

Global Foodborne Infections Network

Objectives

The Global Foodborne Infections Network (GFN) equips countries to better detect and control foodborne and other enteric infections through increased capacity for integrated laboratory-based surveillance, and collaboration among human, veterinary, and food sectors.

Program Description

Led by its three founding agencies, the World Health Organization, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Danish Technical University-Food, and eight other global partners, GFN builds and strengthens national capacities for disease detection and control primarily through training courses and applied country projects. Training courses focus on regional or national needs ranging from basic to advanced laboratory practices, surveillance, outbreak detection and response, and attribution.

Projects include studies on specific pathogens, enhanced surveillance initiatives, burden of illness estimations, or antimicrobial resistance work. GFN also builds capacity through other activities such as an external quality assurance system, country databank (passive *Salmonella* surveillance), reference services, fellowships, and routine communication.

Public Health Impact*

- Over 70 international and national courses conducted globally, training more than 1100 microbiologists and epidemiologists from 130 countries
- Seven GFN Regional Centers designated to provide training, to promote enhanced communication, and to develop projects in the region; locations: Trinidad and Tobago, Costa Rica, Argentina, Cameroon, Poland, China, and Thailand
- Over 25 peer-reviewed collaborative publications or manuscripts submitted on projects, including studies on *Salmonella* and antimicrobial resistance
- Annual, proficiency testing conducted for more than 100 global laboratories at no cost to countries (through the GFN External Quality Assurance System – one of the world's largest proficiency tests)
- Routine global communication provided to over 1,000 GFN Network Members on foodborne disease and food safety issues

*Impact measured since 2000

For more information on the [Global Foodborne Infections Network](http://www.who.int/gfn/en/), please visit <http://www.who.int/gfn/en/>

Where we work:

In over 130 countries in the following regions:

Caribbean
Central America
South America
Europe
Middle East
Anglophone Central and Eastern Africa
Francophone Western Africa
Anglophone Southern Africa
Indian Ocean
South Asia
Southeast Asia
East Asia
Western Pacific



National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases



Please visit us at www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dfwed/international/gfn.html

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