



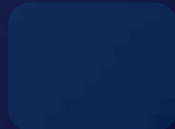
AFENET

African Field Epidemiology Network

A healthier Africa



AFENET Profile



Who we are

AFENET is a not-for-profit networking and service organization dedicated to improving health outcomes of the communities we serve in liaison with ministries of health and other partners. Strengthening capacity for public health preparedness and response through Field Epidemiology (and Laboratory) Training Programs {FE(L)TPs}, and other applied epidemiology training programs is one of our core activities.

Established in 2005 with our Secretariat in Kampala, Uganda, we have presence in over 40 countries and at least 700 personnel in various locations.

We **envision** a healthier africa

Our mission is to ensure effective prevention and control of epidemics and other priority public health problems in Africa.

Our goal is to strengthen field epidemiology and public health laboratory capacity to address major public health problems in Africa.



Our strategic objectives

01  **Field Epidemiology
Capacity Development**

02  **Public Health Laboratory
Capacity Development**

03  **Public Health Disease
Surveillance and
Effective Response**

04  **Public Health Program
Management & Research
Development**

05  **Networking and
Collaboration For Public
Health Advancement**

06  **Documentation and
Publication For
Public Health**

07  **Promoting the 'One
Health' Approach**



Projects and Achievements

01



Field Epidemiology Capacity Development

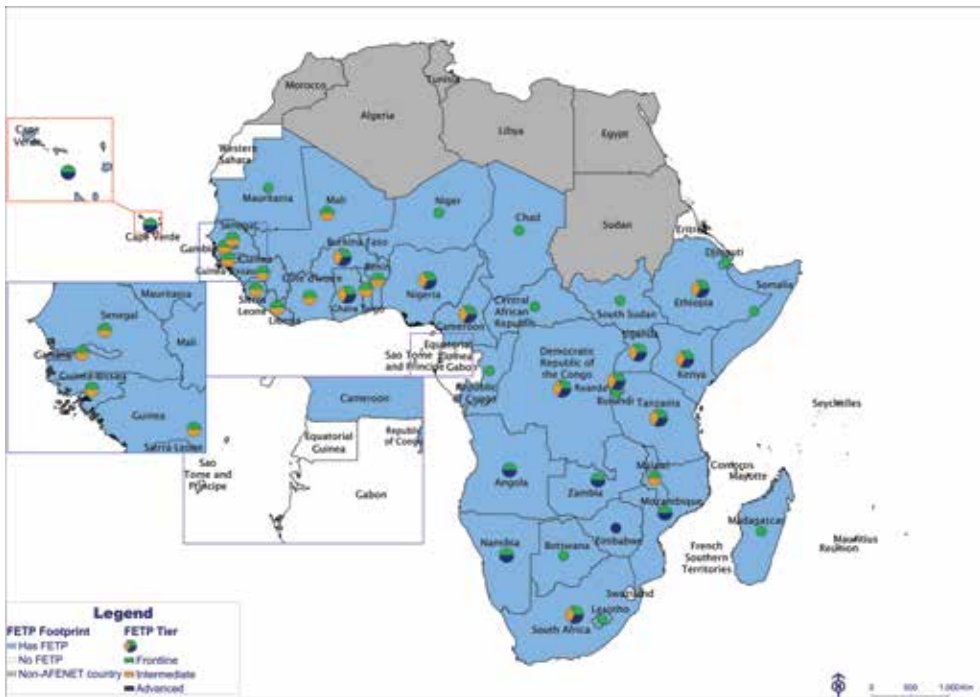
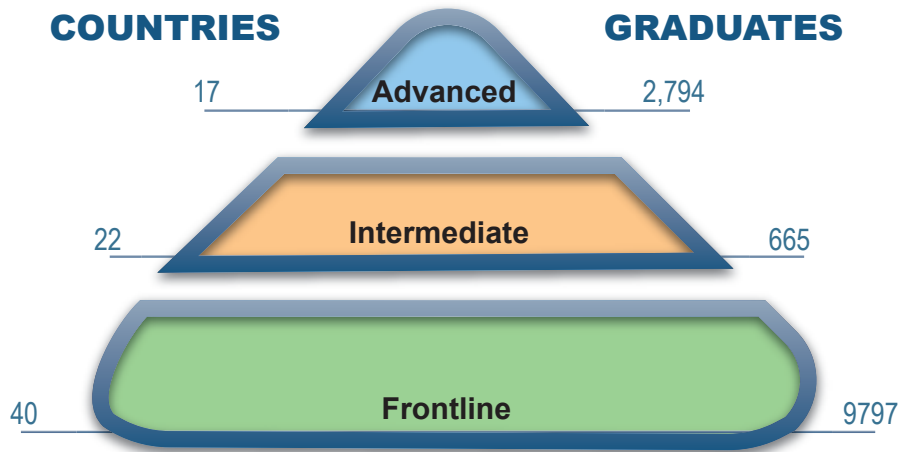


Figure 1: Distribution of FETPs by tier (Frontline, Intermediate, Advanced), Nov 2022



- ***Capacity strengthening for outbreak preparedness and response***
 - Built laboratory capacity for COVID-19 genomic sequencing in the Dominican Republic and Angola
 - Expanded capacity for sequencing and genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in South Africa, which contributed to the discovery of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 sub lineages by NICD in April 2022.
- ***Specialized trainings for laboratory personnel***
 - 660 laboratorians trained on viral load and rapid HIV recency testing in Angola, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Guyana, Barbados, Trinidad, and Suriname
 - 30 laboratorians trained on Strengthening Laboratory Management Towards Accreditation (SLMTA) and Quality Control and Method Validation (QCMV)
 - 12 TB treatment facilities in Uganda trained on TB Clinic-Laboratory Interface Continuous Quality Improvement – Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (CLICQ! - ECHO)
- ***Laboratory Equipment Maintenance and Servicing***
 - 30 biomedical engineers trained and over 100 biosafety cabinets serviced in Ethiopia
 - Equipment maintenance and servicing contracts established for Jamaica and Barbados
 - 6 biomedical engineers from Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda certified by the Eagleson Institute
 - Electronic equipment maintenance tool developed in partnership with African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM)

- **Laboratory Information System Strengthening (LIMS)**

- Developed and implemented HIV viral load and early infant diagnosis dashboards in Jamaica and Angola
- Installed Basic Laboratory Information System (BLIS) in three district laboratories in Tanzania
- Procured Laboratory Information Systems (LIS) for 6 Caribbean countries to strengthen results reporting between laboratories and wards

- **Development of Manuals and Guidance Documents**

- National Laboratory Strategic Plans (NLSP) developed for public and private laboratories in 11 Caribbean countries.
- Laboratory Quality Management System Stepwise Improvement Process (LQMS-SIP) checklist developed in collaboration with the Caribbean Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)
- SLMTA and QCMV training materials repurposed for online delivery





Public Health Disease Surveillance and Effective Response

Through FETPs and other public health interventions we support countries to improve their disease surveillance and response systems both routinely and during public health emergencies. The AFENET Corps of Disease Detectives (ACoDD) is a critical resource for supporting emergency response. ACCoD is deployed within their countries of origin and across borders to provide surge support during public health emergencies.

We have been involved in response to the following disease outbreaks: COVID-19 and other vaccine-preventable diseases across the continent; Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in West Africa, DRC and Uganda; lead poisoning in Nigeria; cholera in Zimbabwe. We have also been involved in emergency relief response during Cyclone Idai in Zimbabwe.

Surveillance strengthening initiatives we have implemented have focused on:

1. Vaccine-preventable diseases such as polio, measles and COVID-19
2. Adverse events following immunization (AEFI)
3. Enhancing mortality surveillance for improved planning of public health services
4. Assessing national capacities for One Health e-surveillance
5. Onchocerciasis prevalence following mass drug administration in communities
6. Improving data collection and flow through information systems such as DHIS-2
7. Operationalization of emergency operations centres
8. Training of the public health workforce on surveillance in general and with a focus on diseases of public health importance in target communities.

Immunization Systems Strengthening

- Polio eradication focused activities in Nigeria contributed to the country being declared free of wild polio virus in August 2020.
- 30 African countries supported to respond to cVDPV outbreaks
- Support for COVID-19 vaccine deployment across Africa
- Enhanced surveillance for yellow fever, COVID-19, measles and neonatal tetanus
- Facilitated roll out of measles second dose in Uganda and Nigeria
- Facilitated training for 499 International STOP participants from 2017 to 2022
- 1,655 healthcare workers, community and religious leaders trained on routine immunization and catch-up vaccination in Ghana
- 1,188 data managers trained on DQI modules in Kenya
- 95 health officers trained on Expanded Program on Immunization in South Sudan



Non communicable diseases

• *Implemented a project, Community Action Against Non-Communicable Diseases (COMAAND) in Nigeria:*

- 36.9% increase in community awareness about hypertension
- 4,100 community members screened for hypertension
- 1,940 hypertensive persons identified and linked to care
- A decline in hypertension prevalence from 43.3% to 35.8%

Research

- Supported research on the Epidemiology of Burkitt's Lymphoma in East African Minors (EMBLEM)
- Evaluation of the use of precision diagnostics (digital scans and liquid biopsy) for paediatric and young adult lymphomas in East Africa
- Onchocerciasis entomology and serological studies rollout in 6 countries in West, Central, and East Africa
 - Evaluating the threshold for onchocerciasis mass drug administration (MDA) stoppage in Benin, Gabon and Ghana
 - Evaluating of the effect of the "slash and clear" intervention on black fly biting rates in Liberia
 - Characterizing onchocerciasis transmission dynamics in a hypo-endemic ivermectin-naïve areas of Central Gabon
 - Evaluating the diagnostic tests (anti-Ov-16 antibody and other markers of *O. volvulus* infection) in areas hypo-endemicity for Onchocerciasis in Uganda

Other research

- 14 mini grants on COVID-19 research awarded to Dominican Republic FETP trainees
- Acute febrile illness (AFI) surveillance in Liberia
- Field validation of the multi-pathogen assay for screening of newborn diseases at ANC testing points in Nigeria, South Africa and Cameroon
- HIV drug resistance study in Jamaica and Uganda

05



Networking and Collaboration for Public Health Advancement

- Conducting and participating in experience-sharing conferences and workshops
- Facilitating faculty exchange across FE(L)TPs
- Facilitating cross border disease surveillance and response
- Partnership with regional continental and regional bodies like Africa CDC, WAHO, East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC)



06



Documentation and Dissemination of Experiences in Public Health



<https://www.afenet-journal.net/>

- An open access international peer-reviewed journal established in 2018 (ISSN: 2664-2824)
- Aims at providing culturally sensitive and technically specific evidence that drives public health and field epidemiology practice and policy
- Seeks to become the preferred channel for communicating public health evidence
- Publishes four issues every year on a rolling basis
- Over 127 articles published in 5 volumes and 5 supplements

WEBINAR

Pragmatic Approach to Transforming Field Epidemiology Training Program Outputs to Publishable Manuscripts



Dr. Saheed Gidado, MBBS, MPH
Deceased Researcher, International Doctoral Programme on Epidemiology and Public Health, Liverpool University, UK
Speaker



Dr. Sheba Gitta, BDS, MPH
Medical Epidemiologist and Public Health Professional, Managing Editor, Journal of Interventional Epidemiology and Public Health
Host



SCAN TO REGISTER

AFENET
African Field Epidemiology Network

Wednesday 7th December 2022
11:00am-1:00pm (GMT) / 12:00-2:00pm (WAT) / 1:00pm-3:00pm (CAT) / 2:00pm-4:00pm (EAT)

REGISTRATION LINK:
https://bit.ly/JIEPH_Q4_22

07



Promoting the One Health Approach

- Supported the prioritization of zoonotic diseases using one health approach in Nigeria
- Developed competency-based training curricular for capacity building in One Health for various cadres
- Training of public health professionals using a One Health approach



Other Product Lines

Human Resource Management

- We recruit, prepare and second employees to different strategic partners.
- We manage the process from sourcing, onboarding, payroll and contract management

Procurement of public health goods and services

- Events management
- Travel logistics management
- Medical supplies and equipment - ventilators, laboratory reagents & equipment, medicines

Fund Management

- Serve as a fiduciary agent for several partners.





Contact Us

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December 2022