

Title: West Africa Health Organization Consultative Workshop on Drafting the Regional Field Epidemiology Workforce Development Strategic Plan

Background: Effective prevention, detection and response to public health emergencies (PHES) such as the recent COVID-19 pandemic in a timely manner requires adequate numbers of skilled and competent human workforce at all level of the health sector. As such, World Health Organization recommends at least one (1) advanced or intermediate level field epidemiologist per 200,000 population for effective epidemic preparedness and response. Appropriate Capacity building is therefore critical to ensure skilled public health workforce available. Countries in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS region) continue to experience emerging and reemerging zoonoses due to increasing human-animal interaction. Strengthening the capacity of health workers to effectively and appropriately implement surveillance of these zoonoses and other priority health conditions to facilitate rapid detection and monitoring of these PHE trends in the region remains a priority for the West Africa Health Organization (WAHO).

WAHO through its Regional Centre for Disease Surveillance and Control (RCDS), in collaboration with the US CDC and AFENET has organized a consultative meeting for key stakeholders to inform the drafting of the Regional Field Epidemiology Workforce Development Strategic Plan

Workshop Objectives:

- Discuss the situational analysis of FETP in ECOWAS countries (needs assessment, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; lessons learned from best practices and best practices from recent public health emergencies).
- Discuss regional strategic axes and key intervention activities to be included in the WAHO strategic plan.
- Build consensus on the next steps (roadmap) for the development of the ECOWAS strategic plan for FELTP.

Workshop Scope: This workshop will draw on the expertise of participants to promote knowledge sharing and collaboration between the 15 ECOWAS countries and experts involved in workforce Development. The workshop will look at effective strategies for improving FETP training in the ECOWAS region, and for integrating cost and sustainability considerations

Workshop Approaches: on the workshop will be through PPT presentations and discussions with all stakeholders. To achieve our objectives, discussions, group work will be carried out with all stakeholders. We will utilize PowerPoint slides to illustrate our deliverables.. Translation will be available in three languages (French, English and Portuguese).

Duration of workshop: half-day (afternoon)

Target Participants: The target audience for this session includes:

- ✓ FETP program directors, Resident's advisors, Field Coordinators and Mentors from the ECOWAS member states.

- ✓ FETP partners and participants who have previously participated in the Workforce Strategic Developments discussions are also encouraged to attend.
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Number of participants: 40

Source of funding: US CDC through WAHO

Requirements: projector, flip charts, internet,

Facilitators & Co-Facilitators name:

- Marianne Laurent Comlan, RCSDC
- Dr Aishat Bukola Usman, RCSDC
- Dr Lionel Sogbossi, RCSDC
- Dr Virgil Lokossou, RCSDC
- Dr Kerton Victory, CDC
- Dr Peter Thomas, CDC
- Chace Lesley, CDC