

Field Epidemiology Training Program

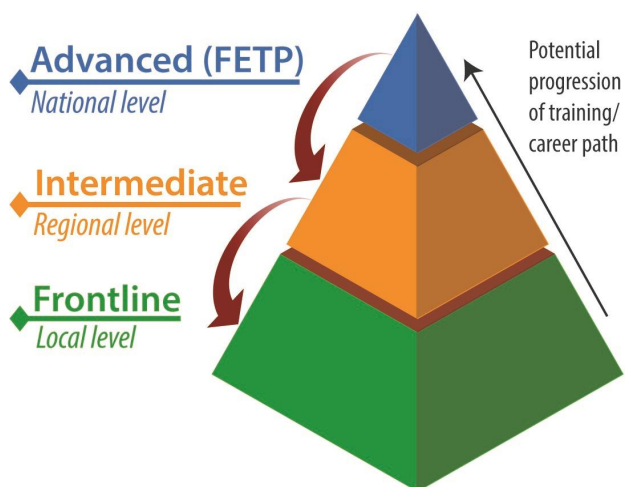
Overview of FETP-Frontline, Intermediate, and Advanced

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).

FETPs are country-owned programs modeled after CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service to build a corps of in-country field epidemiologists (disease detectives) able to strengthen their countries' capacity in epidemiology, surveillance, and outbreak response.

Since the establishment of the first FETP in Thailand in 1980, more than 50 programs with trainees from more than 70 countries have been launched.



The FETP three-tiered training model

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 has been implemented to improve the surveillance, epidemiology investigation, response, and scientific communication skills of public health workers at each level of the health system.

Training approach

All three tiers use the same approach of condensed classroom instruction (<25%) followed by field placements (>75%) to gain experience and competence in field epidemiology.

Classroom instruction focuses on epidemiologic practice rather than

Training model for field epidemiology workforce development theory and uses an interactive problem-solving approach, with frequent exercises and case studies to reinforce lecture material. Field placements focus on investigations, projects, and other activities under the mentorship of experienced epidemiologists that support the MOH mission and priorities.

FETP-Advanced

Background

This 2-year training provides Master's equivalent training and experience in field epidemiology for health professionals expected to take leadership roles in the MOH. Trainees learn about and gain experience in the principles and practice of epidemiology in the public health setting.

Since 1980, more than 50 FETPs with trainees from more than 70 countries have been launched, resulting in more than 3,900 FETP graduates.* About 80% of FETP graduates work in the public health sector in their home countries.

Training

Typically, 20–25% of the 2 years is spent in the classroom with the training focused on advanced surveillance, epidemiologic methods, field investigations, and written and oral scientific communication.

Trainees apply these tasks as field projects, including giving an oral presentation at a national or international scientific conference and submitting a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

In countries that also offer FETP-Frontline and/or FETP-Intermediate, trainees in FETP-Advanced may mentor trainees in the other two programs.

Trainees who successfully complete the program receive a certificate of completion signed by MOH and CDC officials. In some countries, FETP trainees may receive a Master's degree in Public Health or Applied Epidemiology from an affiliated university.

*As of July 2017

Target audience

The target audience is governmental public health workers who are responsible for public health functions at the upper (national) level of the health system, especially physicians and veterinarians.

FETP-Intermediate

Background

This 9-month training addresses the skills needed by health officials at the middle level of 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.

Since 2001, FETP-Intermediate has trained more than 780 health professionals in 13 countries.*

Training

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

Classroom instruction (8 weeks total, in 5 workshops) addresses surveillance interpretation and analysis; 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.

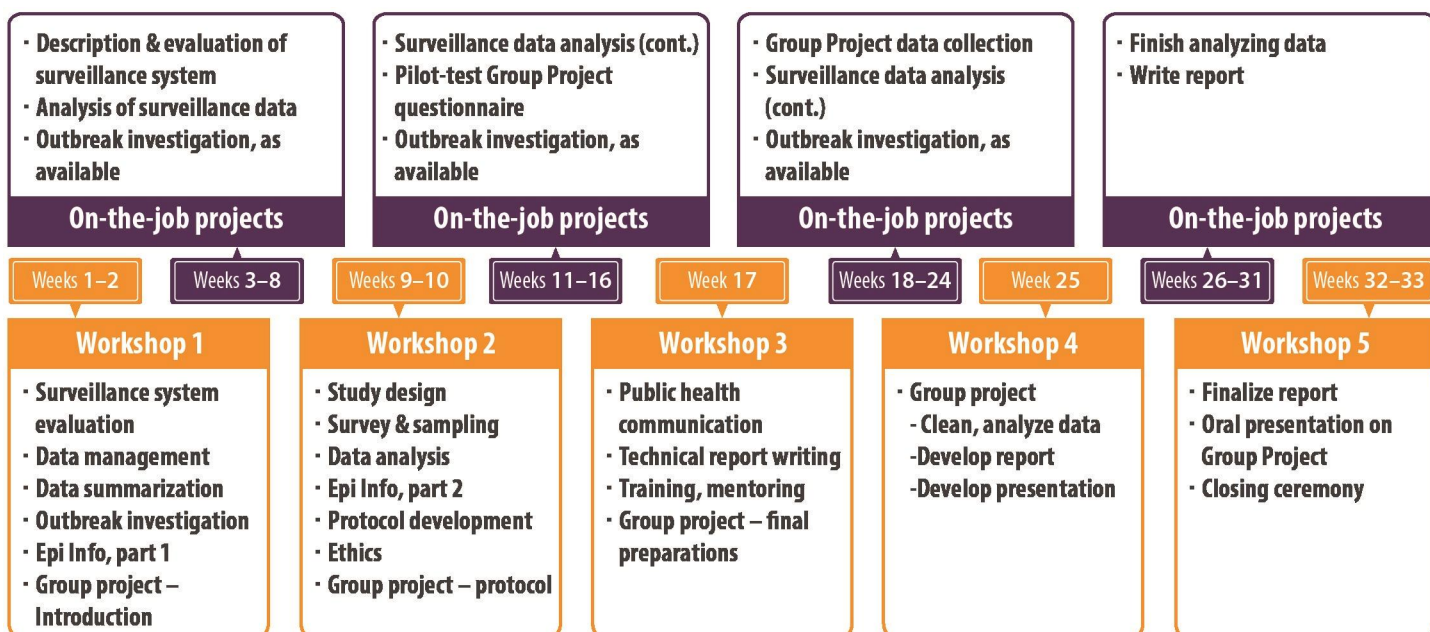
Trainees who successfully complete the program receive a certificate of completion signed by MOH and CDC officials.

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.

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.

FETP-Intermediate timeline



FETP-Frontline

Background

This 3-month training addresses the fundamental skills used in frontline surveillance, focusing on improving disease detection, reporting, and feedback.

Since 2001, FETP-Frontline has trained more than 4,900 health professionals in 41 countries.*

Training

Trainees spend up to 12 days in three workshops. They spend the remaining 8–10 weeks back at their jobs, where they conduct field projects to practice, implement, and reinforce what they have learned.

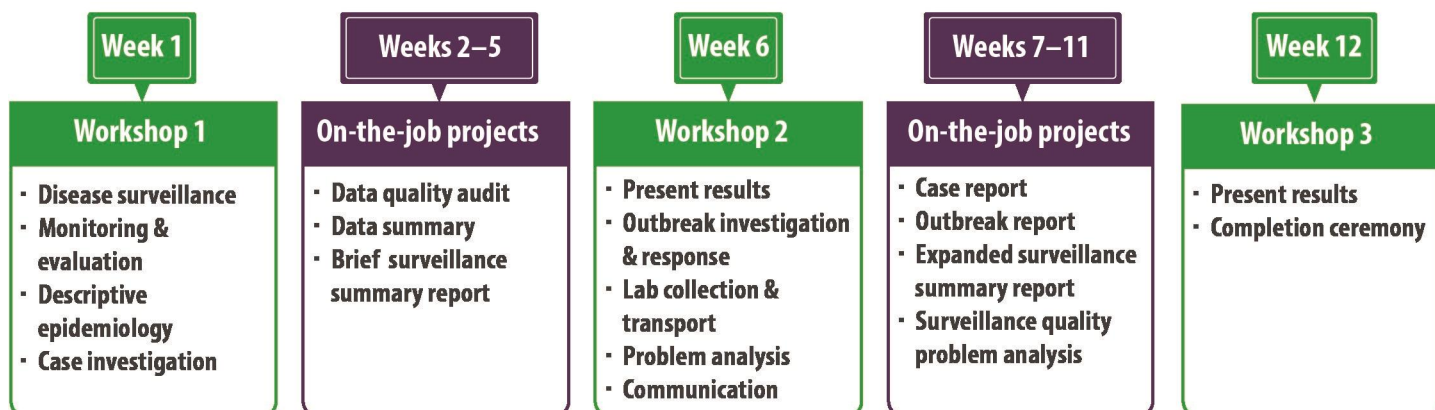
Projects include creating a report of the surveillance data routinely collected at their agency; conducting monitoring, evaluation, and feedback visits at reporting sites; performing a health problem analysis; and participating in an outbreak investigation. Trainees who successfully complete the program receive a certificate of completion signed by MOH and CDC officials.

Target audience

The target audience is public health workers on the front lines of surveillance data collection, monitoring, analysis, and response. Often, a team of public health workers from a district—including the medical officer, surveillance officer, environmental officer, or others—all attend the training.

Public health workers from the regional and national levels are also welcome to participate, particularly to gain 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.

FETP-Frontline timeline



Summary features of the three tiers of the FETP training model

	Frontline	Intermediate	Advanced
Target audience	District, regional, national	Regional, national	National
Duration	3 months	9 months	2 years
Cohort size	20–30	15–20	8–15
Part-time/full-time	Part-time	Part-time	Full-time
Awarded on completion	Certificate	Certificate	Certificate, MPH, or other Master's
Classroom time / field time	2 weeks+ / 10–12 weeks	8 weeks / 33 weeks	10–26 weeks / at least 68 weeks

FETP competencies by tier

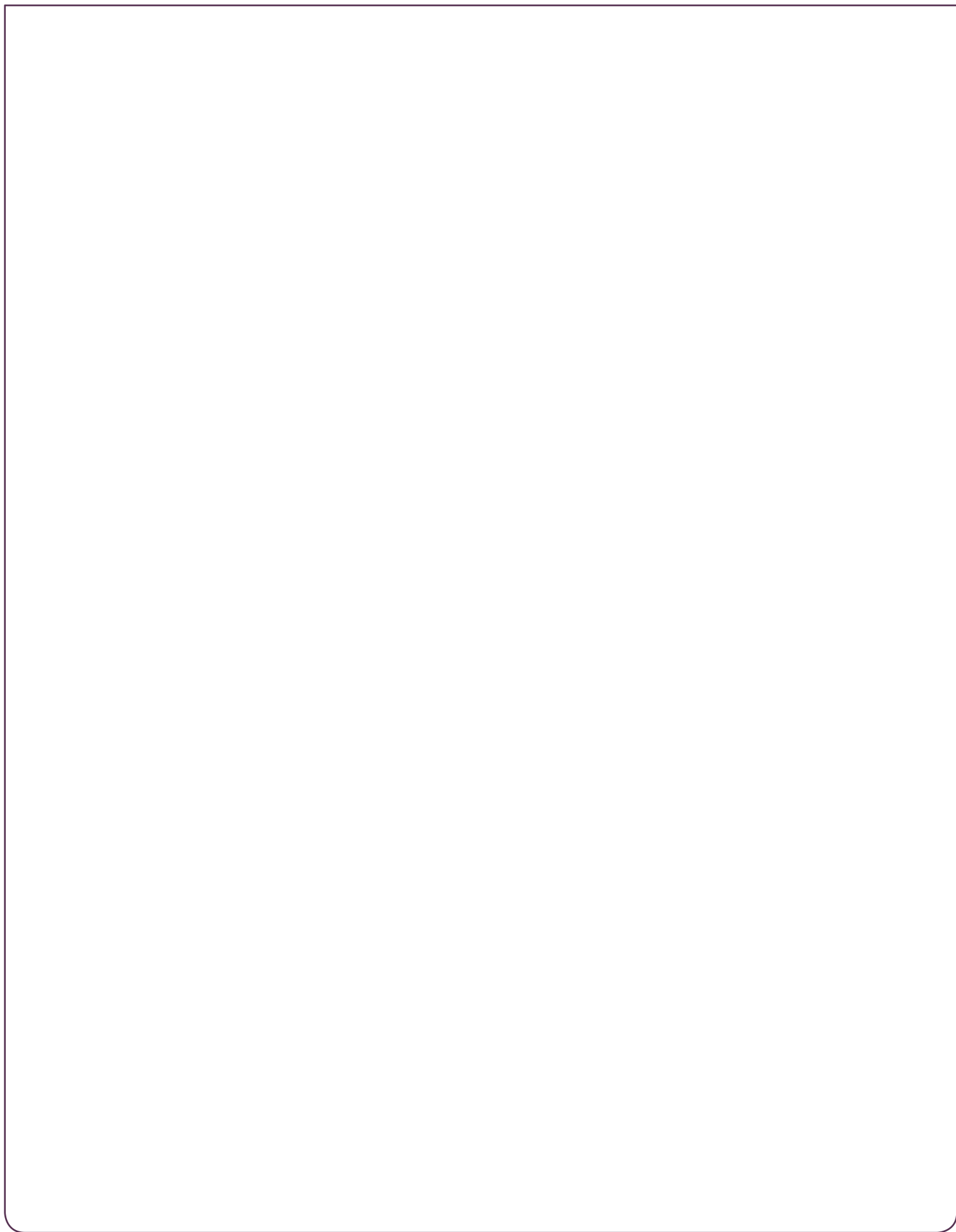
Participants' expected competencies after completion of the program

Domain	FETP-Frontline	FETP-Intermediate	FETP-Advanced
Public health surveillance	Summarize data from & monitor reporting to a local surveillance system - Summarize surveillance data using simple tables, graphs, & maps - Interpret surveillance data to identify potential outbreaks - Conduct data quality audits at surveillance reporting sources - Produce simple surveillance reports for internal use	Summarize data from & evaluate surveillance systems - Summarize surveillance data using tables, graphs, maps - Interpret surveillance data - Produce surveillance reports for external distribution - Evaluate effectiveness & performance of a surveillance system	Summarize data from & implement improvements to surveillance systems - Analyze surveillance trends & patterns - Interpret surveillance data - Produce surveillance reports & manuscripts for external distribution - Develop & implement recommendations for improving surveillance systems
Field investigation	Participate in epidemiologic field investigation - Conduct case investigations - Assist in outbreak investigations	Conduct outbreak investigations using descriptive epidemiology	Conduct (lead) outbreak investigations using analytic epidemiology
Epidemiologic methods	Summarize & interpret surveillance data - Summarize surveillance data using simple tables, graphs, maps - Interpret surveillance data to identify potential outbreaks	Design, conduct, analyze, & interpret data from descriptive epidemiologic studies - Analyze surveillance & outbreak data using descriptive epidemiology methods - Participate in the planning, conduct, & analysis of crosssectional studies - Interpret surveillance & descriptive epidemiologic data	Design, conduct, analyze, & interpret data from analytic epidemiologic studies - Design, write a protocol for, & conduct planned epidemiologic studies - Analyze data from planned studies using analytic epidemiology methods - Interpret & draw evidencebased conclusions from epidemiologic data
Scientific communication	Prepare timely surveillance reports for internal use - Produce simple surveillance reports for internal use - Develop & deliver oral presentations of work-related projects to an internal audience	Produce epidemiologic reports for external distribution - Produce surveillance reports for external distribution - Write field investigation reports - Contribute to scientific reports that uses the IMRaD structure - Develop & deliver oral presentations of work-related projects	Develop & deliver written & oral epidemiologic reports to an external audience - Produce surveillance reports for external distribution - Write field investigation reports - Write manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals - Write & submit abstracts to scientific conferences - Develop & deliver an oral presentation at a scientific conference - Develop & deliver a poster presentation at a scientific conference

For more information about FETP visit

www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/fetp

<https://www.cdc.gov/global-health/countries/sierra-leone.html>





Sierra Leone Field Epidemiology Training Program (SL-FETP)

Frontline FETP Course Application Form

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION			
Name			
Date of birth	Day:	Month:	Year:
Sex			
Email			
Phone numbers			
Official Designation			
EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION			
Are you on pin code	Yes ☐	Please indicate pin code:	No ☐
Job Responsibility			
District/Town			
Ministry			
Directorate			
Department			
Number of years in public health/government service			
INFORMATION ON APPLICANT'S IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR			
Name			
Title			
Work location			
Email			
Phone Number			
INFORMATION ON APPLICANT'S EDUCATION			
Education background (start with highest)	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
	5.		
Are you involved in surveillance activities?	Please Tick appropriate Response: Yes ☐ No ☐		
Have you been involved in national surveillance system? (IDSR, TB/Leprosy, HIV/AIDS, malaria NTDs. If yes, indicate	Yes No		





your role(s) and number of years			
List the trainings you have received in surveillance, outbreak response, contact tracing, IDSR and other public health trainings.			
List the outbreak investigations you have been involved in.	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
Number of years remaining in service			
Support for field project:	What kind of operational support do you have for your field work?	Yes	No
	a. Access to surveillance and other data		
	b. Allowed to participate in outbreak investigation		
	c. Time to complete field project		
	d. Access to computer at work		
	e. Support from supervisors for training		
	f. Willing to support others in training		
	g. Others Specify:		
	Workshops and fieldwork {Official use only}		
	Activities	Start date	End date
	Workshop 1	14/09/2026	18/09/2026
	Field work 1	21/09/2026	25/10/2026
	Workshop 2	26/10/2026	30/10/2026
	Fieldwork 2	02/11/2026	06/12/2026
	Workshop 3	08/12/2026	10/12/2026
	Graduation	11/12/2026	
Please note; If selected you will be required to attend workshops on agreed dates in Freetown			





and conduct your fieldwork/project at your workplace.	
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Motivation statement (why do you want to enroll into this program?)

Any other information can be included here:





Sierra Leone Field Epidemiology Training Program (SLFETP)

Intermediate FETP Course Application Form

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION	
Name	
Age	
Sex	
Email	
Phone numbers	
Current position	
EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION	
Job title	
District/Town	
Department / organization	
Number of years in service	
INFORMATION ON APPLICANT'S IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR	
Name	
Title	
Work location	





Email	
Phone Number	
EDUCATION	
Education background (start with most recent) Indicate Institution, year of completion and awards. Also Include area(s) of study and specialization.	
Are you currently enrolled in any academic program?	
If no, do you plan to enroll within the next one year?	
Have you been involved in national surveillance system? (IDSR, TB/Leprosy, HIV/AIDS, malaria, NTDs. If yes, indicate your role and number of years	





List the trainings you have received in surveillance, outbreak response, contact tracing, IDSR etc.			
List the outbreak investigations you have been involved in.			
State the number of years remaining in service			
Have you graduated from the Frontline FETP program?			
If yes, state the following; Cohort # Time of graduation; Month Year			
Support for field project:	What kind of operational support do you have for your field projects?	Yes	No
	a. Access to surveillance/other data		
	b. Allowed to participate in outbreak investigation		
	c. Time to complete field project		
	d. Access to computer at work		





	e. Support from supervisors for training			
	f. Willing to support others in training			
	g. Others Specify:			
Please note if selected you will be required to attend workshops on all following days in Freetown. (Note that this schedule is tentative and can be modified based on emerging events)	Workshops			
	Dates			
	Workshops	Start date	End Date	
	Workshop 1	28/09/2026	09/10/2026	
	Workshop 2	30/11/2026	11/12/2026	
	Workshop 3	15/03/2027	26/03/2027	
	Workshop 4	03/05/2027	14/05/2027	
	Workshop 5	02/08/2027	12/08/2027	





	Final Presentation/Graduation	13/08/2027	
Will you be able to attend all workshops on the above dates?	Yes	No	

Any other relevant information can be included here:





Eligibility criteria

FETP Frontline

1. **Government employee:** The applicant must be a government employee with a valid government-issued PIN code (or equivalent official identification number)
2. **Supervisor's Recommendation:** A formal letter of recommendation from the applicant's immediate supervisor is required
3. There should be a recommendation from the applicant's immediate supervisor
4. **Target Professional Background:** Health/Environment/Agriculture workers at the district and sub-district level responsible for data management and surveillance, etc.
5. **Specific Job Roles:** Applicants must be currently serving in a public health role at the national, district, or sub-district level
6. **Educational Qualification:** Can be a diploma or a degree, depending on the role, FETP-Light certificate is an added advantage
7. **Computer Literacy:** Applicant should have basic computer skills
8. **Commitment & Support:** Must be able to commit to the 3-month training period

FETP Intermediate

1. **Government employee:** The applicant must be a government employee with a valid government-issued PIN code (or equivalent official identification number)
2. **Supervisor's Recommendation:** A formal letter of recommendation from the applicant's immediate supervisor is required
3. **Target Professional Background:** Public health professionals with a higher degree (e.g., in medicine, veterinary science, public health)
4. **Specific Job Roles:** Often requires at least 2 years of experience in public health, including responsibilities like outbreak investigation or program evaluation





5. **Prior FETP Training:** Completion of the FETP Frontline training is often an added advantage
6. **Educational Qualification:** An undergraduate degree (License/Bachelor's) is typically the minimum requirement
7. **Computer Literacy:** Competency in computer skills (e.g., Word, Excel) is required
8. **Commitment & Support:** Must have employer/supervisors' support and agree to remain in a public health role for a set period after graduation (e.g., 2-5 years)

Applicant(s) must complete the application form that is accompanying this notice and be sent together **with an updated curriculum vitae (CV)** to all the emails provided below **before 6:00 pm, DD/MM/, 2026**. All emails should be sent to; salonefetsp@gmail.com with the following personalities copied;

1. Gebrekrstos Negash (ggebru@afenet.net)
2. Alhaji Amara Sheriff amaraalhaji1970@gmail.com
3. Solomon Sogbeh solomonkogbeh@gmail.com

(District based staff are highly encouraged to apply).

Please note the following information on the training timelines;

- **FETP Frontline – 3 Months**
- **FETP Intermediate – 9 – 11 Months**

Kindly let us know if you need further information.

