AFENET is a non-profit networking and service alliance of Field Epidemiology (and Laboratory) Training Programs (FELTPs), and other applied epidemiology training programs. AFENET has operations in over 31 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa or the World Health Organisation Africa Region (WHO – AFRO). Established in 2005, AFENET is dedicated to helping Ministries of Health in Africa build strong, effective, sustainable programs and capacity to improve public health systems on the African continent.

Vision:
A Healthier Africa

Mission:
Committed to ensuring effective prevention and control of epidemics and other priority public health problems in Africa

Goal:
To strengthen field epidemiology and public health laboratory capacity and effectively contribute to addressing epidemics and other major public health problems in Africa

(www.afenet.net)
Four founder members:
The University of Ghana, School of Public Health; Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation-Kenya; The Makerere University School of Public Health-Uganda and The University of Zimbabwe, Department of Community Medicine.

Ordinary members:
Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs) or Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programs that meet the minimum expectations of didactic sessions and field placement of trainees determined by the Board and working in strong partnership with the Ministry of Health of the country.

Associate members:
Countries in the process of developing FETPs or FELTPs, alumni associations of programs involved in epidemiology training, and other programs and/or organizations in Africa, which are involved in field epidemiology or laboratory capacity development.
Core values

- Accountability & Transparency
- Professionalism
- Networking and Collaboration

Through funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), AFENET member programs have trained over 1500 public health professionals in the advanced 2-year FETPs and more than 2000 public health workers have completed the short-term 3 months frontline field epidemiology. This has greatly contributed to reducing the acute shortage of skilled field epidemiologists hence improving on the capacity of public health systems in Africa to rapidly detect and respond to disease outbreaks & other public health emergencies.

AFENET’s overall objective is to improve the capacity of health systems in Africa to manage disease outbreaks and other priority health problems in line with the IHR 2005. This will be achieved through the following:

- Developing Field Epidemiology Capacity in Africa
- Developing Public Health Laboratory Capacity in Africa
- Public Health Disease Surveillance and Effective Response Systems
- Networking and Collaboration for Public Health Advancement
- Documentation and Dissemination of Experiences in Public Health
- Public Health Program Management & Research Development
- Promoting the “ONE HEALTH” Approach

AFENET’s highest body of governance is the Board of Directors (B.O.D), comprising of eight individuals drawn from the membership, and outside. One position is non-voting and is held by a representative for the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Africa.
Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programs (FELTPs) are competence-based programs that offer a two year masters course in field epidemiology.

Frontline and Intermediate FETPs are three and six months in-service training programs respectively.

The frontline program is implemented in 20 African Countries that include: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda.

FELTPs Include:

1. Angola Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program
2. Central African Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program
3. Democratic Republic of Congo Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program
4. Ethiopia Field Epidemiology Training Program
5. Ghana Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program
6. Kenya Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program
7. Mozambique Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program
8. Namibia Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program
9. Nigeria Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program
10. Rwanda Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program
11. South Africa Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program
12. Tanzania Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program
13. Uganda Field Epidemiology Training Program
14. Burkina Faso Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program
15. Zambia Field Epidemiology Training Program
16. Zimbabwe Field Epidemiology Training Program.

Dr. Carl Reddy - Director of the South African Field Epidemiology Training Programme (SAFETP) giving an award to Dr. Joseph Opare for outstanding contribution to the Ghana FELTP.
Field Epidemiology Capacity Development

Training to rapidly build critical mass of public health workers across health systems

• Advanced Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programs
• Intermediate Training Programs
• Frontline Field Epidemiology Training Programs

Field Epidemiology Workforce Development Pyramid

Public Health Laboratory Capacity Development

Research

Enhancing Research, Epidemiology, and Policy Capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa (Data to Action Award)

Laboratory Capacity

1. Laboratory Profiling for 73 districts in Uganda
2. Support to Central Public Health Laboratories under the Ministry of Health, Uganda (Human Resource and Inventory Management)
3. Support HIV Viral Load testing and monitoring

4. External Quality Assessment (EQA) in 15 facilities, Angola
5. Rapid Testing quality Improvements, Angola
6. Tuberculosis Quality Improvement, Angola
7. Laboratory Quality Improvement (SLMTA) and Samples Transport System

Public Health Disease Surveillance and Effective Response

• Technical assistance to HIV response in Uganda
• Polio eradication, immunization strengthening and capacity building in the African region (8 Countries, 13 projects)
• Malaria project, Nigeria
• Research in Non-Tropical Diseases (NTDs)
• Tobacco Control
• Establishing Public Health Emergency Operations Centers (Togo, Uganda and Nigeria)

Networking and Collaboration

The Biennial Scientific Conference

Every two years, trainees and graduates of Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programs (FELTPs) are presented with a strategic platform to network and showcase their work to the global public health community.

AFENET conferences present an opportunity for such public health professionals, Ministries of Health and other partners to come together to discuss issues that impact on public health in Africa.

Member programs also hold conferences.

Publication and Documentation

Scientific Writing Program

The program aims to strengthen documentation of field epidemiology experiences among AFENET member programs and dissemination of the findings. The main objective of the project is to strengthen documentation of field epidemiology experiences among AFENET member programs and dissemination of the findings and lessons learnt within the region and beyond.

AFENET website and program websites

www.afenet.net

Pan African Medical Journal

The Pan African Medical Journal (PAMJ) has been published in partnership with the African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) since 2008.

Published Supplements

1. Kenya Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program; Strengthening Public Health Systems through Experiential Training and Operational Research – 6 November 2017
2. The Expanded Program on Immunization in Ethiopia (Ethiopia FELTP)-9 June 2017
5. Ebola in West Africa. Before, now and then- 10 October 2015
7. Field Epidemiology in Africa-14 December 2011

http://www.panafrican-med-journal.com/about.php

Promoting the “One Health” Approach

• Establishing and strengthening of One Health platforms in Africa
• Preparedness and Response
• One health training programs (Burkina Faso and Senegal)

Ms Gloria Okara - Program Administrator NFELTP Assisting the health workers at Angwanre Temp Fixed post Toro LGA-integrated measles and oral polio
Field Epidemiology Capacity Development
Training to rapidly build critical mass of public health workers across health systems

- Advanced Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programs
- Intermediate Training Programs
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Promoting the “One Health” Approach
- Establishing and strengthening of One Health platforms in Africa
- Preparedness and Response
- One health training programs (Burkina Faso and Senegal)
Located in Kampala, Uganda, the Secretariat is headed by an Executive Director. The mandate of the secretariat is to provide financial and technical support to member programs.

**AFENET Organogram**

- Office of the Executive Director
- Strategic Information, Institutional Development & AFENET Corps Of Disease Detectives (SIIADA)
- Communications, Publications, Corporate Relations & Training (CPCRT)
- Planning, Projects & Programs
- Administration
- Finance
- Risk Management & Internal Audit
- Secretariat and Regions
- Internal Audit
- Risk Management

**AFENET Regional Tech Coordinators**
- Central Africa & Indian Ocean
- Eastern Africa
- Horn Of Africa
- Southern & Lusophone Africa
- Nigeria & West Africa Anglophone
- West Africa Francophone

**Programs & Projects**
- FELTP/ FETPs
- Immunisation & MCH
- HIV & TB
- Lab Capacity
- NTD & Malaria
- NCD & Malaria
- One Health & Environmental Health
- Monitoring and Evaluation

**AFENET Secretariat Staff in pictures with**

- Prof. Tshimanga Mufuta - Board Chair, AFENET welcomes Executive Director AFENET, Dr. Chima Ohuabunwo to AFENET in August 2017
- AFENET Secretariat staff in picture with Prof. Tshimanga Mufuta - Program Director Zimbabwe FETP (Chair Board of Directors) and AFENET Executive Director Dr. Chima Ohuabunwo
Every two years, trainees and graduates of Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programs (FELTPs) are presented with a strategic platform to network and showcase their work to the global public health community. AFENET conferences present an opportunity for such public health professionals, Ministries of Health and other partners to come together to discuss issues that impact on public health in Africa. Previous conferences have been hosted in:

- Maputo, Mozambique (2018)
- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2013)
- Mombasa, Kenya (2009)
- Accra, Ghana (2005)
- Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (2011)
- Kampala, Uganda (2007)

The conferences are hosted by member programs/ countries on rotational basis.

**Ministerial Resolution on AFENET & FELTPs:**

**Dar –es-Salaam, 2011**

1. FELTP as a national strategy; For health system strengthening and to develop career paths for FELTP graduates to ensure effective and efficient utilization of resources.
2. All countries to develop FETPs or get Affiliated to regional ones
3. Countries create budget lines for FETPs to ensure sustainability of programs
4. To engage partners and solicit support for FETPs in Africa
5. AFENET mandated to coordinate & monitors FELTP implementation in Africa

**Abuja 2016**

1. AFENET members countries continue pursuing the 2011 Dar-es-Salaam Agenda resolution.
2. Ministerial forum be held every AFENET scientific conference
3. FELTPs be scaled up as a strategy for HRH development across Africa
4. Countries develop career paths for FELTP graduates & staff retention
5. Funding for AFENET & FELTPs
6. AFENET explore development of a continental rapid response corp.
SUCCESS STORY

Strengthening surveillance and outbreak response systems for communicable and non-communicable diseases

To ensure effective prevention and control of epidemics and other priority public health problems in Africa, AFENET supports Field Epidemiology (and Laboratory) Training Programs (FELTPs) in several African counties. FELTPs are country-owned programs within ministries of health, tailored to meet the public health needs of each country, based on the country’s culture, national priorities, established relationships, and existing public health infrastructure. The main objective of this effort is to build a critical mass of public health cadres who can support the Ministries of Health in those countries to predict, prevent and respond to disease outbreaks.

With US CDC support, membership to AFENET increased from the four founding FELTPs serving 4 countries in 2005 to 16 programs serving more than 20 countries by December 2015. Over the 10 year period until 2015, the total enrolment of trainees was recorded at 1,843 trainees of whom more than 780 had graduated. Most of these graduates have been re-deployed within the various ministries at national, regional and local levels while others are working as trainers, mentors and supervisors in their respective FELTPs.

To-date, FELTP graduates and residents have investigated and responded to more than 200 major disease outbreaks in several African countries, including those on anthrax, cholera, Ebola, wild polio virus and rabies. Participation in these outbreaks ranged from contact tracing, community sensitization and identification of risk factors for the diseases with outstanding capabilities. For instance, for its outstanding performance in timely response to the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak that was reported in Lagos in 2014, The World Health Organization described the intervention of the Nigerian FELTP as a “spectacular success story” and world-class epidemiological detective work: [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/one-year-report/nigeria/en/]. For this, Nigeria FELTP also received the “Best FELTP in Outbreak Response” award from US CDC.

These successes demonstrate that AFENET is well on its way to enhance regional disease surveillance, epidemiologic investigation and response capabilities in Africa and help achieve sustainability of programs in the region.
US Ambassador Deborah R. Malac addressing journalists at the Uganda Media Center in preparation for the Global Health Security Meeting 25-27 October 2017

AFENET Board of Directors, and subcommittee members during the BOD meeting in Kampala February 2018

Participants at the Senegal Field Epidemiology Training Program 2nd Francophone Scientific Conference, 5 – 6 February 2017 – Dakar Senegal

(L-R) Hon. Ruth Aceng, Minister of Health, Uganda, Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda, Prime Minister, Uganda and Dr. Chima Ohuabunwo, Executive Director AFENET share a light moment during a media conference at the GHSA 2017 meeting.

South Africa FETP 2018 Cohort and Staff
Academic Institutions
- Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
- Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria
- Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Germany
- Emory University School of Medicine, USA
- Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya
- Makerere University, Uganda
- Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Tanzania
- National University of Rwanda
- Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Switzerland
- University of Ghana
- University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- University of Ohio, USA
- University of Ouagadougou
- University of Pretoria, South Africa
- University of Yaoundé 1, Cameroon
- University of Zimbabwe
- Vienna School of Clinical Research, Austria

Associations/ Nonprofit Organizations
- African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM)
- Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI)
- Epidemiological Society of Nigeria
- Ethiopian Public Health Association
- European Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET)
- International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI)
- International Epidemiological Association (IEA)
- National Cancer Institute
- Resolve
- Taskforce for Global Health
- Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health (Tulane University)
- USAID RESPOND
- Vital Strategies

Government Agencies
- Ethiopia Federal Ministry of Health
- Ghana Ministry of Health
- Kenya Ministry of Health
- Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)
- Kenya Ministry of Health
- Kenya Ministry of Public Health and Public Sanitation
- Mozambique Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation
- National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD)
- South Africa Ministry of Health
- Southern Sudan Ministry of Health
- National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases, Nigeria
- National Health Laboratory Services, South Africa
- National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), South Africa
- Nigeria CDC
- Nigeria Federal Ministry of Health
- Tanzania Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
- Treatment and Research AIDS Center (TRAC) Plus, Rwanda
- Uganda Ministry of Health
- Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI)

Corporations
- PepsiCo

Foundations
- CDC Foundation
- Ellison Medical Foundation
- Merck Company Foundation

Regional and Multinational Agencies
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- WHO/ Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)
- World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa (WHO AFRO)
- World Health Organization Multi Disease Surveillance Center (MDSC)
- Africa CDC/ African Union
- European Union (EU)
- West Africa Health Organization (WAHO)

U.S. Government
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Department of Defense
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Partnerships
The list of partners is non-exhaustive of all AFENET partners since establishment. AFENET remains sincerely appreciative of all partnerships today.