

## RESPOND

# SUCCESS STORY: EAST CONGO



***AFENET students and mentors sponsored presented posters and attended the One Health workshop co-sponsored by RESPOND.***

### ***RESPOND supports AFENET's 4<sup>th</sup> Scientific Conference in Tanzania***

Promoting their field epidemiology and laboratory training programs (FELTPs) as a platform for public health systems strengthening, the African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) celebrated its fifth birthday at its 4<sup>th</sup> scientific conference in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from December 11-16, 2011. The EPT RESPOND project, one of AFENET's strongest supporters provided funding for 50 FELTP residents and their mentors to attend the conference.

RESPOND also co-hosted a One Health workshop during the conference, which brought together more than 80 participants actively engaged in learning how to employ One Health concepts and approaches. Presentation at the workshop, entitled 'Public Health Surveillance for Mass Gatherings', included an overview of the public health surveillance at the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, the 2011 Martyrs Day celebrations in Uganda, and an overview of surveillance at mass gatherings from the WHO Health Security Interface. Even though it was a long day of activities at the conference, most workshop participants remained engaged in discussions until late in the evening.

During the workshop, RESPOND's senior technical officer, Dr. Douglas Hatch, and regional technical lead from University of Minnesota, Dr. Mac Farnham, met with AFENET director, Dr. David Mukanga to discuss senior level technical support, mentoring program development, and monitoring and evaluation of outbreak response related activities. The director expressed appreciation for the strategic partnership that has developed between AFENET and RESPOND in the past two years.

Several of the conference participants RESPOND sponsored to attend the meeting presented posters and oral presentations on their respective work in investigating epidemics and other public health issues.