

Field Epidemiology Training Program

FETP-Intermediate

Background

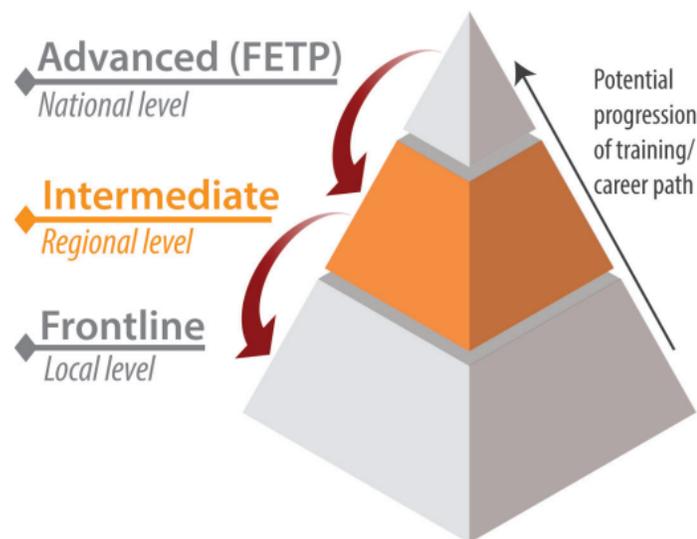
The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) works with Ministries of Health (MOHs) around the world to strengthen their countries' epidemiology workforce through the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP).

An FETP is a service-based training program whose purpose is to train public health workers at all levels of the public health system in the principles and practices of field epidemiology as they provide service to their countries. The FETP design is rooted on the premise that better trained health workers result in an improved public health system.

FETPs are structured so that trainees spend minimum time in the classroom and maximum time in the field. Trainees provide public health services while gaining essential skills to collect, analyze, and use data to prioritize health issues and inform policy decisions.

In recent years, CDC and MOHs have recognized the importance of strengthening the capacity of the public health workforce at all levels of the public health system.

In response, a three-tiered training model was created to strengthen surveillance and epidemiology capacity at all levels of a country's health system, from the district to the regional to the national level.



Training model for FETP-Intermediate level workforce development

FETP-Intermediate

This 12-month on-the-job program addresses the skills needed by health officials at the middle level of the MOH

(province, state, governorate) to improve epidemiologic capacity to evaluate and strengthen public health surveillance systems, investigate and control outbreaks, and conduct field studies to address public health priority issues.

The centerpiece of FETP-Intermediate is a survey of a priority health topic planned and conducted by the trainees as a group.

Classroom instruction (10 weeks total, in 6 workshops) addresses surveillance interpretation

and analysis; surveillance system evaluation; outbreak investigation; study design; planning and conducting a survey; data entry and analysis in Epi Info; public health communication; and training and mentorship.

Trainees develop these competencies through individual field projects and a group survey. In countries with both FETP-Frontline and FETP-Intermediate, trainees in the intermediate program may mentor those in FETP-Frontline.

Trainees who successfully complete the program receive a certificate of completion signed by MOH and CDC officials.

FETP by the numbers*

- 12 months of training
- 13 countries with CDC-supported FETP-Intermediate
- 780+ health professionals trained since 2011



Benefits to the MOH

- Increased capacity among staff to recognize and respond to public health problems in a timely and vigorous manner
- Increased completion and accuracy of surveillance data reporting and analysis
- Stronger culture of data-based decision making
- A network of well-trained field epidemiologists and public health managers in the country
- Graduates count towards the World Health Organization and Global Health Security goal of **1 epidemiologist per 200,000 population**

Target audience

The target audience is government public health workers responsible for public health functions, such as surveillance, data compilation analysis, reporting, outbreak investigation, and conducting planned investigations at the middle level of the health system.

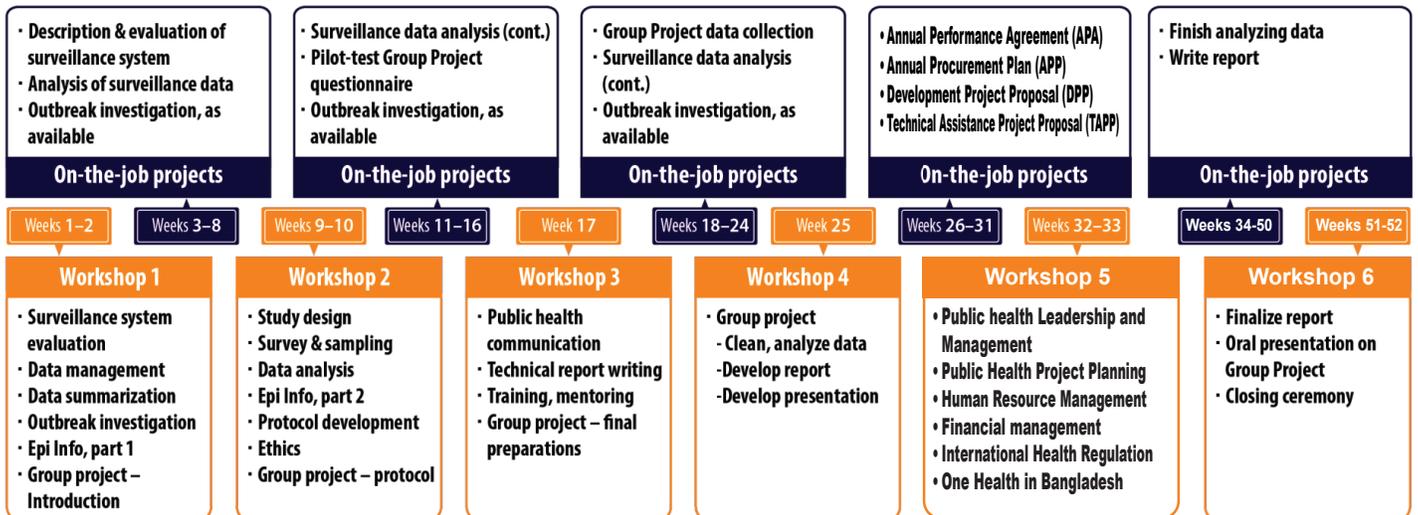
*As of 2023

Qualified public health workers from the district and national levels are also welcome to participate, particularly to gain a better understanding of the sources, strengths, and weaknesses of the data from the field, and to foster better communication among all levels of the MOH. In addition, trainees should have completed FETP-Frontline or equivalent.

Program objectives

- Improve the skills of middle level public health workers in data collection and analysis, interpretation, and communication
- Increase collection and use of public health data for decision making
- Improve the quality and use of surveillance data at the middle level of the health system
- Strengthen capacity to respond to outbreaks and other public health threats

FETP-Intermediate timeline



Countries with FETP-Intermediate (N=13)



For more information about FETP visit www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/fetp