



## Global Health at CDC

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The growing presence of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) overseas creates new opportunities and new challenges. CDC's strategic imperative for global health demands that CDC and its international partners work together to improve the global capacity to detect, control, and prevent disease.

CDC is committed to ensuring that people around the world will live safer, healthier, and longer lives through the achievement of its Global Health Goals: Global Health Promotion, Global Health Protection, and Global Health Diplomacy.

## Career Opportunities in Global Health

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Global health programs at CDC recruit for exciting and challenging positions at our Atlanta Headquarters and our offices around the world. We collaborate with Ministries of Health, other U.S. Government and non-governmental organizations, UN agencies and others.

*"In addition to the personal reward of helping to prevent diseases among vulnerable populations there are other benefits you can gain by working overseas...By living and working with international colleagues you have the opportunity to become more of a global citizen." Hamid Jafari, MD, CDC Global Immunization Division*

CDC staff serve in a variety of positions globally. The majority of available positions in global programs fall into the following job series:

**Epidemiologist** — develops research protocols, designs and conducts studies, examines the rates of disease and disability among populations, and helps translate data into effective public health programs.

*"As an epidemiologist I've spent years investigating and containing outbreaks of cholera in South and Central America and was posted as a regional advisor to WHO for the Americas." Linda Venczel, PhD, Epidemiologist, CDC Polio Eradication Branch*

**Public Health Advisor** — provides advice and assistance on the implementation and evaluation of global health program activities. Analyzes methods for data collection and use, formulates and implements policy, develops partnerships with national and international organizations, advocates for program resources and implementation, conducts training, and develops country-specific program plans for specific disease prevention and control.

*"In the field I've had many roles...every trip brings new opportunities, which keeps the job interesting and unpredictable." Anne-Renee Heningburg, MPA, Public Health Advisor, CDC Global Immunization Division*

**Health Scientist** — performs research and other health-oriented scientific work, requiring understanding of scientific methods and techniques in the health, medical, laboratory, and allied sciences, and ability to adapt to working in new areas of health science.

*"In Rwanda and Botswana, teams are reaching out to communities with innovative approaches to identify HIV infection in women in labor and delivery and prevent transmission of infection to their infants." Mark Rayfield, PhD, Research Microbiologist, CDC Global AIDS Program*

**Medical Officer** — provides advice and administers, supervises, or performs scientific work in medical fields. Conducts national and international scientific investigations and provides services to health agencies for the control of infectious disease and other conditions.

*"Working overseas gives you the opportunity to gain invaluable experience across many aspects of public health — surveillance, program, research, and policy." Larry Slutsker, MD, MPH, CDC Malaria Branch*

## Qualifications

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Global career opportunities require the ability to work independently, experience in global health programs, especially in developing countries, and the ability to adapt to new situations and changing environments. Successful candidates for these positions typically have the following background:

- ❖ Post-graduate degree (masters or doctorate) or college plus relevant specialized experience
- ❖ At least 2 years of work experience in an international setting (varies with position)
- ❖ Desired, but not required, fluency in at least one foreign language (particularly French, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, or Chinese)
- ❖ Outstanding written and oral communication skills
- ❖ Excellent interpersonal skills
- ❖ U.S. Citizenship

Candidates with less international experience should consider applying for domestic public health programs at CDC to gain general public health experience. They can then explore developmental opportunities to move into global positions.

## Fellowships/Internships

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CDC has limited opportunities for recent graduates to gain international experience and exposure to global health issues:

- ❖ Emerging Leaders Program (ELP)
- ❖ Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS)
- ❖ Presidential Management Fellowship (PMF)
- ❖ Prevention Effectiveness Fellowship Program (PEFP)
- ❖ Public Health Prevention Service (PHPS)

For more information, visit CDC's public health training website:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/phtrain/index.html>