

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability

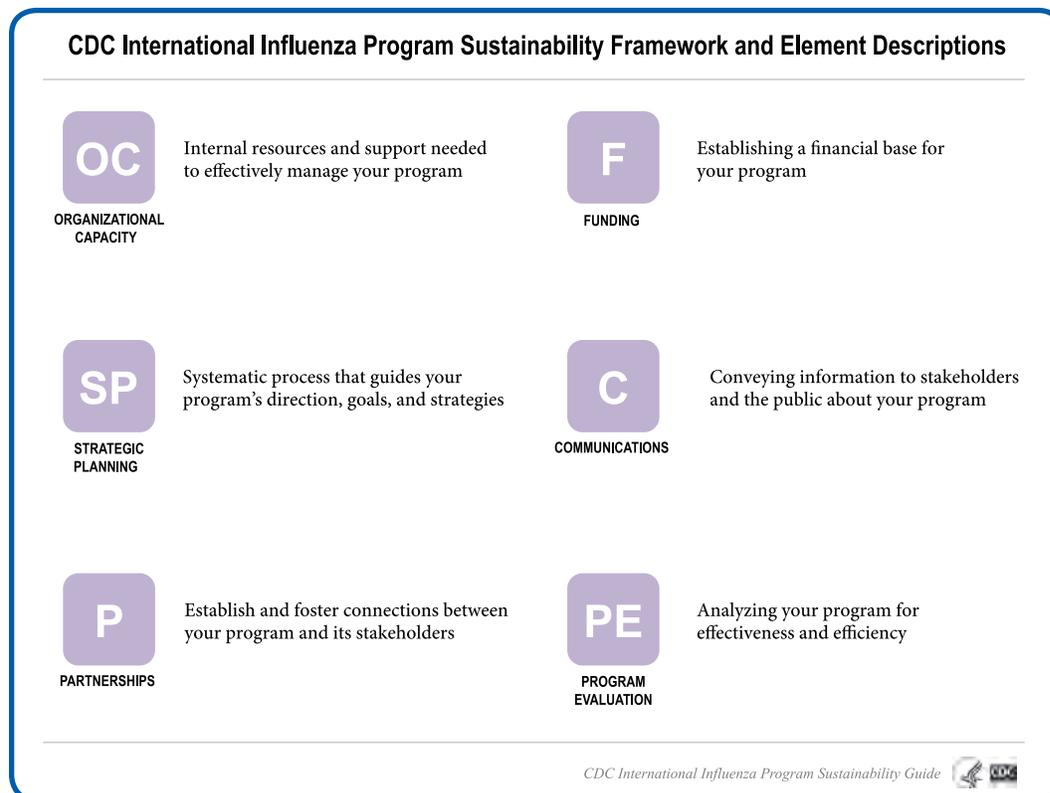
Sustainability can be defined as a country’s ongoing maintenance and support of a routine virologic and epidemiologic influenza surveillance system including the capacity to financially maintain the system or a portion of the system.

When countries transition from the capacity-building phase to the sustainability phase, they are asked to develop and implement a plan for influenza surveillance initiated or enhanced during the capacity-building phase. The plan should be reviewed annually or as changes occur.

Developing such a sustainability plan is a critical part of the transition to a sustainable system. A written plan can provide overarching guidance for your initiative. A plan can help an organization:

- Sustain systems using government funds.
- Obtain input and agreement from key stakeholders (i.e. MOH, WHO, etc.).
- Make the best use of human capital, funding and other resources to achieve your objectives.
- Develop strategies for long-term success.

To assist grantees with their plans, CDC’s Influenza Division developed the International Influenza Program Sustainability Guide and Framework (Guide). The Guide consists of six elements: Program Capacity, Strategic Planning, Partnerships, Funding, Communications, and Program Evaluation. These elements provide the framework for sustainability planning and implementation.



Sustainability Framework and Element Descriptions for CDC’s International Influenza Program.

Some expectations of sustainability include:

- Country ownership and investing in country-led plans (Global Health Initiative).
- Aligning goals with national priorities.
- Developing and implementing sustainability plans with a detailed budget to fully assume responsibilities and funding for robust and timely routine surveillance systems for seasonal, novel and pandemic influenza.
- Ensuring systems have the ability for rapid detection of and response to potential pandemic influenza as well as for monitoring the occurrence and assessing the impact of seasonal influenza in the country.
- Maintaining or making progress towards having an active World Health Organization (WHO) National Influenza Center (NIC) laboratory and contribute regularly to the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS).

Sustainability should be discussed continuously and plans updated as things change so countries can develop surveillance networks that will continue after USG funding ends and provide the necessary data to accurately identify and track potential public health issues.

