

NFELTP

NIGERIA FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY TRAINING PROGRAM



Mission

To assist and support the Nigeria Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) in building a sustainable network of highly skilled field epidemiologists, including physicians, veterinarians and laboratory managers, who measurably improve public health services at Local Government, State and National levels.

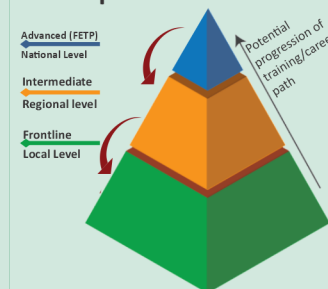
BACKGROUND

The Nigeria Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (NFELTP) is a two-year in-service training program in applied epidemiology and public health laboratory practice, created to be a long-term program within the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)/Federal Ministry of Health and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development. In conjunction with the University of Ibadan and Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, it trains medical epidemiology residents, public health laboratory residents, and veterinary epidemiology residents for leadership positions in various levels of both the Ministries of Health and Agriculture through a combination of long-term field placements and didactic courses. The program also offers competency-based field epidemiology training to frontline

health care workers at Local Government level to improve surveillance and response to priority disease as part of the Global Health Security agenda (GHSA) and International Health Regulation (IHR) core capacity requirements.

The Nigerian program was started in 2008 and is among the few programs offering a veterinary component to advance the One Health concept in addressing Zoonoses (diseases that are transmissible from animals to humans), emerging infectious diseases (majority of which are of animal origin) and other health issues involving the human/animal interface. This is done through gainful collaborations and networking between the animal and human health sectors.

Training model for Field epidemiology workforce development



PROGRAM CONTENT

Residents of the program select one of three tracks for study: Medical Epidemiology, Laboratory Epidemiology and Management, or Veterinary Epidemiology. Residents acquire skills and competencies in the following areas:

- Basic Epidemiology
- Biostatistics
- Computer Applications in PH Research
- Public Health Surveillance
- Epidemiology of Priority
- Diseases & Injuries
- Research Methodology
- Advanced Epidemiology
- Laboratory Methods in Epidemiology
- Communication in Public Health
- Special Topics in Public Health
- Teaching and Mentoring
- Management and Leadership



MILESTONES

So far, 496 residents, in 11 cohorts, have been recruited in the program with 335 completing the two-year hands-on training. The Intermediate level program was commenced in 2021 and 14 Residents were trained in the first Cohort. Over 1000 have been trained in frontline 3-month FETP in 16 states covering over 300 LGAs in all the 6 geopolitical zones.

Residents have responded to over 330 public health emergencies including viral hemorrhagic fevers outbreak like Ebola and Lassa fever. Additionally, residents have been engaged in response to lead poisoning, rabies, cholera, cerebrospinal meningitis, measles, diphtheria, Diethylene glycol (DEG) poisoning and mumps among other disease. The focus for the residents is to support early detection and

response to outbreak therefore limiting spread and the negative impact. The residents are also involved in the national efforts in eradicating polio and strengthening routine childhood immunization through the National Stop Transmission of Polio (NSTOP). The program is involved in supporting and sustaining disease surveillance systems for HIV, Malaria and other infectious and non-infectious diseases (Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response). More than 80% of graduates are supporting NCDC, FMOH and States, strengthening surveillance and response systems with emphasis on data quality assessment and improvement, evaluations, strengthening information systems and impact assessments and surveys. These systems are important for providing data to inform public health decisions.

FIELD PLACEMENTS

Unlike many training opportunities, FELTP is a fundamentally field-based program with the goal of building epidemiological capacity through service provision. The didactic components comprise 25% of the focus, while field assignment activities make up 75% of the program. Residents are placed in state or federal public health institutions for the duration of their 2 years in FELTP. Experiential learning is at the heart of this field epidemiology program.

PROGRAM SUPPORT

The program is supported by the FMOH/NCDC, FMA&RD with technical and financial support from the U.S. CDC (President's Malaria Initiative, Division of Global Health Protection and Global Immunization Division) through the African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET).

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