

# Division of Global Public Health Capacity Development Field Epidemiology Training Program

## Overview

The Division of Global Public Health Capacity Development (DGPHCD) is part of the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention's (CDC) Coordinating Office for Global Health. DGPHCD

works to improve the health of the people of the United States and other nations by partnering with national and international organizations and foreign governments to build strong, transparent, sustained public health systems.

## Field Epidemiology Training Program

A major focus of DGPHCD centers on applied epidemiology training programs such as the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) and the Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP).

DGPHCD offers these applied epidemiology programs to help foreign countries develop, set up, and implement dynamic, public health strategies to improve and strengthen their public health system and infrastructure.

The program was started in 1980 and is modeled after CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service.

An FELTP contains all the components of a traditional program, plus trains select laboratory scientists using a competency-based curriculum that supports laboratory-based surveillance and outbreak response.

## Curriculum

The two-year, full-time training and service program typically involves classroom instruction (25%) and field assignments (75%).

While in class, trainees take courses in epidemiology, communications, economics, and management. They also learn about quantitative- and behavior-based strategies.

In the field, trainees conduct epidemiologic investigations and field surveys, evaluate surveillance systems, perform disease control and prevention measures, report their findings to decision-makers and policy-makers, and train other health workers.

## Resident Advisors and Technical Support

To establish an FE(L)TP, DGPHCD typically assigns an in-country resident advisor (RA) for 4 to 6 years to provide training and technical assistance.

As of October 2007, DGPHCD has 15 RAs for epidemiology and laboratory supporting 8 programs (Central America [3], Central Asia, China [2], India, Jordan, Kenya [4], Pakistan, and South Africa [2]). In addition, the division provides technical support for special components of four more mature programs (Brazil, Egypt, Thailand, and Zimbabwe), including technical advisors for Brazil and Thailand.

## Country Teams

Located at CDC's headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, DGPHCD's staff of physicians, epidemiologists, public health advisors, instructional designers, health communications specialists, and support personnel provide additional scientific expertise, training consultations, and other programmatic support and advice to sustain FE(L)TPs and related programs around the globe.

## Funding, Partnerships, and Networks

Developing partnerships is an important element of establishing, supporting, and sustaining the programs. DGPHCD regularly collaborates with national and international organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development, the World Health Organization, the Ellison Medical Foundation, and the World Bank to help set up and support FE(L)TPs around the world.

Countries that set up programs also can collaborate with two field epidemiology non-profit network organizations to share resources and best practices among FE(L)TPs: the international Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET), and the regional African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET).

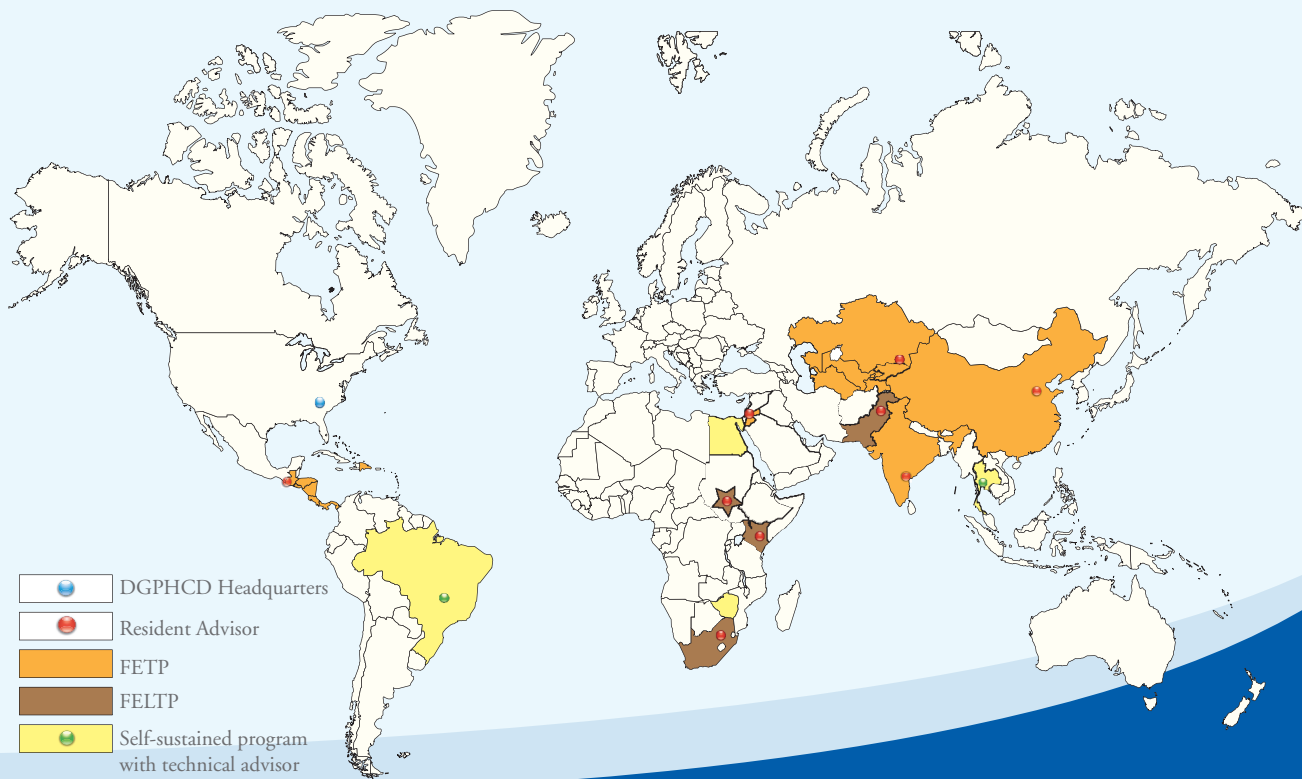




### Achievements

- Since 1980, DGPHCD has helped establish 29 field epidemiology training programs which have produced more than 1,000 graduates.
  - In 2006, the programs had 159 active trainees, including 42 who graduated that year.
  - In 2006, active and alumni trainees conducted 164 outbreak investigations and gave 156 presentations at international conferences.
  - As of October 2007, DGPHCD provides 15 resident advisors for epidemiology and laboratory supporting 8 programs (covering 19 countries).
  - As of October 2007, DGPHCD provides technical support for special components of four more mature programs (Brazil, Egypt, Thailand, and Zimbabwe), including technical advisors for Brazil and Thailand.

### Map of 2007 DGPHCD-supported Programs



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