

DPHSWD in Mozambique



Overview and Goals

The Division of Public Health Systems and Workforce Development (DPHSWD) within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has been working in Mozambique since 2009, when CDC joined with the Ministry of Health (MISAU), to establish the Mozambique Field Epidemiology Laboratory Training Program (M-FELTP). The program aims to strengthen the public health system by building institutional and workforce capacity. The M-FELTP provides program residents with epidemiological, laboratory, and other training and technical assistance to bolster the supply of field-trained epidemiologists capable of responding to national public health threats.

Mozambique has a very high rate of epidemics and natural disasters, such as seasonal flooding, which often trigger cholera outbreaks. Other public health challenges include HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, vaccine-preventable diseases, and motor vehicle accidents. The National Health System has not had the capacity to promptly detect and investigate outbreaks, which has contributed to higher rates of morbidity and mortality. Through hands-on training and service in field epidemiology and laboratory quality, the M-FELTP builds a sustainable network of skilled field epidemiologists and laboratory technicians who are improving the public health system.

Program Description

Building Workforce Capacity

The M-FELTP is a two-year hands-on training and service program in applied epidemiology and public health laboratory practice. In conjunction with other partners, such as the World Health Organization and the University of Eduardo Mondlane (UEM), the program trains medical epidemiology residents and public health laboratory residents for leadership roles at various levels of MISAU. While training, residents provide service to MISAU through strategic and specific field placements and assignments throughout the Mozambique public health system.

Strengthening Public Health Systems

FELTP residents have worked with MISAU on investigations of measles, vaccine-derived polio, rabies, malaria, cholera, typhoid, shigella, and pesticide poisoning outbreaks. In 2013, residents conducted emergency disease surveillance among populations displaced by floods in Gaza Province.

Accomplishments in Mozambique

- Graduated 10 future public health leaders from the M-FELTP, 14 scheduled to graduate March 2014.
- Implementation of Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response for 10 priority diseases at each level of the health system improved through Mozambique's new strategic plan.
- Residents conducted independent monitoring during a polio vaccination campaign.
- Residents conducted syndromic surveillance for acute health events during All-African Games in 2011.
- Trained 25 residents and other stakeholders on non-communicable disease epidemiology, in collaboration with CDC Chronic Disease Center.
- M-FELTP residents were awarded "Best Oral Presentation" for 2 consecutive years at International Session of Brazil EPISUS Scientific Conference in Brasilia.
- M-FELTP resident won "Best Presentation Using Laboratory Data" at the 4th AFENET Scientific Conference December 2011.



FETP residents investigate a cholera outbreak in Niassa Province, Mozambique, February 2012.



FETP residents investigate a cholera outbreak in Niassa Province, Mozambique, February 2012.



FETP resident monitors polio vaccine campaign in central Mozambique, September 2011.

Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure and Institutions

M-FELTP residents spend 25% of their time in the classroom and 75% of their time working on outbreak investigations and field activities. They are trained to develop necessary skills in a number of areas including: conducting studies that improve public health program delivery; responding to outbreaks and analyzing epidemiological data using appropriate statistical methods; and managing a public health surveillance system.

Future Plans

The M-FELTP is an effective gateway for the MOH to obtain technical assistance and subject matter expertise from CDC. M-FELTP will continue to provide public health training, policy formulation and field research that is nationally and internationally accredited.

Key Partners

- Mozambique Ministry of Health (MISAU)
- Eduardo Mondlane University
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)
- President's Malaria Initiative

Publication Date: April 2013

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