

# Emerging Pandemic Threats Program

PREDICT • RESPOND • PREVENT • IDENTIFY



## RESPOND

### SUCCESS STORY – AFRICA

#### Expanding One Health Knowledge: Veterinary Field Epidemiology Program Attracts International Donors and Graduates First Cohort



*“This program equipped me with not only theoretical skills but practical skills as well.”*

Dr. Fred Monje, the first MVPPM (vet epi) student to graduate in January 2014

**January 2014, Uganda.** In order to strengthen human capital in field epidemiology and promote the direct application of the One Health approach, a consortium was brought together in 2011 to initiate a two year applied veterinary epidemiology training track within a Masters of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (MVPM) program. Makerere University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-security (COVAB), in collaboration with the Africa Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) and the Uganda Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), began designing a track in disease detection and control at the national level. The track was designed to integrate One Health competency-based training with hands-on skills needed to address challenges faced in the field.

Since its approval by the university senate, this program has since experienced phenomenal growth and global recognition. To foster its expansion the program attracted funding from international donors. It gained USAID funding through OHCEA (One Health Central and Eastern Africa) to support a second cohort of 12 students, two from each OHCEA member country, who joined the program in early 2013. Further, COVAB attracted additional grant funding over five years from the Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development (NORHED). The grant objective is to build capacity in zoonosis by enabling the students to pursue the MVPM program in a field epidemiology track. The grant supports six students from Uganda, Zambia, and South Sudan to join the program so that the national goals of the program can reach more countries.

The first cohort of the innovative MVPM Veterinary Epidemiology track graduated in January 2014 ready to deploy their One Health oriented skills in the field. The second cohort of students is already developing proposals to collect data for their dissertations. With expanded funding and increasing enrollments, the program is a positive contribution to efforts that strengthen One Health training and educational programs. Graduates and students will be able to continue to support governments, universities, and civil society organizations as they improve their capacity to respond to zoonotic and emerging infectious disease outbreaks using an interdisciplinary One Health approach.