Global Preparedness: Disease Knows No Borders

An outbreak that starts in another country can reach the United States in a matter of hours. For this reason, CDC works to prepare and protect people in the United States and around the world.

Why it Matters

In today’s connected world, a disease can travel anywhere in as little as 36 hours. A disease threat anywhere is a disease threat everywhere. CDC must help make sure countries have the capability to detect and respond to threats and prevent outbreaks.

Health Security: CDC’s work is helping countries improve their ability to prevent, detect, and respond to major health threats.

Life-Saving Science: CDC is a trusted global health expert solving problems through science and collaboration.

Maximizing Health Impact: CDC works in more than 60 countries in a combined effort to stop disease at its source.

Eliminating Disease: CDC implements flagship programs to reduce the highest burden disease threats in the world, saving lives.

Building Local Capacity: CDC works with global partners to build sustainable technical expertise to stop outbreaks where they start.
Why CDC?

CDC works to protect the United States from various public health threats and helps organizations around the world to meet International Health Regulation standards for global health security. CDC shares its subject matter expertise with other countries to help them prevent, detect, and respond to outbreaks.

Expertise
CDC works with countries to improve their ability to prepare for and respond to public health emergencies.

Training
CDC offers country leaders special training in public health emergency management.

Connection
CDC’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) receives information about potential public health emergencies of international concern. The EOC determines who to notify to respond to the threat.

Evaluation
CDC works with world partners to assess how prepared countries are to prevent, detect, and respond to threats.

Expertise, On the Ground

In Japan, PHEM alumnus Dr. Jun Sugihara serves as the Incident Manager for the COVID-19 response. He uses skills learned in PHEM training, like Incident Action Planning, to record overall response goals and mission. Incident Action Planning helps his leadership stay updated on effective response operations.

Drs. John Oladejo, Olaolu Aderinola, and Womi-Eteng Oboma Eteng manage the response at the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control. Dr. Womi-Eteng Oboma Eteng also serves on the Africa CDC COVID-19 Response Task Force. He leads Global PHEM webinars and Community of Practice meetings.

Dr. Brice Bicaba leads the EOC in Burkina Faso. He and his PHEM colleagues conducted a national PHEM workshop for district and local Ministry of Health staff. Participants learned how to prepare for outbreaks.

Dr. Malick Kone leads the EOC in Mali. He consults often with his Division of Emergency Operations Emergency Management Technical Advisor and PHEM alumni in the region for support.

CDC’s Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) Fellowship began in 2013. Since then, PHEM has graduated 142 public health professionals from more than 35 countries. Graduates are using what they’ve learned to help manage their nations’ COVID-19 responses.