

National Public Health Institutes

Consolidating and organizing expertise and systems

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Consolidating and organizing public health expertise and systems within a national public health institute (NPHI) is a proven way for countries to carry out essential public health functions and improve accountability and efficiency. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with over 60 years of experience as the U.S. NPHI is helping countries around the world increase surveillance, laboratory, and outbreak response capacity to improve the detection of and response to public health threats. An NPHI coupled with stronger local outbreak detection and response capabilities offers a sustainable solution for building global public health capacity, achieving global health security, and increasing public health impact.

Ensuring Global Health Security

Strengthening public health capacity in countries will increase global health security, and help countries become more self-reliant. Countries with strong NPHIs aim to:

- Detect and respond to public health threats more quickly and effectively;
- Comply with the International Health Regulations (2005) by rapidly recognizing, reporting and containing the spread of infectious diseases;
- Increase technical sustainability by fostering leaders capable of designing, monitoring, supervising, and evaluating programs to reduce health threats based on cutting-edge information and tools;
- Clarify and formalize responsibility and accountability for public health surveillance and response; and
- Improve financial sustainability through streamlined institutions with greater ability to compete successfully for non-U.S. government resources.

CDC's Role

CDC emphasizes high impact, transformative investments to maximize an NPHI's self-reliance and leverages existing partnerships and scientific expertise through time-limited engagement (3 to 5 years). Through leadership and direct engagement with Ministry of Health officials, CDC and partners help countries develop a strategic plan aligned with public health priorities, determine necessary policy changes, create a sustainability plan, and execute a project which includes linking NPHIs with other established NPHIs or U.S. State Health Departments that can provide additional public health expertise. Developing and strengthening NPHIs helps drive progress through the improved collection and use of public health data.

These efforts build upon the expertise and experiences of the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI). In partnership with IANPHI, CDC plays a prominent role in the technical and scientific development of these institutes. CDC is also partnering with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief in countries where an NPHI can serve as a sustainable legacy of U.S. Government investment. Past NPHI projects have a proven track record of leveraging substantial foreign investment. For example, an IANPHI investment of \$900,000 in Mozambique and Guinea Bissau resulted in nearly \$40 million in additional investments from other countries, further supporting each country's direct investment in their NPHI.



Past and Current CDC-supported NPHI Partner Countries



NPHI Outcomes

- Expanded high quality training of specialists in disease detection
- Better performance and oversight of laboratories
- Improved outbreak detection and response, including emergency preparedness and response
- Enhanced monitoring for health risks, health status, and the safety and quality of health care services (e.g., improved surveillance, surveys, vital registration)
- Stronger sub national public health and clinical staff
- Coordinated communication with public health workers, health care professionals, and the public about emerging health threats
- Evidence based guidelines for public health or clinical management of leading health problems (e.g., a national body that establishes vaccine recommendations)
- Improved management and oversight of specific disease control programs (e.g., tuberculosis, malaria, HIV, immunization)

Future Direction

- Strengthen the NPHI assessment framework to help countries identify priorities and goals for creating a public health focal point and to measure the staged development of NPHIs
- Coordinate a CDC strategy for NPHI development to better leverage capacity development among existing programs
- Expand existing and establish new internal and external partnerships among organizations with an interest in systems strengthening and NPHI development
- Monitor the staged development of NPHIs and impact of NPHI efforts in partner countries