

**Quarterly Activity Report  
Post-Hurricane Reconstruction Project  
CD/EPO/Division of International Health  
January-March 2002 (Quarter 2, FY02)**

**Dominican Republic**

**1. Highlights**

- Planned, organized, and developed the “Diplomado en Epidemiologia Aplicada” (DDM) course in collaboration with the MOH and the Universidad Catolica.
- Selected thirty provincial and central epidemiologists to attend the first DDM course scheduled to begin in early April 2002.

**2. IR2 – Increased Availability of Epidemiologists in the Region and Training of Other Level Health Workers by these Epidemiologists**

*Indicator: Successful completion of the FETP training*

Progress:

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> FETP Cohorts are conducting outbreak investigations, analyzing surveillance data, drafting research protocols, and preparing project reports.

Results:

1<sup>st</sup> Cohort

- Completed pending projects and prepared drafts of final project reports.
- Designed research protocols.

2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort

- Participated in outbreak investigations.
- Cleaned and validated a series of surveillance data as well as designed databases.
- Analyzed surveillance data of priority diseases.
- Prepared presentations of primary projects to be presented at the module in Honduras.

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohorts:

- Submitted abstracts to the Second TEPHINET International Scientific Conference to be held in Madrid, Spain, this June. Two abstracts were accepted to the conference.
- Participated in the development of the DDM course.
- Participated in a surveillance training workshop targeted to primary care physicians.

Haiti: Collaboration and support activities

- Participated in a meeting between representatives of DR and Haitian MOH. The goal of the meeting was to identify possible collaborative projects.
- Haitian FETP trainees were in DR for fifteen days as part of their field training.

Future Activities:

- Field training – FETP trainees to investigate priority health issues under preceptor’s guidance.
- Coordinate, monitor, and evaluate work of trainees.

- Formalize the inclusion of the monitoring and evaluation of the FETP activities in the competencies of the Teaching Technical Committee with the participation of the university.
- Identify national technical coordinator and tutors for the FETP activities in the Dominican Republic.

## **FETP Outputs**

During this quarter, FETP trainees initiated and continued developing their epidemiologic proficiency by working on the following priority health problems.

### Public Health Research

- Evaluation of the operating capacity of the National Surveillance System at the provincial levels. Analysis completed. Final report in preparation. Principal results to be presented at the meeting in Honduras, April 2002.
- Participation in the review and preparation of the document to update the National Standards of Epidemiological Surveillance.
- Elaboration of epidemiological alert and technical guide for the strengthening of surveillance of Rabies in the Dominican Republic.
- Study of factors related to the underreporting of maternal mortality and presentation of preliminary results at the TEPHINET Conference in Spain.

### Planned Epidemiologic Investigation

- Designed protocol: Research factors related to the high lethality of toxemia in DR.
- Designed protocol: Survey of morbidity and the use of health services by tourists visiting DR.
- Study of drug prescription in a regional primary care setting: Preparation of proposal, work plan, and design of research protocol (project of Reform of the Health System, SESPAS-PROSISA/European Union).
- Evaluation of the intervention strategy for control of dengue with the participation of the community: data analysis and writing-up report.

### Surveillance analysis

- Collect and validate a series of surveillance data on priority diseases in the Santiago and Azua provinces. Then, design and create databases for the data for future analysis.
- Analysis of Tb surveillance and registry data in the Azua province to describe Tb epidemiological situation and to evaluate Tb program activities.
- Validation and analysis of Dengue surveillance data in Santiago.
- Analysis of maternal mortality cases to identify factors related to the maternal mortality underreporting as well as factors related to the maternal quality of care.

### Surveillance development

- Review and update National Standards for Epidemiological Surveillance.
- Collection and analysis of relative data to the tourism in RD for development of surveillance system in tourists.

### Outbreak Investigations

- Outbreak investigation of malaria in Batyes, Bahoruco Province.
- Outbreak investigation of Hepatitis A in Azua.
- Outbreak investigation of leptospirosis and dengue in Santiago.
- Outbreak investigation of nosocomial neonatal sepsis.

### Presentation:

- “Outbreak of Polio” at a national surveillance meeting.

### Current publications: Publication of articles in the “Nacional Boletín Epidemiológico”.

- “Situation of Dengue in the Dominican Republic in 2000”.
- “Situation of meningococcal disease in the Dominican Republic in 2000”.

### Future publications: Prepare articles to be published in the “Nacional Boletín Epidemiológico”.

- Outbreak of leptospirosis and dengue in Santiago.
- Operational evaluation of the surveillance system at the provincial level.
- Evaluation of the maternal mortality surveillance system.
- Situation of tuberculosis in the province of Azua.
- Situation of dengue in the province of Santiago.

### Future Projects: Finalize protocols, develop field workplan, and analysis plan.

- Research of determinants of maternal mortality linked to the quality of care.
- Morbidity and use of health services by the tourists in DR.
- Design surveillance system in the tourist health areas.
- Study of the drug prescription in a regional primary care setting.

### *Indicator: DDM - Local epidemiological capacity strengthened*

#### Progress:

- Formed a Technical Education Committee Education in Epidemiology with members from DIGEPI, RRHH, CDC, and PAHO.
- Identified and selected a university to assist in the implementation of the DDM course.
- Negotiated with the Ministry of Health and University for training of MOH public health staff in applied epidemiology.
- Negotiated CDC-university agreements
- Planned and prepared DDM activities.
- Started training trainers for the course.

### **3. IR 3 - Laboratory Rehabilitation**

#### *Indicator: Network design and implementation of Public Health Laboratories for support for epidemiological surveillance of prioritized diseases*

#### Progress:

- Rehabilitation physical plant and adaptation laboratory areas, of the national Center of Tropical Diseases, for diagnosis of reference of malaria, and immunodiagnosis for support for surveillance.

Results:

- Areas of laboratory which are empowered and adequate for beginning of activities of diagnosis

#### **4. IR 4 - Community-Based Interventions**

*Indicator: Evaluation of Application of strategy of Intervention for control of Dengue, with community participation, based on the modification of practices of washing of water storage tanks in prioritized areas*

Progress:

- Purification and validation databases and analysis (with participation of [IR2-/FETP](#))

Future activities:

- Finalizar el analisis and write-up the evaluation report (with trained of FETP - IR2).

#### **5. Other Activities**

*Indicator: Coordination and integration activities with other agencies*

Progress:

- Reached an agreement regarding the technical collaboration on the reform of the Health System project (PROSISA. SESPAS-European Union).
- Technical collaboration and supervision of research project developed by FETP (financing PROSISA).

#### **6. Other Meetings**

- Meetings with Ministry of Health, USAID, PAHO in order to assess current situation, future IR2 activities, and the possibilities of continuing the project
- Working meetings with FETP trainees and with General Bureau of Epidemiology.
- Meetings with technical Committee of training
- Meetings with University
- Meetings Embassy (information paperwork)

#### **7. Visitors**

FETP Development Activity

- Epidemiologist of the Spain-FETP (March 11-22)
- Robert Fontaine (January 13-18)

DDM Development Activity

- Antonio Gomez to develop and prepare the DDM course.

#### **8. Important Administration Issues**

- Arrangements with the embassy for project administrative support.
- Negotiation with embassy for condition of extension for project through September 2002.