

DPHSWD in Kenya



Accomplishments in Kenya

- As of 2011, 66 residents have graduated from the K-FELTP including 13 from South Sudan, five from Tanzania, two from Uganda and two from Ghana.
- In 2011, K-FELTP residents conducted over 25 outbreak or emergency investigations, 13 surveillance evaluations, and 16 planned (protocol-based) studies.
- A K-FELTP resident is currently the lead investigator on high occurrences of neural tube defects in Kenya and this work will support national folic acid fortification activities.
- K-FELTP residents have been instrumental in activities to stop the transmission of polio and measles in Kenya.
- Residents published in 26 peer reviewed journals and gave 103 presentations at international scientific meetings and conferences.

Overview and Goals

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), through its Division of Public Health Systems and Workforce Development (DPHSWD), in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation (MOPHS) established the Kenya Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (K-FELTP) in 2004. The program was created to build a sustainable network of public health practitioners who are skilled in applied epidemiology and laboratory management and trained to improve public health in Kenya and the East Africa region. The K-FELTP has served as a regional program that included participants from Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, and Ghana, but in recent years has refocused efforts to increase Kenya's public health capacity. The K-FELTP is anchored within the Division of the Department of Disease Control and Prevention in Kenya's Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation (MOPHS).

The goals of the Kenya FELTP are to:

- Reinforce quality, output, and institutionalization of K-FELTP
- Ensure that the program's services are aligned and contribute to priority health targets in Kenya
- Strengthen internal and external partnerships and collaborations
- Support development of a career path for trained public health practitioners

Program Description

Building Workforce Capacity

The K-FELTP is a Master's degree program in applied epidemiology and public health laboratory management administered through Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. The two-year program places emphasis on in-service training to the ministry. Field projects involving outbreak response, surveillance, laboratory management, and research of public health relevance, serve as the program's foundation to strengthen public health workforce capacity in Kenya.

Strengthening Public Health Systems

The majority of K-FELTP graduates work in Kenya in a variety of public health positions, primarily with MOPHS. Graduates are placed in key leadership positions at the national and sub-national level. Other organizations that graduates are working with include the WHO, CDC, Ministry of Agriculture and the Kenyan Military.

Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure and Institutions

This year K-FELTP started the first Public Health Grand Rounds series in collaboration with the University of Nairobi. This initiative provides a platform for residents to share scientific methods and findings with public health professionals and academia. Additionally, K-FELTP offers an elective in epidemiology and public health with emphasis on field work. This elective is offered only to fourth year medical students.



Dr. Patrick Nguku, Kenya FELTP resident, conducting patient interviews during an aflatoxicosis outbreak in Eastern Province, Kenya, 2004.



Dr. Kibet Sergon, Kenya FELTP resident, collecting blood specimens during an aflatoxicosis outbreak in Eastern Province, Kenya, 2004.



Dr. Guracha Argata, Kenya FELTP resident, conducting community interviews during a Brucellosis outbreak in North Eastern Province, Kenya 2006 .

Future Plans

DPHSWD will continue to support the K-FELTP, and in collaboration with partners, plans to accomplish the following initiatives over the next few years:

- Maintain or increase resident enrollment while maintaining the quality of the program
- Improve graduate retention within public service
- Increase financial sustainability
- Increase visibility of the K-FELTP within Kenya through:
 - » Public Health Grand Rounds
 - » K-FELTP Newsletter

Key Partners

- AFENET
- CDC
- Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
- Kenya Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation
- TEPHINET
- University of Nairobi
- USAID
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Walter Reed Army Institute of Research
- World Bank
- World Health Organization

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