

# Global Disease Detection Laboratory Team

## Building Capacity for Global Public Health Laboratory Systems

The Global Disease Detection Program (GDD) is CDC's principal and most visible program for developing and strengthening global capacity to rapidly detect, accurately identify, and promptly contain emerging infectious disease and bioterrorist threats that occur internationally.

GDD's Laboratory Team works with Ministries of Health and other partners to establish sustainable national laboratory systems capable of safely and accurately detecting, characterizing and reporting pathogens causing epidemic disease, including both known and novel threats, from all parts of the country.

Laboratory systems which operate both within and across service levels (national, provincial, district, community), functions (clinical, public health), and financing mechanisms (public, private) in a network form the foundation upon which disease-specific diagnostic capacities are anchored, ensuring a country can detect, rapidly respond to, and report any disease threat.

### GDD's Laboratory Team works with partner countries to establish:

#### ➤ A national policy and legal framework for the national laboratory system

A national laboratory regulatory mechanism which codifies a framework for the national laboratory system based on internationally recognized standards and best practices

#### ➤ A national laboratory strategy integrated into the national health strategy

A national laboratory strategic plan that has buy in and ownership from key country stakeholders and which is integrated into the national health strategy

#### ➤ A laboratory coordination mechanism within the management structure of MOH

A national laboratory unit within the Ministry of Health, charged with coordination and oversight of the implementation of the national laboratory strategy, and policy and legal framework



➤ **An adequate laboratory workforce**

Standardized laboratory course curriculum that meets established national standards for competence, including Quality Management Systems, public health laboratory functions, and laboratory leadership and management, and strong laboratory professional associations to promote and attract new talent to the profession

➤ **Diagnostic technical capacity for priority diseases**

Defined country-specific test menus and technology platforms appropriate for each service level of the laboratory network and access to Subject Matter Experts across CDC to develop and implement new detection technologies according to the host country's national laboratory policy and legal framework

➤ **A national laboratory quality assurance program**

A recognized National Laboratory Quality Unit within the MOH that promotes adoption of quality norms and standards, requirements for laboratory compliance, and a stepwise approach to capacity building and quality improvement towards accreditation

➤ **A national system for specimen referral**

Geographically mapped laboratory testing needs based on population and disease prevalence; defined testing menus by laboratory tier; appropriate courier services; standardized specimen referral and tracking forms; safe specimen collection, packaging, transport, and tracking; and efficient systems to return test results

➤ **Improved laboratory data management**

Mapped information flow and reporting requirements within individual laboratories and across the laboratory network and appropriate technological and human systems to support this flow of information

➤ **Improved biosafety and biosecurity**

National biosafety standards codified in legislation to guide risk assessments, biosafety trainings, waste management training, and biosafety cabinet certification capacity building activities