

# SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (SMDP)

## Objective

To build a strong health infrastructure and improve public health outcomes, ministries of health require strong leadership, policies and management expertise to perform technical and administrative functions. In 1992, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), established the Sustainable Management Development Program (SMDP) to assist leaders in low- and middle-income countries strengthen their health management systems. Through its leadership and management collaborations, SMDP aims to build capacity by developing strong partnerships and working with leaders and managers to improve organizational performance and governance, create more efficient use of limited resources, strengthen stewardship and advance best practices through applied research and evaluation.

*“The health of the people is directly related to effective health systems.”  
Strong Ministries for Strong Health Systems (2010)*

## Program

SMDP works with countries to:

- Assess their management capabilities, address quality standards, and take action to implement policies, practices, planning, and accountability that improve organizational performance
- Develop the management competencies of the health workforce using classroom and online learning, mentoring, and coaching
- Improve the performance of health systems through senior leadership participation in the annual CDC Global Public Health Leadership Forum
- Develop senior management capacity for setting priorities, planning and implementing programs, and achieving public health program objectives through the annual Management for Improved Public Health (MIPH) course
- Conduct applied research and evaluation to improve management and leadership programs and practices
- Scale up promising practices and effective processes



Participants at the 2010 Management for Improved Public Health program in Gaborone, Botswana

## Public Health Accomplishments

- Prepared future public health leaders by training 414 fellows from more than 65 developing countries in public health management competencies.
- Established seven independent country management and leadership training programs which have trained more than 3,000 health managers.
- Provided training and tools that country stakeholders have used to improve the prevention of mother-to-child transmission outcomes in select hospitals in Ethiopia’s Oromia Region (e.g., increasing the percentage of infected mothers delivering in a medical setting from 23% to 56% , and the percentage of infected partners being tested for HIV/AIDS from 13% to 51% ).
- In partnership with the Moroccan MOH, developed a first-of-its-kind, degree-based, 2 year program of learning through service in public health management.

## Goals

- Strengthen health systems in developing countries through leadership and management to increase the impact of global investments in health, promote sustainable systems, enhance accountability, and ensure funds are spent responsibly
- Continue to work with CDC partners, including FETPs, to strengthen organizational performance of surveillance, epidemiology, and laboratory systems to improve detection of and response to diseases and dangerous pathogens
- Build and share the evidence base for effective health management best practices
- Develop and disseminate leadership and management methods and measures that are appropriate to the cultures, traditions, and resources of partner countries

## Partnerships

- Ministries of Health
- President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Reduction (PEPFAR)
- U.S. Department of Defense
- World Health Organization
- National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
- George Washington University



2010 Global Health Leadership Forum participants at CDC headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia

## Where We Work

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Botswana
- Central America
- Ethiopia
- Georgia
- Ghana
- Kazakhstan
- Malawi
- Morocco
- Nigeria
- Uganda
- Vietnam
- Zambia

## For further information:

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