooks were also distributed.

Uganda

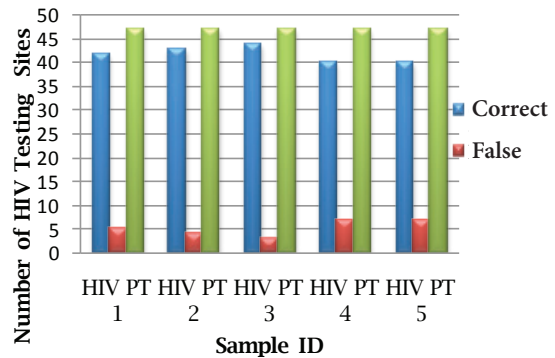
In Uganda, the HIV EQA Programme is implemented by AFENET in collaboration with Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) Entebbe and Ministry of Health (MOH) – Uganda. The objective of this programme is to monitor quality and standards of HIV testing and provide opportunities for improvement.

A total of 300 DTS panels were sent to the District Laboratory focal persons (DLFPS) in the fifteen districts being covered under the program.



Dr. Raoul Kamadjeu-Managing Editor, PAMJ trains interns during the Annual PAMJ Editorial Office Workshop that was held from 22-25 August 2012.

Results from HIV EQA testing Sites in Swaziland



Trainees test the DTS panel during their training in Uganda held in July 2012

Strengthening laboratory Management Towards Accreditation (SLMTA)

Caribbean

A workshop on SLMTA was conducted in Trinidad and Tobago, from 30 January - 3 February 2012. The five day training was a continuation of two previous SLMTA workshops conducted in 2011. It consisted of lectures, demonstrations and interactive discussions in a typical classroom setting. Improvement projects and follow up visits continue to be an integral component of this multi workshop program.

A total of 24 participants were trained and each participant was assigned an improvement project based on the critical areas which needed to be addressed in their own laboratories. Floris Gordon, Yvette Irving and Songee Beckles, all from the Caribbean region, facilitated the workshop.

After four months, participants were invited from their respective countries to present their final improvement projects and graduate from the training.

Post SLMTA assessments

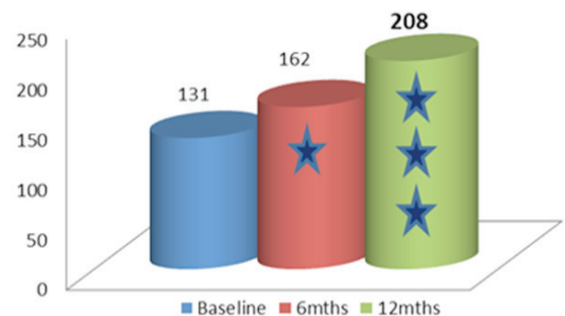
Implementation of the ISO 15189:2003 QMS in five laboratories (mentorship program)

Four mentors and a Quality Consultant were engaged to work with five laboratories in Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Bahamas and Suriname. The purpose of the mentorship was among others to track the progress of implementation of individual improvement projects under SLMTA program.



Some of the SLMTA participants pose with their certificates during the graduation in June 2012

An assessment was done after 12 months using the WHO AFRO Stepwise checklist in June 2012. The chart below shows progress on laboratory improvement in one of the assessed laboratories; the Bahamas Princess Margaret Laboratory.



Results of SLMTA assessment of Margaret Princess Hospital, Bahamas

There was improvement as the laboratory achieved 208 points and 3 stars. The laboratory submitted an application for accreditation to the College of American Pathologist (CAP) in December 2012.

Training of laboratory mentors

As part of the effort to build mentorship capacity within the Caribbean region, AFENET conducted mentorship training from 6-7 June 2012 in Barbados. The training was facilitated by Mr. Talkmore Maruta from the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI).



Participants attending the mentorship training, June 2012 in Barbados

African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM)

African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) is a Pan-African professional body working with countries on laboratory network development and strengthening efforts and certification of laboratory medicine training with WHO-AFRO and other partners to develop and implement laboratory policies.

Francophone Scientific Manuscript Writing Workshop

ASLM hosted its first Francophone scientific writing workshop from 16-27 January 2012 in Saly, Senegal. Eight mentors led 14 participants in promoting scientific manuscript-writing and creating publication-worthy, peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts for inclusion in the African Journal of Laboratory Medicine (AJLM), which accepts submissions in French and English. The workshop helped participants to better understand the manuscript submission process and prepared them to share the experience gained at the workshop with others in their home laboratories.



Mentors and workshop participants at the writing workshop, in Saly, Senegal

ASLM is a Pan-African professional body working with countries on laboratory network development and strengthening efforts and certification of laboratory medicine training with WHO-AFRO and other partners.

SLIPTA Training in Tanzania

The African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) facilitated a course for the Stepwise Laboratory Quality Improvement Process towards Accreditation (SLIPTA) Auditor Training to support the implementation of SLIPTA in the sub-region. The training was conducted from 1 - 5 October 2012 in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. A total of 17 participants attended the training.



Participants and facilitators of the SLIPTA Auditor Training held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 1-5 October 2012

African Center For Laboratory Equipment Maintenance (ACLEM)

AFENET participated in a meeting in Enugu, Nigeria to discuss the establishment of an African Center for Laboratory Equipment Maintenance (ACLEM). The meeting which took place on 10 – 13 July 2012 brought together stakeholders who drafted a memorandum of understanding between the Annunciation Specialist Hospital, and the Nigerian government, to discuss ways of channelling resources towards the establishment of this Laboratory.



Participants of the ACLEM meeting held in Enugu, Nigeria

NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PROJECT

Regional West Africa Diabetes and Related Cardiovascular Diseases Meeting

AFENET in collaboration with CDC and the Ghana Health Service organized a regional meeting on Diabetes and Related Cardiovascular Diseases for the West Africa Region. The meeting was attended by chronic disease experts from Ministries of Health of Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. The meeting was held in two parts; Diabetes and Related Cardiovascular

Diseases Stakeholders' meeting from 23- 24 August 2012, and a training workshop from 27- 31 August 2012. The purpose of this meeting was to identify priorities, enhance capacity and foster regional collaboration for effective NCD surveillance and programs in the West African region.



Participants at the Regional West Africa Diabetes and Related Cardiovascular Diseases Meeting in Accra, Ghana

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Onchocerciasis study

AFENET in collaboration with the US CDC and Uganda National Onchocerciasis Control Program conducted a study on Onchocerciasis in Kitgum and Lamwo districts in Uganda from 13 - 30 September 2012. The primary objective of the study was to develop a user friendly test for onchocerciasis (river blindness disease).

Uganda is among the three African countries which were selected for the "African Onchocerciasis Specimen Bank Collection and Evaluation of the Onchocerca volvulus (OV) -16 Serologic Test for Onchocerca volvulus Infection" study in addition to Ethiopia and Democratic Republic of Congo. The two week field research was conducted in six villages in Kitgum and Lamwo districts. The activities included eye examinations and collection of blood and skin samples from participants.



Research team screening members of the community for further examination

Nodding disease survey in northern Uganda

AFENET supported the Ministry of Health and CDC to conduct a nodding disease survey from 25 February to 15 March 2013 in Kitgum, Pader and Lamwo districts of Uganda. The survey aimed at determining the current magnitude of nodding syndrome, to form the basis for establishing a comprehensive nodding syndrome surveillance system at community and health facility levels. The survey also sought to determine prevalence of epilepsy. Nodding disease is an epileptic encephalopathy characterized by multiple seizure types with head nodding

being the predominant seizure. Children between 5 to 15 years of age are the most affected. The three- week survey was led by Dr. Issa Makumbi from the Ministry of Health together with AFENET staff, CDC and trainees from MUSPH.



Dr. James J. Sejvar Neuroepidemiologist CDC, Atlanta and Dr. Issa Makumbi, Ministry of Health addressing survey team in Kitgum district

THE 7TH GLOBAL TEPHINET CONFERENCE

AFENET secretariat staff: Dr. Sheba N. Gitta- Deputy Executive Director and Head of the Science and Public Affairs Unit, Dr. Peter Wasswa- AFENET's Scientific Writer and Dr. Hebert Kazoora- a Resident Mentor for the Veterinary Epidemiology Program attended the Seventh TEPHINET Global Conference which took place from 10-15 November 2012 in Amman, Jordan.

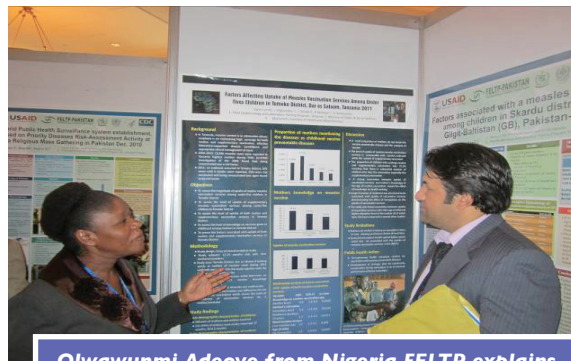
Based on the theme: "Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases: Public Health Challenges for Response", a wide range of public health problems and concerns both at global and regional level were presented during the conference.

The conference was attended by over 400 participants from 63 countries – including FELTP trainees and graduates, public health officials, representatives of international and national organizations, and Faculties from various universities.

During the conference, 120 oral presentations and 116 poster presentations were made; 24% of the abstracts were on food and water borne diseases, 21% on Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and 14% on vaccine preventable diseases. FELTP trainees, whose abstracts and posters were accepted, presented their findings. This year's conference also marked the 15th anniversary of TEPHINET.



Joyce Lyimo from Tanzania FELTP explains her poster to one of the conference participants



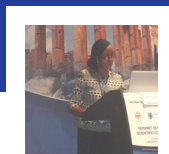
Olwawunmi Adeoye from Nigeria FELTP explains her poster to one of the participants at the conference TEPHINET conference in Jordan



Gideon Kye-Duodu from Ghana FELTP making a presentation at the 7th TEPHINET conference in Jordan



Dr. Abisola Oladimeji presenting her paper on "Factors associated with paralytic poliomyelitis in Kaduna State Nigeria 2006-2007"



Management training

As part of AFENET's strategic priorities of strengthening its institutional development, the secretariat staff attended a series of training sessions from 23-28 March 2012 in Kampala. The sessions focused on a range of topics including: Meeting Effectiveness, Time Management and Priority Setting, as well as Finance and Administration. The sessions were conducted by Ms. Margaret Morehouse from the Training Resources Group (TRG) in USA, with funding from Health Systems 20/20. Staff from different units attended different training sessions and enhanced their skills in managing time, managing and directing different kinds of meetings, creating clear communication channels in execution of administration and finance functions, prioritising tasks, being assertive, planning, as well as anticipating problems and preparing possible solutions.



Mr. Nathan Mubiru- Administrator (raising hand) contributes during a session on meeting Effectiveness held on 27 March 2011 at Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala. Next to him (left) is Dr. Julie Mutanda- a Fellow. (R-L): Mr. Daniel Mutumba- Accountant, Ms. Sylvia Sabiiti- Administrator, and Ms. Anita Tibasaaga- Editor

Participatory Impact Assessment (PIA) training

Eight technical staff at the AFENET Secretariat underwent training in Participatory Impact Assessment (PIA) from 1- 5 October 2012 at Metropole Hotel, Kampala. The training was facilitated by Dr Brigitte Bagnol, a consultant on social anthropology from South Africa, Dr Hellen Amuguni- a professor at Tufts University and also a Technical Liaison USAID/ RESOPOND and Ms. Rose Naomi- Program Manager from USAID RESPOND. The training was organized and funded by USAID RESPOND purposely to equip AFENET technical staff with skills of evaluating the impact of their projects using PIA. PIA is a project evaluation method that uses qualitative participatory approaches such as focus group discussions to identify problems within the community and also come up with solutions together. Most of the methodologies are based on a common set of principles that include participatory attitudes, learning attitudes, transparency and flexibility.



Participants identify the most important causes of Brucellosis in their community using a matrix scoring method

APPENDICES

Academic Institutions

Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria
Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Germany
Emory University School of Medicine, USA
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya
Makerere University, Uganda
Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Tanzania
National University of Rwanda
Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute,
University of Ghana
University of Pretoria, South Africa
University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon
University of Zimbabwe
University of Ibadan, Nigeria
University of Ohio, USA
University of Ouagadougou
Vienna School of Clinical Research, Austria

Associations/Nonprofit Organizations

Agence de Médecine Préventive/Agency for Preventive Medicine (AMP)
Ethiopian Public Health Association
FHI Development 360 LLC
RESPOND
Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET)
Task Force for Global Health

Government Agencies

Ethiopia Federal Ministry of Health
Ghana Ministry of Health
Rwanda Ministry of Health
Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)
Kenya Ministry of Health
Kenya Ministry of Public Health and Public Sanitation
Mozambique Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation
National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD)
South Africa Ministry of Health
Southern Sudan Ministry of Health
National Health Laboratory Services, South Africa
National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), South Africa
Nigeria Federal Ministry of Health
Tanzania Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Treatment and Research AIDS Center (TRAC) Plus, Rwanda
Uganda Ministry of Health
Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI)
Uganda National Expanded Program on Immunization (UNEPI)
National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Tanzania
Zimbabwe Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases, Nigeria

Corporations

PepsiCo
Foundations CDC Foundation
Ellison Medical Foundation
Merck Company Foundation

Regional and Multinational Agencies

European Union (EU)
WHO/ Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)
World Health Organization Multi Disease Surveillance Center (MDSC)
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa (WHO AFRO)
U.S. Government U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
U.S. Department of Defence
U.S. Department of State
Health Systems 20/20
National Institutes of Health (NIH)

ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN 2012

1. **William Tasiame.** A rare outbreak of pig rabies in the North Tongu District, Volta Region, Ghana -2011. Active Disease Surveillance System for Mountain Gorillas and Conservation Staff at the Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda. EAIDSNET Bulletin, June 2012. Influenza Surveillance in Rwanda; January to July 2011. EAIDSNET Bulletin, June 2012
2. **Aworh, M.K.,** Nwosuh C., **Ajumobi, O.O.,** Okewole, P.A., Okolocha, E.C., Akanbi B.O., **Nguku P.** ; A Retrospective study of rabies cases reported at Vom Christian Hospital, Plateau State, Nigeria, 2006 – 2010. Nigerian Veterinary Journal 32 Vol 4
3. **Buhalata S,** Kwesigabo G, **Sembuche S,** Aboud S, Temu MM, Changelucha JM. Genital tract infections among women attending sexually transmitted infection clinics in Mwanza, Northwestern Tanzania. SAJEI 2012 July.
4. Carrie A. Dooyema, Antonio Neri, Yi-Chun Lo, James Durant, Paul I. Dargan, Todd Swarthout, Oladayo **Biya, Saheed O. Gidado, Suleiman Haladu, Nasir Sani-Gwarzo, Patrick M. Nguku, Henry Akpan,** Sa'ad Idris, Abdullahi M. Bashir, Mary Jean Brown ; Outbreak of fatal childhood lead poisoning related to artisanal gold mining in Northwestern Nigeria , 2010. Environmental Health Perspectives, Volume 120 / Number 4 / April 2012
5. **Essoya D Landoh,** Potougnima Tchamdja, Bayaki Saka, **Khin S Tint,** Sheba N Gitta, Peter Wasswa, de J Christiaan. Morbidity and mortality due to malaria in Est Mono district, Togo, from 2005 to 2010: a times series analysis. Malaria Journal 2012, 11:389
6. **Joy Ebonwu,** Gerrit Coetzee, Hendrik Koornhof, **Khin-San Tint, Lazarus Kuonza.** Newly diagnosed multi-drug resistant tuberculosis in Gauteng, South Africa, 2004 To 2010. Communicable Diseases Surveillance Bulletin Apr 2012, 10 (1)
7. Karen M. Becker, **Chima Ohuabunwo, Yassa Ndjakani, Patrick Nguku,** Peter Nsubuga, **David Mukanga, Frederick Wurapa,** ; Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programs in West Africa, A Model for Sustainable Partnerships in Animal and Human Health :Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, JAVMA, Vol 241, No. 5, September 1, 2012
8. **Kufakwanguzvarova W Pomerai,** Robert F Mudyiradima and **Notion T. Gombe.** Measles outbreak investigation in Zaka, Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe, 2010. BMC Research Notes 2012 5:687
9. **Luka M. Ibrahim,** Ossai Okechukwu, Nasir T. Umar-Tsafe, Alhassan H. Dama and Mary Jean Brown; Childhood Lead Poisoning Associated with Gold Ore Processing: a Village-Level Investigation—Zamfara State, Nigeria, October–November 2010. Environmental Health Perspectives, volume 120 | number 10 | October 2012
10. **Mary Muchekeza,** Anderson Chimusoro, Notion T. Gombe, Mufuta Tshimanga and Gerald Shambira: District health executives in Midlands province, Zimbabwe: are they performing as expected. BMC Health Services Research 2012 12:335.
11. **Mugalura E,** Mosha F, Aboud S. Performance of rapid diagnostic assays for the laboratory diagnosis of syphilis in pregnant women in Kagera, Tanzania. Submitted to Tanzan J Health Res.
12. **Nomathemba Michell Dube,** Robert Summers, **Khin-San Tint,** Guistee Mayayise. A pharmacovigilance study of adults on highly active antiretroviral therapy, South Africa: 2007 – 2011. Pan African Medical Journal. 2012; 11:39
13. **Nyale E, Mosha F,** Aboud S. Acute HIV-1 infection among antigen/antibody seronegative blood donors in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Tanzan J Health Res 2011 July; 13(3):281-286.
14. **JKL Opore, C Ohuabunwo, E Afari, F Wurapa, SO Sackey, J Der,** K Afakye, and E Odei Outbreak of Cholera in the East Akim Municipality of Ghana following Unhygienic Practices by Small-Scale Gold Miners, Ghana Med J. 2012 September; 46(3): 116–123.
15. Pius Stephen Ekong, Raymond Juryit , Ndahi Mwapu Dika , **Patrick Nguku,** Monica Musenero ; Prevalence and risk factors for zoonotic helminth infection among humans and animals – Jos , Nigeria 2005 – 2009 . Pan African Medical Journal 12.6.12/05/2012
16. **Joseph Opore, Chima Ohuabunwo, Edwin Afari, Fred Wurapa, Samuel Sackey,** George Bonsu, Erasmus Agong, Justice Yevugah, John Odoom and Alex Anderson. Progress towards eradication of poliomyelitis in Ghana: A review of the Eastern Region of Ghana from 1997 to 2010- **Journal of Public Health and Epidemiology** Vol. 4(7), pp. 197-204, July 2012
17. **Riyadh Manesen,** Colleen Bamford, Mariette Smith, Rachel Jacobson, Clinton Moodley, Seymour Williams. Outbreak Of Carbapenem-Resistant Klebsiella Species In An Academic Hospital, Western Cape, May 2012. Communicable Diseases Surveillance Bulletin Nov 2012, 10 (4)
18. **Sabitu K, Nguku P, Akpan H;** Field Epidemiology Training in Nigeria: a novel approach to building sustainable epidemiological capacity to strengthen public health systems. Nigerian Journal of Epidemiology Vol.1 No.1 June 2011
19. **TW Motladiile,** J Tumbo, HO Zvinavhashe, C Sebekedi, ME Rakau. Multidrug-resistant nosocomial infections among private hospital patients in the North West province. South Afr J Epidemiol Infect 2012;27(3):111-115
20. Yi-Chun Lo, Carrie A. Dooyema, Antonio Neri, James Durant, Taran Jefferies, Andrew Medina-Marino, Lori de Ravello, Douglas Thoroughman, **Lora Davis,** Raymond S. Dankoli, Matthias Y. Samson,

Field Epidemiology (and Laboratory) Training Programs at a glance as of December 2012

Program	Established	No. of Cohorts	Total Trainees enrolled since inception	Current trainees		Graduates
				Year 1	Year 2	
Angola	2011	1	10	0	9	0
Central Africa	2010	1	35	17	18	0
Ethiopia	2009	4	69	16	17	35
Ghana	2007	6	50	9	9	17
Kenya	2004	8	113	18	13	61
Mozambique	2010	2	24	14	10	10
Nigeria	2008	4	105	40	38	25
Rwanda	2010	3	45	15	15	0
South Africa	2006	6	51	5	9	37
Tanzania	2008	5	58	13	12	18
Uganda	1994	19	331	28	20	225
West Africa*	2010	1	12	0	0	12
Zimbabwe	1993	19	186	17	20	161

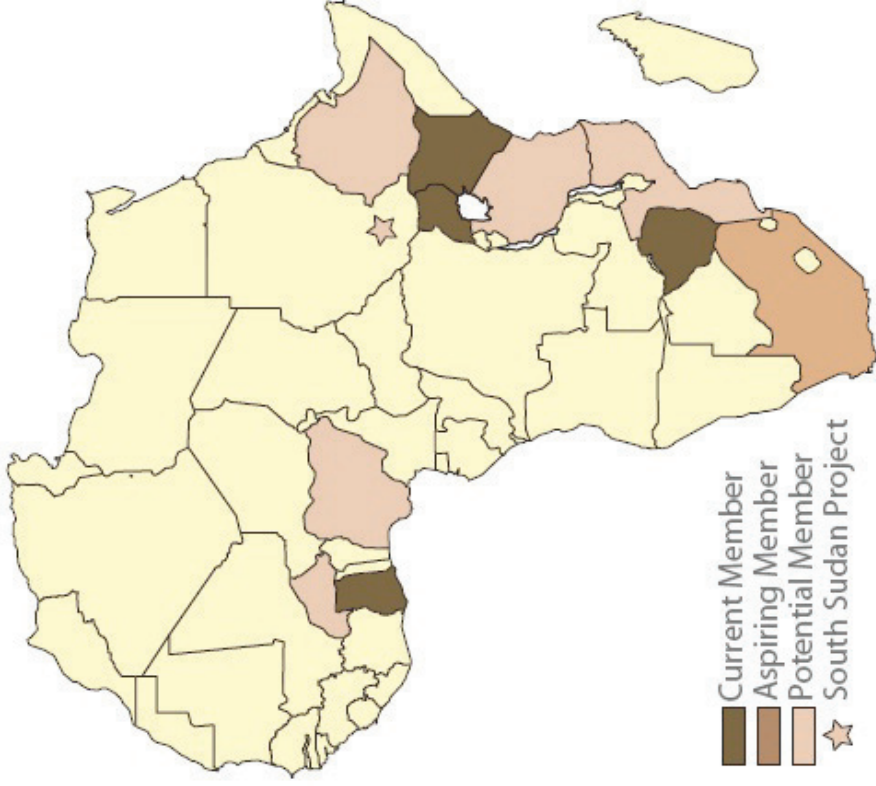
* The program suspended

Outbreaks Investigated in the FELTPs in 2012

FETP	No. of Outbreaks investigated	Diseases Investigated (details on disease in bold)	Date	Place	Key Findings and Public Health Action
Angola	05	Anthrax , cholera	Aug 2012	Quelegenes Municipality	Alerted the MoH of the rapid cattle deaths, total of 14 human deaths and 576 cattle were recorded.
Central Africa	02	Cholera , meningitis	Sep 2012	Sékia Moté, (CAR)	Isolated <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> serogroup 131 from a stool specimen.
Ethiopia	25	Acute watery diarrhoea , measles, malaria	Jan 2012	Konso Woreda	Etiologic agent identified; health education conducted
Ghana	03	Measles , gastroenteritis, cholera	Oct 2012	Aprokumase, Eastern Region	80 persons affected, 19 blood samples collected, Nine samples positive for rubella immunoglobulin M (IgM). community sensitization
Kenya	16	Diphtheria , Anthrax, typhoid fever, rabies, sleeping sickness, measles, polio, marburg	July 2012	Dagahaley Dadaab Refugee Camps	32 suspect cases line listed, CFR= 12.5%. samples collected, 60% positive for mumps IgM and IgG. None positive for diphtheria
Mozambique	03	Cholera , typhoid, diarrhoeal illness	Feb 2012	Niassa Province (Cuamba)	216 cholera cases aged 2-80 years (median 22 years). 48.1% (104/216) male. The hospital mortality rate was 1% (2/216).
Nigeria	22	Polio , Lassa fever, cholera, gastroenteritis, measles, hepatitis, trypanosomiasis, lead poisoning, rabies,	Nov 2012	Doma LGA, Nasarawa State, Nigeria	Two-year old female case. Stool samples Confirmed Wild Polio Virus (WPV). survey and mop-up immunisation conducted
Rwanda	13	Rickettsiosis , cholera, acute food borne illness	Aug 2012	Rutsiro District	199 cases, 7 deaths conducted analytical study to identify risk factors, fumigated the camp,
South Africa	14	Acute gastroenteritis , rota virus diarrhoea	Aug 2012	Guateng Province, Johannesburg	11 cases, median age 6 months
Tanzania	04	Anthrax , Ebola, rotavirus, brucellosis, measles	Mar 2012	Moshi District	identified 12 suspected cases. Conducted health education to over 200 persons. Quarantine imposed in the affected area
Uganda	04	Ebola , cholera, Marburg, Ebola	Aug 2012	Kibaale District	CFR=71%. Contact tracing, risk assessment, training Health workers and VHTs
Zimbabwe	15	Anthrax , typhoid, malaria, food poisoning.	Oct 2012	Mutasa District	> 16 cases of cutaneous anthrax including one death were reported in the district. Determined the risk factors for contracting the disease.

Our Footprint in Africa

2006 – 4 Countries



2012 – 20 Countries

