



UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

GLOBAL HEALTH PROTECTION

PREVENT. DETECT. RESPOND. INVESTING IN PEOPLE

Dear Colleagues:

The Division of Global Health Protection is driven by our commitment to people, science, response, and systems. Of these, the most important is people. Making connections, building partnerships, and developing the global health workforce are central to everything we do. Our work in countries around the world depends on people – at CDC, in ministries of health, and in organizations across all sectors – who have the skills and the will to make a difference. We are the laboratorians, the disease detectives, the communicators, the policymakers, the leaders, the teachers, and the students.

Living in Thailand and Uganda over the course of eight years, I have witnessed what happens when we partner with our global colleagues. Today, as I travel in support of the [Global Health Security Agenda](#), I can assure you that we are getting results by focusing on people. Having supported the Ebola response in Liberia in September 2014 when we struggled to find a trained workforce, I was thrilled to see the [progress of our new Field Epidemiology Training Program \(FETP\) when I visited last month.](#)

In 2016, our division will be supporting over 70 countries. Our investments are exemplified by programs like FETP, which recently celebrated 35 years of training disease detectives in the essentials of epidemiology and investigation. FETP is modeled on CDC’s world-renowned Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS), which has been in place in the U.S. since 1951. Today, the two programs work side-by-side around the world to stop infectious diseases close to the source. There is no substitute for this kind of boots-on-the-ground effort.

In this issue of *Updates from the Field*, we hope you get a sense of what truly investing in people looks like: inspiring mentorship, innovative training programs, teamwork in the field, and accelerating the Global Health Security Agenda. Our unwavering commitment to building and sustaining a dedicated public health workforce makes the difference.

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IN THIS ISSUE

- 01** PREVENT. DETECT. RESPOND.
- 02** HOW CDC INVESTS IN PEOPLE
- 05** CDC DIRECTOR MENTORS FETP RESIDENTS
- 08** MEET OUR FETP RESIDENT ADVISORS
- 10** DISEASE DETECTIVES COME TOGETHER IN GUINEA
- 12** FETP ON THE SCENE
 - ZIKA VIRUS IN BRAZIL
 - YELLOW FEVER IN ANGOLA
 - PLAGUE IN ZAMBIA
 - VACCINES IN PAKISTAN
- 14** MALI: A WIDER NET CATCHES POLIO
- 15** MAKING AN IMPACT
- 16** A LEGACY OF MENTORSHIP



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