

CDC Protects Americans at Home and Abroad Through Global Health



CDC Is Global

For over 60 years, CDC has provided domestic and global public health leadership all over the world to achieve public health goals and meet emerging health challenges. The foundation of CDC's global health work is built on rigorous science and effective partnerships. CDC's goals are to increase the ability of nations to protect their own populations and to prevent the spread of disease and other health threats globally. CDC's greatest assets are its staff in the United States and around the world and the credibility they have developed with partners and the public.



Disease respects no borders.

New and unexpected health threats can arise at any time, in any hemisphere.

CDC protects the American people 24/7 from health, safety, and security threats that easily cross international borders. With scientists and health experts embedded in countries across the globe, CDC delivers unparalleled life-saving science, groundbreaking medical research, cutting-edge innovation, and proven long-term health investments to ensure that all Americans can live healthier and more productive lives.



More than 330 CDC full-time and 1,350 locally employed staff are on the ground assisting over 60 countries around the world to ensure that people live healthier, safer and longer lives.

Scientific evidence is the foundation of CDC's global health work.

The Emerging Threat of Zika Virus

CDC began responding in 2015 to increased reports of Zika virus, beginning in Brazil and spreading throughout the Americas and in the Pacific. Since then, Agency activities have included on-the-ground support in affected areas, education and training for healthcare providers and the public about Zika, provision of diagnostic tests and Zika Prevention Kits for affected countries.

Fighting Ebola on the frontlines

The 2014-2015 Ebola epidemic was the largest in history, affecting multiple countries in West Africa with nearly 30,000 cases. CDC's priorities in the response were to interrupt Ebola transmission in West Africa and prevent it from spreading to other countries. CDC did this by working with Ministries of Health, WHO, and other partners to break the chain of transmission in households, among health care workers, on public transportation, and during burial practices.

Polio eradication is within reach

CDC and its international partners have made significant progress over the past 30 years. The number of reported polio cases worldwide has declined by more than 99% since 1988, from an estimated 350,000 cases in 1988 to a few in Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2016.



“Why do we do global health? CDC global work protects the United States from public health threats and reduces poor health overseas— leading to healthier, more productive people. Stronger, self-sufficient nations help create economic opportunity for American exports and job creation here at home.”

Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH
Director, CDC



Moving towards an AIDS-free generation

Through PEPFAR, CDC and its implementing partners are currently providing direct site support or technical assistance for more than 5.8 million HIV-infected persons on treatment, which is more than 1 of 3 persons on ART worldwide. This support is primarily for ART services at ministry of health hospitals and clinics in the 24 countries that receive direct support from PEPFAR for national ART programs. On July 14, 2015, UNAIDS announced that globally 15 million people were accessing ART, as of March 2015. Of these, PEPFAR was providing funding for 9.5 million on ART, as of September 2015.

CDC: Saving lives, building capacity

Malaria

CDC is a co-implementer of the U.S. President’s Malaria Initiative. Significant reductions in child mortality have been observed in the 17 countries where data are available documenting child mortality rates before and after the scale-up of malaria control interventions. These efforts have contributed to translating CDC science into programs that have saved the lives of more than 6 million children since 2000.

Global health security

A disease threat anywhere can mean a threat everywhere. CDC helps ensure global health security by:

- Supporting the implementation of the International Health Regulations,
- Establishing Field Epidemiology Training Programs and Global Disease Detection Centers,
- Tracking emerging health threats,
- Supporting the development of national public health institutes and emergency operations centers,
- Advancing noncommunicable disease prevention and control,
- Monitoring U.S. ports of entry, and
- Preparing for and responding to public health emergencies.

To address these challenges, CDC is joining with other U.S. Government agencies and global partners to advance a Global Health Security Agenda and accelerate progress toward a world safe and secure from infectious disease threats.

Global immunization

As a key partner in the Measles and Rubella Initiative, CDC supported vaccination of children against measles. Since 2001, more than 1.8 billion children across the world have been vaccinated, preventing more than 15.6 million deaths 2000-2013. This is a 75% reduction in measles deaths worldwide, down from an estimated 535,300 deaths in 2000 to 145,700 in 2013.

Neglected tropical diseases

NTDs cause morbidity in over 1 billion people worldwide. CDC performs key research into the control and elimination of NTDs. CDC is leading the development of improved laboratory tools and surveillance strategies needed to monitor progress towards elimination of these diseases. As part of this work, CDC has developed tools to efficiently monitor multiple infectious diseases from a single finger-stick blood sample. CDC’s work to control and eliminate NTDs has led to significant progress, and as a result of increased commitment by CDC and other partners, mass drug administration for lymphatic filariasis was able to stop for more than 2 million Haitians.

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