

Project 1. Laboratory based surveillance for communicable disease in Malawi

Date supported: June 2016

Description of project:



Malawi is a small East African country with significant healthcare challenges, especially from communicable (infectious) disease. Laboratory medicine services are in need of development and external agencies, including IFCC, are helping to build an appreciation of the importance of quality. Education and training of laboratory technologists to degree level is being expanded and it is hoped to introduce higher level training in the near future.

The FEN has approved an application from the Malawi Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (MAMLS) to support two laboratory scientists to receive laboratory-based disease surveillance training at the 'amref health Africa' headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The training course aims to build capacity of laboratory staff in the implementation of laboratory-based surveillance and public health actions, based on the evidence from laboratory data. The course provides skills and competence of laboratory personnel to collect, analyse, and use laboratory surveillance data for early detection and response to disease outbreaks and other events of public health importance.

On completion of their training the two scientists will develop training materials, which will be promoted and made available to clinical laboratories throughout Malawi.

This project is supported by the Ministry of Health in Malawi and is a good example of collaboration in the interests of improving public health.

Date project completed:

Project report and outcome: