Field Epidemiology Training Program, Bangladesh (FETP,B)

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Objectives

• Introduction to FETPs
• Services provided by FETPs
• Describe overall plans for FETP,B
• Accomplishments and current activities
• Concluding thoughts
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Introduction to FETPs

• What is an FETP?
  – Definition: Training and service program in applied epidemiology and public health that builds public health systems capacity

• Key factors
  – Provides service to Ministries of Health
  – Training competency-based (ability to demonstrate specific skills)
  – Builds systems capacity
Introduction to FETPs

• History of FETPs
  – Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) established in 1951
  – Success prompted establishment of first FETP in Canada in 1970
  – As of 2010, over 41 FETPs have been established and >2,300 trainees from over 61 countries have graduated from the training
Introduction to FETPs

• Provide in-depth, hands-on training in the field in
  – Detection
  – Surveillance
  – Response
  – Analysis
  – Prevention

→ Dealing with high priority public health problems
Required Competencies

• Epidemiologic methods
  1) Conduct epidemiologic studies that improve public health
  2) Respond to outbreaks

• Biostatistics
  3) Analyze data using appropriate methods

• Surveillance
  4) Manage or evaluate a surveillance system
Required competencies (cont.)

• Laboratory and biosafety
  5) Use laboratories to support epidemiologic studies

• Communication
  6) Develop written communications
  7) Develop and deliver oral communications
Additional competencies

• Management and leadership
  8) Manage a field project, staff, and resources
  9) Be an effective team leader and member, including managing personnel responsibilities

• Teaching and mentoring
  10) Teaching and mentoring public health professionals
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Services Provided by Trainees

• Outbreak investigation
• Strengthening surveillance systems: evaluations, managing ongoing or new systems, training local health staff
• Increased visibility and demonstrated use of surveillance data through scientific publications
Services Provided by Trainees

- Consultation on epidemiologic methods
- Training in surveillance and outbreak response for District and Upazilla health workers
- Strengthening the national public health bulletin
Services That Will Be Provided by Graduates

- Strengthened response to outbreaks and disasters
- Strengthened scientific basis for program and policy decisions
- Strengthened surveillance systems
- Strengthened communication of epidemiologic information
- Enhanced core capacity to meet surveillance and response requirements under the revised International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005)
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Overall Plans for FETP,B

- Modeled after successful FETPs worldwide
- 2-year training program in applied epidemiology
- Led by the Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), with support from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Resident Advisor
Overall Plans for FETP,B (cont.)

- Trainees selected using performance during screening course, written test, and interview
- Initial focus on experienced government physicians
  - Will include veterinarians, laboratorians, and others in near future
  - Will include District or Upazilla public health staff as national capacity is built
Overall Plans for FETP,B (cont.)

- Trainees spend ~20% in a classroom and ~80% in a field placement
- Mentors may include Resident Advisor and IEDCR, other MOHFW, or ICDDR,B colleagues
- FETP seeking affiliation with a university to provide teaching support and to confer degree (e.g., Masters of Applied Epidemiology) upon completion of FETP
Goals for FETP,B

- About 60-85% of graduates will continue to work at MOHFW following completion of FETP
- Graduates will become future FETP mentors, FETP program directors, and MOHFW epidemiology experts
- Increase mentor pool over time
- Obtain a self-sustained FETP over the next 6-8 years
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FETP,B Accomplishments to Date

- FETP needs and public health capacity assessment conducted in 2008
- Funding identified in 2012
- CDC Resident Advisor hired in July 2012
- Stakeholders’ Meeting held and hosted by IEDCR in September 2012
- CDC Resident Advisor arrived in January 2013
FETP,B Current Efforts

• Partnership with a university being sought to grant degree to graduates
• FETP program staff being recruited
• Curricula for a screening course and the first in-classroom didactic contact session being developed
• FETP residents to be recruited in February 2013
FETP,B Current Efforts

• Screening course to determine first cohort of trainees expected in March 2013
• The first cohort expected to launch in July 2013
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Concluding Thoughts

- Would you, someone you know, or someone who works for you be a government physician who would:
  - Benefit from rigorous, hands-on training in outbreak investigation, surveillance, analysis, and presentation skills?
  - Be interested in tackling some of the exciting high-impact public health issues facing the country?
  - Have use for an enhanced international network of public health colleagues?
Concluding Thoughts

• Then being a TRAINEE in the FETP,B might be the right opportunity for you or your colleague!

• Contact:
  – Prof. Mahmudur Rahman, Director, IEDCR
  – Shua Chai, FETP,B Resident Advisor, SC404ATL@gmail.com
Concluding Thoughts

• Do you, someone you know, or someone who works for you:
  – Have several years of field epidemiology experience (outbreak investigation, surveillance, etc.) AND a public health degree of at least an MPH?
  – Have interest and time (at least 10% of their time) to be an FETP mentor?
  – Have mentorship, teaching, and publication experience?
Concluding Thoughts

• Then being a MENTOR for the FETP,B might be the right opportunity for you or your colleague!

• Contact:
  – Prof. Mahmudur Rahman, Director, IEDCR
  – Shua Chai, FETP,B Resident Advisor, SC404ATL@gmail.com
THANK YOU

• FETP resources
  – FETP overall: http://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/fetp
  – FETP implementation tools: http://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/FETP/fetpimplementation.htm

• Questions
  – Shua Chai, SC404ATL@gmail.com
EXTRA SLIDES
Additional public health competencies (cont.)

- Prevention effectiveness
  14) Apply simple tools for economic analysis

- Computer technology
  15) Use computers for specific public health practice applications
Additional competencies (cont.)

• Prevention effectiveness
  11) Apply simple tools for economic analysis

• Computer technology
  12) Use computers for specific public health practice applications
FE(L)TPs and Other Applied Epi Programs (Current and In Development)

- CDC-supported
- CDC-supported, in development
- Independent with CDC-supported Special Projects
- Independent, formerly CDC-supported
- Independent, formed without FETP support

as of August 2011