

# Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program

## *Linking Epidemiology and Laboratory Systems*

### Introduction

The Division of Global Public Health Capacity Development (DGPHCD) aims to strengthen the linkage between epidemiology and laboratory systems, primarily with the goal of using laboratory data to improve surveillance and outbreak response.

The addition of a laboratory training component begins to address the long standing disconnect between epidemiology and laboratory practice. This initiative is meant to foster collaboration and linkage between epidemiologists and laboratorians and the building of laboratory networks.

### Vision

Our vision is that public health laboratorians and epidemiologists collaborate to achieve common goals in surveillance and outbreak response to improve public health.

### Goal

Our goal is to establish functioning laboratory-based surveillance systems for priority diseases with an enhanced laboratorian capacity to assist in outbreak response.

### FELTP Definition

A Field Epidemiology and **Laboratory** Training Program (FELTP) contains all the components of a traditional field epidemiology training program, plus trains laboratorians using a competency-based curriculum that supports laboratory-based surveillance and outbreak response.

Using a systematic approach to ensuring quality in laboratory services and integrated referral networks are important elements of this training.

Based on country needs, other laboratory technical or management development programs may be incorporated into the FELTP through partnerships with other CDC centers or outside agencies.



DGPHCD supports FELTPs in Kenya, Pakistan, Georgia, and South Africa.

### Primary Target Audience

The target audience for FELTPs are provincial laboratory managers or other laboratory managers working at the sub-national level.

### FELTP Competencies

The FELTP competencies we aim to achieve are to

- Analyze on a routine basis laboratory data to improve data quality, identify possible aberrations, and trends
- Design or evaluate a lab-based surveillance system
- Collaborate with epidemiologists in an outbreak investigation or field-based study
- Interpret and communicate laboratory results of public health importance to decision makers
- Use management skills to create or support public health laboratory networks in-country or with international reference laboratories



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