African Union

AFRICA CDC
Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
Safeguarding Africa's Health

Call for Application: MORTALITY SURVEILLANCE E-LEARNING COURSE

Vision
Equip member states with the needed 'Mortality Surveillance' knowledge and skills to develop, implement and evaluate an evidence-based health policy

Goal
To provide member states with a basic understanding of the importance of mortality data, how to set up mortality surveillance system and introduce various approaches to collecting mortality data as outlined by the continental framework.

Objectives
- To provide officers involved in the mortality surveillance system with the specific technical skillset needed to develop and better manage and implement the mortality surveillance system in their respective countries, e.g. how to collect data in a more effective and efficient manner and how to utilize data in an optimal manner for evidence-based policy making and program design.
- To equip officers involved in the mortality surveillance system with the needed understanding and knowledge related to mortality data, its management and interpretation, e.g. to know and understand what needs to be done and to make use of data for real-time decision making.

Course Modules
- Overview of Mortality Surveillance
- Introduction to Civil Registration And
- Vital Statistics
- Strategic Considerations and Recommendations for Establishing Mortality Surveillance System
- Steps in Setting Up Mortality Surveillance System (Part 1 and 2)
- Description of the Distribution and Causes of Mortality
- Detection of Death Events: Data Sources and Methods
- Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD)
- Verbal Autopsy (VA)
- Mortality Data Analysis (Part 1 and 2)
- Mortality Data Quality Assessment
- Monitoring And Evaluation of Mortality Surveillance
- System

Apply at this link: bit.ly/3LWNfVz

How was this course developed?

The course was developed by Africa CDC in partnership with Vital Strategies and AFENET. The initial training materials were developed by a group of experts from Africa CDC, WHO AFRO, UNECA and US CDC; and validated by representatives form African Union Member States in meeting held in Kampala-Uganda in April 2022. The modules underwent a series of reviews by subject matter experts from Africa CDC, US CDC and John Hopkins University. Additional in-depth reviews and validation were undertaken by representatives from African countries who convened twice in Rwanda in August 2022 to review BATCH 1 and in December 2022 in Namibia to review BATCH 2.

A consultant was engaged to convert the materials into an interactive and constructive online format.

What is needed to complete this course successfully?

To complete the course and to be illegible for the course completion certificate there are a set of conditions or requirements that need to be met:

1. **Self-paced modules:**

a) You need to undertake all seven modules of BATCH 1 to be eligible for the Course Completion certificate.

b) You need to undertake all the six modules of BATCH 2 to be eligible for the 'ADVANCED COURSE' Completion certificate.

c) For each of the modules, there is an indicated average time that is needed for the module. Some modules need an average of 60 minutes and others 90 minutes to complete. Please devote that time and focus.

d) You will need a stable internet connection throughout the time of the module that can only be undertaken when connected to the internet.

e) Note: You will only be able to access the knowledge assessment if you open the slides.

f)) You need to score at least 80% in to complete a module. All questions and activities are graded, except those that are marked as 'Reflective Questions'; those are designed to trigger reflective and critical thinking.

g) Don't worry, if you do not score 80% the first time, you will be provided with unlimited times to redo the questions.

h) If you do not complete the module in one session, the program will resume where you have stopped.

2. **Synchronous face to face engagements:**

a) Those engagements might be organized in person or via a synchronous channel, e.g. Blue Button. You need to watch for the announcements for those sessions.

b). You need to attend at least three sessions out of the five that will be organized during each BATCH.

c) Do not forget to come to those sessions prepared. The assignments and/or questions that you will need to work on prior to the session are clearly highlighted on the platform.

Why this course now?

Reliable and timely information on cause-specific mortality data is a critical part of identifying emerging health problems and a fundamental component of evidence-based health policy development, implementation, and evaluation. The Africa Union, through Africa CDC, is developing tools to guide the measurement of the population-level impact of global epidemics like Covid-19, and public health risks, for effective responses. As a result, a need for continuous and sustainable skills development on mortality surveillance for member states has been prioritized.

The World Health Organization (WHO) Score Assessment conducted in 2016 and 2019, indicated limited capacity on mortality surveillance among the Member States. At the same time, regional consultations by Africa CDC highlighted the need to standardize the mortality surveillance and enhance coordination and governance of integrated mortality surveillance.

To address these challenges and assist member states in building capacity to meet the demand for mortality data, Africa CDC in partnership with Vital Strategies developed a blended course on the mortality surveillance based on the 'Mortality Surveillance Continental Framework' components hosted on the Africa CDC website. This course provides member states with a basic understanding of the importance of mortality data and introduces various approaches to collecting and analysing mortality data as outlined by the continental framework.