

Public Health Framework for Health Systems Strengthening

Improving Public Health Outcomes

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is committed to improving health outcomes around the world by helping countries establish core public health functions that strengthen health systems.

CDC has worked to improve health outcomes around the world for more than 35 years. Today, CDC has more than 270 public health professionals and another 1,500 local hires working in more than 50 countries with Ministries of Health (MOHs) and other organizations to reduce the major causes of illness and death due to infectious and non-infectious causes such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, influenza, malaria, smoking, and injuries. Besides lending expertise in disease-specific areas, CDC works with partners to develop surveillance systems to detect health threats, laboratories that can accurately and quickly diagnose diseases, and epidemiology training programs so that in-country individuals have the skills to lead and manage their national public health systems.

Strengthening Public Health Systems

As part of its health systems strengthening activities, the United States Government (USG), primarily through the President's Global Health Initiative (GHI), is working with partner countries to build a sustainable approach for delivering essential health services and public health programs to more people in more places. The GHI aims to maximize the sustainable health impact achieved for every dollar invested.

The USG will follow these principles in strengthening public health systems:

- **Support country ownership** and invest in country-led plans,
- **Increase impact through strategic coordination and integration**—for patients and for those involved in providing or paying for services,
- **Strengthen and leverage key multilateral organizations, global health partnerships and private sector engagement**—because improving health outcomes is a shared responsibility, and
- **Build sustainability** through health systems strengthening.

Implementing the Public Health Framework for Health Systems Strengthening

The Public Health Framework for Health Systems Strengthening illustrates CDC's vision for health systems strengthening (HSS) efforts. The four building blocks at the base of the framework represent



CDC's vision for health systems strengthening is a world where countries have strong health systems that effectively deliver services and public health programs for better health.

the foundation of CDC's work: **surveillance** and other health information systems (HIS), **research, workforce** development and training, and **laboratory** strengthening and networks.

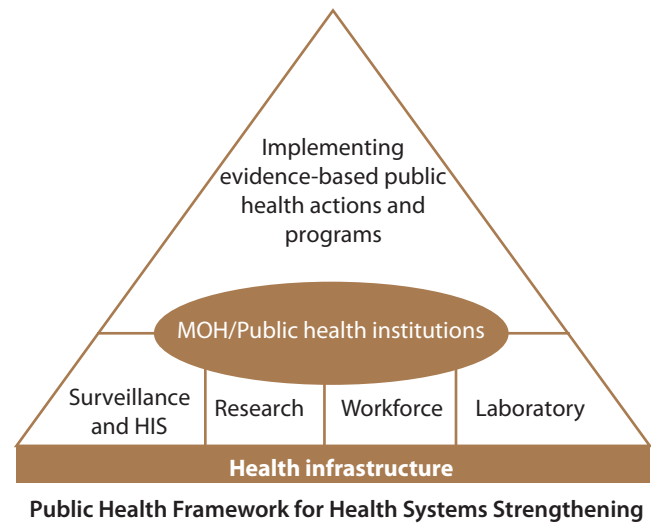
Building Public Health Capacity

For the core functions to be successfully implemented, development of the necessary **health infrastructure** (i.e., laboratories, information technology systems, and clinics) is essential. At the center of the framework is building the capacity of **MOHs and other public health institutions**. These core functions support the implementation of all evidence-based **public health actions and programs**, such as

- Outbreak and other infectious disease detection, investigation, and control,
- Environmental health programs,
- Immunization,
- Surveillance and control of risk factors for non-communicable diseases,
- Provision and quality of clinical services,
- Health promotion and education,
- Maternal and child health services, and
- Emergency preparedness and response.

In addition, monitoring and evaluation, public health policy, and health communications are integral components that support evidence-based public health action and program implementation.

CDC is strengthening the world's health systems by helping MOHs build their capacity in surveillance, epidemiology, and laboratory science for sustainable programs that improve public health.



A Public Health Perspective of Health Systems Strengthening

Public health surveillance and other health information systems, research, workforce development, and laboratory strengthening are essential building blocks for better health around the world.

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