

# CDC's Sustainable Management Development Program

## *Advancing Global Health Leadership and Management*

Important health initiatives can fall short of their goals when leadership is weak and skilled management and strong organizational systems are lacking. The World Health Organization (WHO) and other global health organizations are emphasizing the importance of leadership and management to develop and sustain successful health initiatives. These elements are needed to leverage limited resources and design targeted, effective programs that address the most urgent health needs and improve the health and lives of individuals.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is dedicated to strengthening health systems globally through improved public health leadership and management. We engage, develop, and support health leaders by building country capacity to achieve lasting health improvements, developing strong partnerships, providing strategic leadership, and advancing the science base through applied research and evaluation.

### **Building country capacity to achieve lasting health improvements**

CDC's leadership and management capacity building programs develop the competencies and capabilities of individuals, organizations, partnerships, and systems. With technical assistance from CDC, countries assess their management capabilities, address quality standards, and take action to implement policies and practices that improve organizational performance. We encourage country leaders to engage stakeholders as we tackle their challenges together. At the national and district levels, we support the development of practical management skills using classroom-based and online-based training, field-based learning, mentoring, and coaching. Those skills can be applied directly to address current health priorities. By demonstrating how to transfer these skills to other health challenges a country may face, we help develop effective and flexible managers.

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### **Developing strong partnerships and providing strategic leadership**

Our work in strategic partnerships and leadership leverages wide-ranging expertise from across CDC and other organizations. We work closely with global health leaders, such as WHO, to bring their experience and wisdom to our global engagements. We are strong advocates for good management policies and practices and their application to public health programs and services.

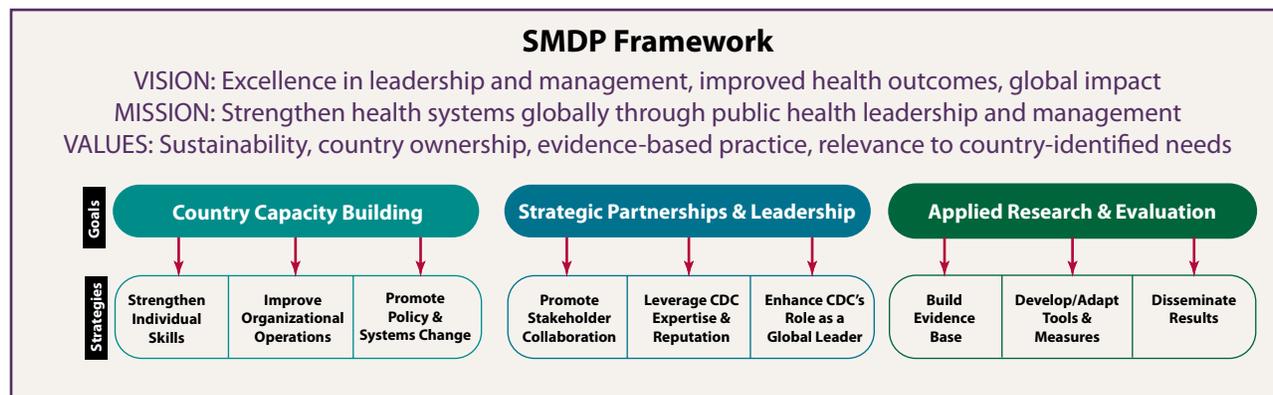


Lack of management skills appears to be the single most important barrier to improving health throughout the world.

*William H. Foege, Former CDC Director 2010*

## Advancing the evidence base through applied research and evaluation

CDC is respected worldwide for its public health expertise and epidemiological research. From promoting maternal and child health to preventing infectious diseases to strengthening laboratory systems, CDC's knowledge, experience, and global reach are vital for improving health outcomes. CDC also draws upon management science and research from the public and private sectors, as well as managers' experiences in the United States and around the world, to inform its global health work. As we build the evidence base for effective public health management, we are also finding ways to evaluate and tailor approaches so that they are appropriate to the cultures, traditions, and resources of the countries with which we work. We are developing tools and measures that can be used anywhere and be shared with our global partners.



## Program Successes

The global health benefits of these systems-strengthening efforts are evident in our successes. Since 1992, CDC has trained 379 fellows from 65 developing countries in public health management competencies including program planning, project management, process improvement, and performance management. With our alumni we have established seven country management and leadership training programs which in turn have trained more than 3,000 health managers.

In many countries in which CDC has worked, improvements in management capacity have resulted in more efficient processes which pay health dividends. For example, in support of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC provides management capacity building technical assistance in Botswana, Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, and Vietnam. For example, our support of PEPFAR has helped country HIV/AIDS managers to

- Reduce turnaround time for HIV/AIDS patients' viral load tests
- Increase the number of persons enrolled in voluntary counseling and testing programs
- Reduce long waiting times for hospital and clinic services
- Increase adherence to opportunistic infection prophylaxis
- Improve the quality of HIV/AIDS counseling services

CDC is currently providing management technical assistance and training to Azerbaijan, Botswana, Ethiopia, Georgia, Malawi, Rwanda, Vietnam, the Central America and Nigeria Field Epidemiology Training Programs, and the Ghana School of Public Health.

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Center for Global Health

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