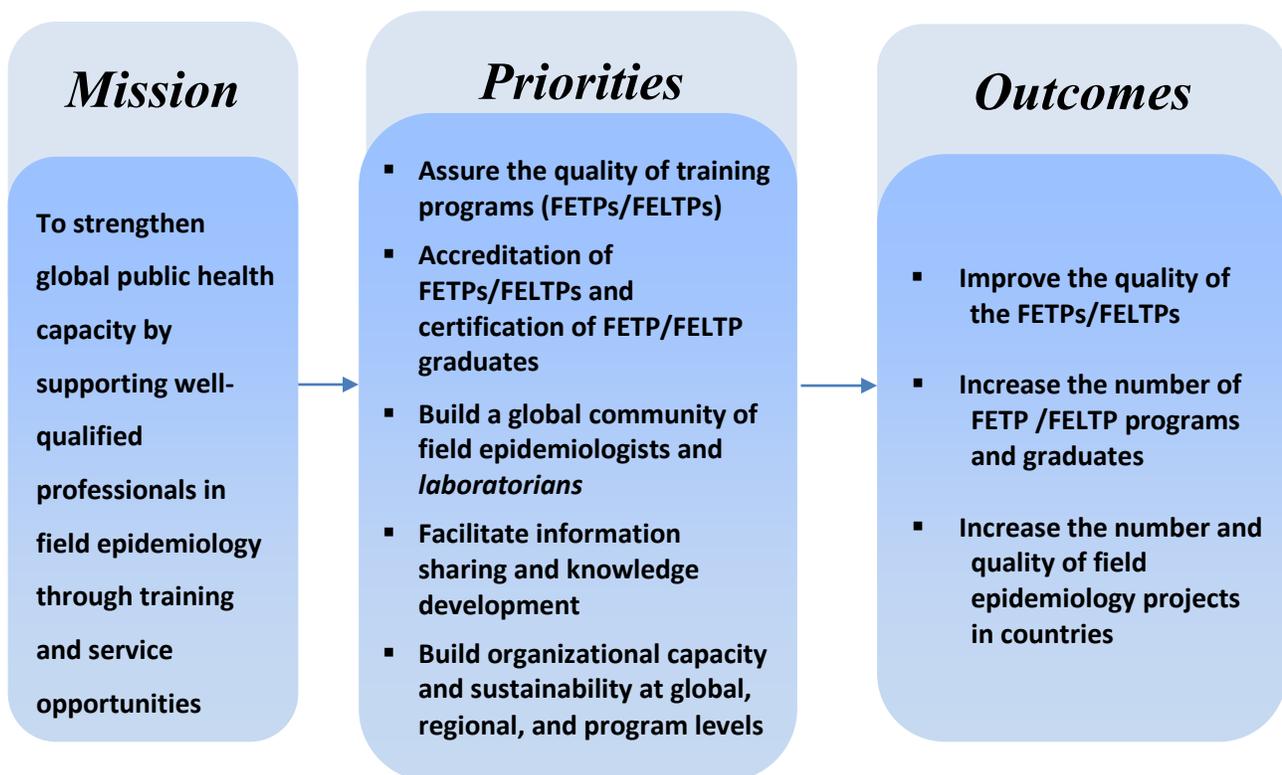


## History and Purpose of Accreditation

Created in 1997, TEPHINET is a global professional network of 65 Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs) with public health professionals participating from more than 90 countries; however, new FETPs join the global network every year. The programs provide instrumental support to Ministries of Health in field epidemiology, public health surveillance, and emergency response, and ultimately strengthen the global capacity of public health professionals to control, detect, and prevent disease.

TEPHINET's vision is to improve people's health through a global network dedicated to quality training in applied epidemiology and public health practice. Its mission is to strengthen global public health capacity by supporting well-qualified professionals in field epidemiology through training, service, and networking opportunities. Please refer to the logic model at [tephinet.org](http://tephinet.org) for a visualization of TEPHINET's activities and expected outcomes as a global network. Below is a depiction of TEPHINET's strategic priority areas that align with its overall mission.



## **Basis for FETP Accreditation**

The consensus reached by TEPHINET programs on these strategic priorities, and more specifically on the quality assurance and accreditation of FETPs, derives from their common goal of increasing quality of in-service training through a continuing process of self-evaluation.

Overall, accreditation is viewed by the global network as an opportunity to better align with the World Health Organization (WHO) priorities and some common values that can help programs increase recognition and prestige as well as be a valuable resource to support specific country public health priorities. Accreditation is also important in supporting the quality and sustainability of the programs.

After several years of collaboration among TEPHINET programs and its partners, the **Pilot Phase TEPHINET Accreditation Manual for Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs)** (TEPHINET, May 2012) was approved in 2011. The manual incorporated input from other FETP publications and tools including; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Field Epidemiology Training Program Development Handbook (CDC, 2006), TEPHINET Continuous Quality Improvement Manual<sup>1</sup> (Board, 2005), the Scorecard Self-Assessment (CDC, Matrix Tool for FETP Assessment , 2010), TEPHINET Survey evaluation (R Subramanian, 2013), and the CDC Multi-Site FETP Evaluation Project (D Jones, 2014).

During the November 2012 TEPHINET Program Directors (PDs) meeting, the report of the Pilot of Accreditation supported by four volunteer programs (U.S. EIS, Brazil, Zimbabwe and Vietnam FETPs) was discussed; as a result of the discussion, the Accreditation Working Group (AWG) was formed. The AWG was tasked with updating and providing technical oversight of the accreditation process and standards.

## **Purpose of Accreditation**

The overall purpose of accreditation is to contribute to the increase of:

- The quality of FETPs and their involvement and effectiveness in supporting country public health priorities (by reviewing their achievements and progress toward the minimum standards for accreditation)
- Global field epidemiology capacity
- Recognition of FETPs as key partners within countries, regions, and around the globe