

INTRODUCING THE FIRST GLOBAL FETP HEALTH INFORMATICS CURRICULUM

A Global Milestone in Public Health Training

The Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) has been implemented in over **90 countries** and trained over **22,000 public health professionals** with essential epidemiology skills needed to address and respond to public health emergencies. With the rapid advancement of digital technologies, data are becoming more digitized, integrated, and accessible. FETP trainees must develop informatics competencies to efficiently collect, analyze, interpret, and use health data in an increasingly digital world.

Sierra Leone hosts the validation workshop for the first global FETP Health Informatics curriculum, a groundbreaking initiative designed to equip public health professionals with critical informatics skills. This curriculum represents a transformative step in addressing the demands of digital health systems, disease surveillance, outbreak investigations, and evidence-based decision-making.

Why the FETP Health Informatics Curriculum Matters

The rapid evolution of public health systems, driven by the influx of data and emerging technologies, has created an urgent need for field epidemiologists skilled in health informatics. The new curriculum aims to:

- **Empower public health professionals with advanced data collection, analysis, and visualization skills.**
- **Prepare trainees to manage and use digital platforms for disease surveillance and response.**
- **Bridge existing gaps in the FETP curriculum to address emerging technological challenges.**



The Development Journey

The curriculum is the result of a global collaboration led by the US CDC, with significant contributions from:

■ **University of Washington**

■ **Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

■ **AFENET**

■ **University of California San Francisco**

■ **Sierra Leone's FETP Faculty, who played an instrumental role in shaping the curriculum to ensure its applicability to the African context and beyond.**



Over the past 11 months, the curriculum has undergone extensive development, including:

■ **Close collaboration with Sierra Leone's FETP faculty, leveraging their on-the-ground expertise and practical insights.**

■ **In-person curriculum review workshop in Atlanta with FETP staff from pilot countries and CDC experts in FETP and informatics.**

■ **Multiple virtual reviews with subject matter experts.**

■ **Consultative in-person meetings with FETP representatives from around the world**

Sierra Leone's Leadership



Sierra Leone's accredited FETP program, recognized by TEPHINET for excellence, has been at the forefront of public health transformation. Key achievements include:

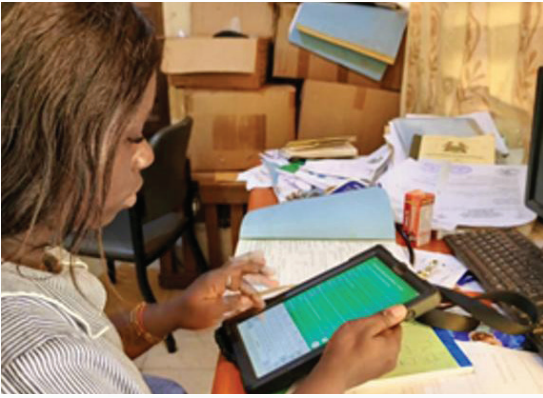
■ **Transitioning to electronic disease surveillance systems.**

■ **Leading responses to health emergencies such as COVID-19 and anthrax outbreaks.**

■ **Training over 400 public health professionals through various FETP tiers.**

Because of its exemplary contributions and leadership, Sierra Leone was chosen as the host nation for this global validation workshop.

Workshop Objectives



The workshop, scheduled for December 2–6, 2024, in Freetown, will:

- *Field-test the curriculum with FETP intermediate cohorts from Sierra Leone.*
- *Validate and refine the global FETP Health Informatics curriculum.*
- *Train global and local professionals in advanced informatics practices for integration into public health systems worldwide.*

Global Collaboration

This workshop will bring together experts and participants from:

- *Sierra Leone FETP faculty, intermediate fellows, and alumni*
- *University of California at San Francisco*
- *Eastern Europe and Central Asia*
- *AFENET*
- *University of Washington*



- *KENYA*
- *US CDC*

Desired Outcomes



This initiative highlights Sierra Leone's leadership in global public health and positions the nation as a hub for innovation in field epidemiology and informatics. The desired outcome of this curriculum will influence the integration of health informatics into the global FETP training programs thereby contributing to a stronger, more digitally integrated public health systems worldwide.