

DPHSWD in Nigeria



Accomplishments in Nigeria

- Trained 25 epidemiologists, 129 are currently enrolled
- Trained over 500 frontline health/ veterinary workers as surveillance officers or disease control officers at national and state levels.
- N-FELTP residents have supported state and federal ministries of health in investigating and responding to more than 80 outbreaks including: cholera, rabies, leptospirosis, lassa fever, lead poisoning, measles, polio, mumps, and leishmaniasis.
- N-FELTP residents have published 20 scientific papers and won 5 awards at scientific conferences, including the William H. Foege Award for outstanding Public Health Abstract and best oral presentation at the 2012 Epidemic Intelligence Service Conference.
- N-FELTP residents are providing critical services for the Polio Eradication Initiative through the National Stop Transmission of Polio (NSTOP) program.

Overview and Goals

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), through its Division of Public Health Systems and Workforce Development (DPHSWD), has been working in Nigeria since 2008. The program aims to save lives and ensure global health security by building workforce capacity, strengthening public health systems, and improving the institutional capacity of the country.

In collaboration with the Nigeria Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), DPHSWD established a Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (N-FELTP) in Abuja. The N-FELTP is a 2-year field-training program during which residents spend 25% of their time in the classroom and 75% of their time doing field work and supporting the FMOH. Areas of focus include disease surveillance, outbreak response, and program evaluation, along with training in applied epidemiology, laboratory science, and veterinary epidemiology. After residents have completed the program requirements, they receive a Master of Public Health degree in Field Epidemiology, Veterinary Epidemiology, or Laboratory Epidemiology and Management, through Ahmadu Bello University or the University of Ibadan.

The DPHSWD Sustainable Management Development Program (SMDP) is designed to provide N-FELTP residents with leadership and management training to prepare them for leadership positions in their district, state, and national public health systems. SMDP worked with the Carter Center to establish a management training center in Jos, which has since trained hundreds of health managers. SMDP also partners with FMOH, FELTP, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the CDC Global Immunization Program to train volunteers for the Stop Transmission of Polio (STOP) and National Stop Transmission of Polio (NSTOP) programs. SMDP delivered a ten-day (N-STOP) Training Program in July 2012 in Abuja, Nigeria at the N-FELTP offices.

Program Description

Building Workforce Capacity

The N-FELTP trains residents to become effective public health leaders at the MOH and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). The N-FELTP is also the first applied epidemiology program of its kind to offer a Veterinary Epidemiology specialization. The program aims to increase collaboration and strengthen linkages between epidemiologists and laboratorians, in both the human and animal health sectors.

Strengthening Public Health Systems

N-FELTP is working on several fronts in Nigeria to strengthen the country's public health system, address neglected tropical diseases, and help strengthen Nigeria's epidemiology workforce. The goal of the Nigerian program is to determine the feasibility, effectiveness, and cost benefit of integrating disease control programs on a large scale.

These programs help address important public health issues in Nigeria including HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Polio and other neglected tropical diseases such as Onchocerciasis, Schistosomiasis, and Trachoma. By increasing epidemiology, laboratory and collaboration/networking capacity, the program is building sustainable multi-disease surveillance and response systems and increasing the culture of evidence-based public health decision making.





Dr. Patrick Nguku, Resident Advisor, leads a meeting of the Nigeria FELTP to discuss polio measures.



Nigeria FELTP Residents Matthias Yango, Mabel Aworrh and Moses Obiemen are collecting blood samples while investigating a suspected viral hemorrhagic fever outbreak in Ebonyi State, Nigeria, March, 2011.



First Nigeria FELTP Cohort Graduation Ceremony, Abuja, Nigeria, January 27, 2011.

Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure and Institutions

To date, N-FELTP has:

- Confirmed and investigated outbreaks of communicable and non-communicable diseases such as measles, polio, cholera, lead poisoning, acute renal poisoning, leptospirosis, buruli ulcer, and visceral leishmaniasis
- Supported the upgrade of laboratory equipment at the central public health laboratory in Yaba Lagos
- Deployed 105 residents and graduates to support public health departments in surveillance, outbreak response, data analysis, operational research, and dissemination of data to help decision making.

Future Plans

- Scale up support for key national disease control programs such as NSTOP, HIV and AIDS control programs, and the malaria control initiative
- Recruit next cohort of FELTP residents
- Design and conduct five FELTP short courses for frontline medical and veterinary workers to strengthen capacity for disease response, zoonotic disease response, and public health program management.

Key Partners

- CDC's Nigeria office
- CDC Global AIDS Program
- CDC National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases
- CDC Center for Global Health
- Nigeria Federal Ministry of Health
- Nigeria Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria
- University of Ibadan
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- African Field Epidemiology Network

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