

Modernizing FETPs to enhance global preparedness and response: The role of TEPHIConnect and TEPHINET's Learning Programs

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Founded in 1997, TEPHINET is the only **global** network of field epidemiology training programs (FETPs) improving global health security by strengthening country capacity to detect and respond to disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies.

TEPHINET has operated as a program of The Task Force for Global Health (an independent, nongovernmental organization) since 2008, with an administrative secretariat at The Task Force's headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

VISION AND MISSION

Our vision: All people are protected by a field epidemiology workforce capable of detecting and responding to health threats.

Our mission: To empower and mobilize a competent field epidemiology workforce to serve all people through standardized training, experiential learning, training program quality improvement, mentoring, and knowledge exchanges in order to connect epidemiologists better, faster and with quality across the globe.





OUR NETWORK

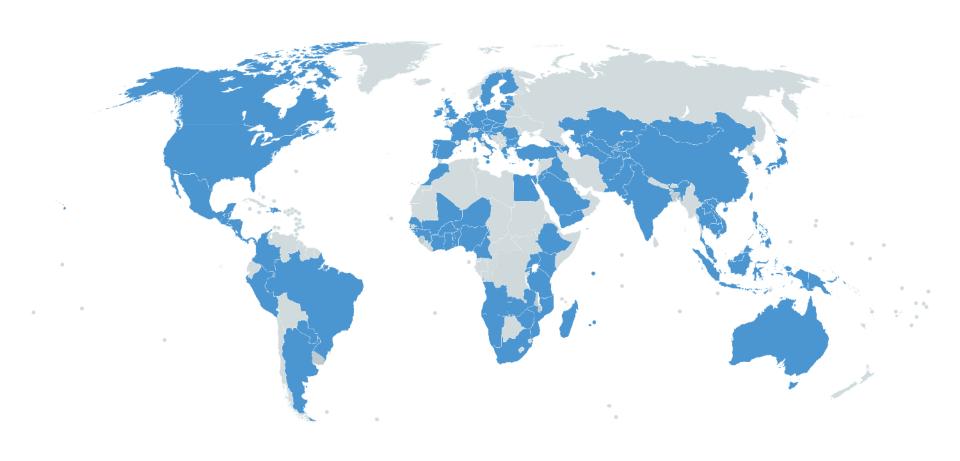
TEPHINET comprises **71** member programs working across more than 100 countries.

Our member FETPs also include those with veterinary (FETP-V) and laboratory (FELTP) components which help countries strengthen their public health laboratory systems and their ability to detect and respond to diseases of animal origin.

Overall, TEPHINET member programs have produced more than 14,000 graduates.

Countries with TEPHINET Member Programs (as of February 2019)







KEY WORK AREAS

TEPHINET aims to achieve its mission goals through five key work areas.













Adapting to New Global Health Realities



An aerial view of Venezuelan citizens crossing the border in Peru

Photo Credit: Maria Edith Solis Castro - Peru



Population Movement – Humanitarian Crisis



FETP Brazil conducting a Venezuelan Migration Survey in Roraima, Brazil, 2017

Photo Credit: EpiSUS - Brazil



Population Movement - PHEIC



Photo Credit: FETP - Uganda

Cross-border market Uganda and DRC

Identification of high risk entry points using movement patterns and connectivity









Video/Photo Credit: FELTP - Mozambique

- Risk assessment
- Daily intensive disease monitoring
- Screening of people rescued from flooded areas
- Rumors investigation
- Cross-border investigations





Surveillance system during the first week

- Surveillance systems interrupted
- Insufficent human resources
- Insufficient materials
- Increased demand for information

Delay in outbreak detection









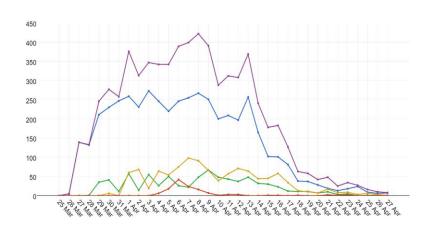
Photo Credit: FELTP - Mozambique

Early Warning, Alert and Response System (EWARS)

Helped epidemiologists rapidly track any reports or rumors of disease



Data entry at Health Facility or Temporary Housing Shelters (EWARS)



Real Time Data Generation (mALERT)







Dashboards
Real Time Data Monitoring

Photo Credit: FELTP - Mozambique



The *FETP Enterprise* concept: The totality of the leaders, funders, implementing partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders engaged in this global effort, along with associated standards, curricula, agreements, technology, etc. that undergird this work.

FETP ENTERPRISE: PATH TO THE FUTURE

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FETP ENTERPRISE*

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP GROUP (SLG)

WORK WITH PARTNERS TO INSTITUTIONALIZE FETP GRADS

CONTINUALLY MONITOR & ASSURE NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS

CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN & IMPROVE FETP QUALITY

PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY-SPECIFIC TARGETS

ASSURE SUSTAINABLE FUNDING - ALL FETP ENTERPRISE ELEMENTS

ASSURE DEVELOPMENT OF A CADRE OF FETP GRADUATES

FOSTER ENHANCED ALIGNMENT
WITH GLOBAL HEALTH PRIORITIES

Courtesy Dr. Rebecca Martin - CDC

^{*} Recommendations from The Global Field Epidemiology Roadmap – a report of the meeting held June 2018

^{** 8}th recommendation identified during a follow-up meeting to the original roadmap

Continuous Learning



FETP Learning Advisory Council (FLAC)

Vision: A well-trained and professional global field epidemiology workforce prepared to address evolving public health priorities

Mission: To develop a learning strategy for the global FETP enterprise and support its ongoing implementation

Values:

- Continuous quality improvement
- Learner-centered
- Foster lifelong learning
- Inclusiveness
- Equity





Emerging Learning Needs



- New teaching methods and tools
- Curriculum models that meet quality standards but can be tailored for local contexts
- Relevant, updated content/resources that are easily accessible with knowledge exchange and collaboration
- Continuous learning for FETP faculty and mentors
- Professional development and lifelong learning for graduates in both government career paths and emergency pre-deployment.

Is FETP training fully aligned to current and future trends in technology and society?

Current Working Groups



Technical area	Purpose
Competencies	Phase I: Priority Target - FE(L)TP(-V) mentors, trainers, and supervisors Phase II: Priority target – FE(L)TP(-V) Advanced Fellows Explore: 1. Competencies 2. Training Needs 3. Curriculum: Course/Didactics/Materials/Methods + Field Activities
Quality	Phase I - Develop: 1. Definition of high quality FETP 2. A list of domains of quality 3. Indicators to measure quality of FETPs; FETP mentors, trainers, and supervisors; FETP graduates; program tools, templates, and guidelines
Collaboration & Knowledge Exchange	Phase 1: Develop FETP Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange framework Phase 2: Technology requirements, solution analysis and selection



Workforce Mobilization

TEPHIConnect

- In August 2017, TEPHINET launched TEPHIConnect (tephiconnect.org), a global online networking platform built exclusively for FETP alumni.
- To date, TEPHIConnect has 1,800+ active users from 96 countries.
- TEPHIConnect enables:
 - Networking of FETP alumni for purposes of shared learning, career growth, situational awareness, etc.
 - Mobilization of specially-qualified field epidemiologists for rapid response to infectious disease outbreaks that threaten global health security



Workforce Mobilization Global Initiatives

- In November 2019, TEPHINET is partnering with WHO, CDC, and AFENET to conduct a week-long training and simulation around Epidemiology in Humanitarian emergencies. The course has 20 sponsored FETP alumni from East and Southern Africa and 10 participants from AFENET and Uganda MOH.
- TEPHINET is in early talks with partners to develop a 2-3 day basic training for FETP alumni who are responding to emergencies to refresh their knowledge of epidemiology data collection and analysis in the field.
- TEPHINET is preparing a concept note with RECON and Australian FETP to develop and online course made of curated material pertaining to emergency response and post it on TEPHIConnect as a way for graduates who are interested in deployments to have current and appropriate self-directed training.



Workforce Mobilization Global Initiatives (cont.)

- TEPHINET is working with GOARN to:
 - Get FETP alumni to update their CVs so they are in a format that aligns with GOARN needs and to point alumni interested in deployments to take GOARN 3 hour, 1.0 online training.
 - Train 20-25 FETP alumni from a region on their week-long 1.5
 training module for emergency response. This training is to
 familiarized deployees with the humanitarian infrastructure and
 how a response functions. It would follow the collaboration
 model of TEPHINET partnering with a regional group, GOARN
 and CDC.
- TEPHINET is in early discussions with the Canadian FETP to assist them in cross FETP training.



Knowledge Exchange

Global Initiatives

- In person training and workshops at TEPHINET Global and Regional Conferences have proven to be great mechanisms for bringing awareness about innovative surveillance tools and to advance data analytics in emergency situations
 - EpiCore
 - Go.Data Field Data Collection, Chains of Transmission and Contact Follow-up
 - Introduction to Outbreak Analytics Using R
 - Finding Outbreaks Faster: Implementing Outbreak
 Timeliness Metrics for Disease Surveillance

Summary

- Epidemic Intelligence is an evolving discipline. Development of new information sources (e.g. web based early warning systems, and CBS activities) are generating an increased number of signals and rumors that need to be managed.
- TEPHINET is working with global partners to review existing FETP competency frameworks and equip alumni with the knowledge and skills aligned to new global heath realities.
 - Is FETP training fully aligned to current and future trends in technology and society?
 - Does modernizing FETP may result in a cadre of "epidemic intelligence managers" to perform the risk assessment related to threats being detected? What are the limitations and is this concept feasible?





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A Program of the Task Force for Global Health