

Emergency Response and Recovery

Evidence in Action

Response to Humanitarian Crises

The Emergency Response and Recovery Branch (ERRB) applies public health and epidemiologic science to reduce the health impact of disasters and emergencies, including complex humanitarian events and to strengthen the recovery of health systems in these settings.

Working in partnership with other U.S. government agencies, United Nations (UN) agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), ERRB coordinates, supervises, and monitors CDC's work in international emergency settings and in refugee or displaced populations.

Mission

The mission of CDC's Emergency Response and Recovery Branch is to mitigate the impact of disasters, complex humanitarian and other emergencies on populations, and to support the recovery of health systems in these settings.

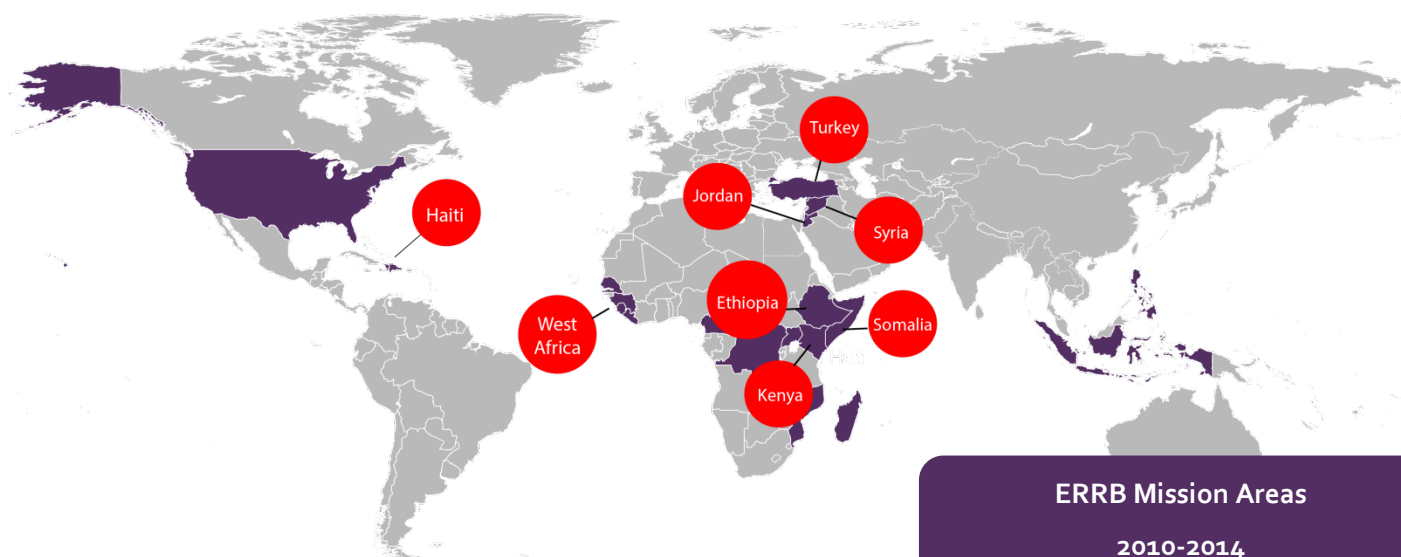
ERRB staff are currently posted in Haiti, and seconded to the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. ERRB staff will be posted in Geneva, Switzerland to work with UN partners. In addition, staff are deployed on short-term assignments to provide support in emergency settings.

Impact

West Africa – ERRB played a critical role in CDC's response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. ERRB staff deployed to the field and provided support in the areas of infection control, contact tracing, and health communications. ERRB personnel were also seconded to USAID/OFDA's Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to assist with the coordination of the overall USG response effort. In Atlanta, ERRB staff occupied key leadership roles in CDC's Emergency Operations Center. Technical experts from ERRB were also consulted on other health concerns in the context of the emergency, providing recommendations for breast feeding practices, mental health issues, and vaccine preventable disease concerns.

Syria – ERRB helped establish an early warning alert and response network (EWARN) communicable disease surveillance system for northern Syria and in refugee camps in Jordan. In collaboration with CDC subject matter experts, ERRB continues to provide regional support to UN agencies, including supporting the response to the current polio outbreak. CDC completed an evaluation of a measles vaccination campaign and TB control in refugee camps in Jordan with plans to conduct a similar measles evaluation in Syria.





Key Partners

US Government
NGOs
Ministries of Health
UN Agencies
Universities

Technical Expertise

Communicable diseases
Epi methods
Immunization
Mental Health
Nutrition
Outbreak response and control
Reproductive health
Risk communication
War-related injuries
Water, sanitation and hygiene

Work Areas

Application of technology
Assessment
Capacity building
Communication and education
Health systems recovery
Humanitarian action
Information management
Operations research
Policy
Preparedness
Program effectiveness and evaluation
Surveillance

Accomplishments

- Strong response to the Syrian crisis through support to multiple partners including USAID, WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA in countries throughout the region responding to the Syria crisis
- Progressed toward health system recovery in post-earthquake Haiti, supporting improvement of drinking water quality and laboratory enhanced surveillance for public health threats. >60,000 (2013)
- Critical support in response to the Ebola

Future Direction

- Increase regional support for response to humanitarian emergencies and collaboration with UN partners through UNICEF detail in Geneva
- Develop monitoring and evaluation standards for Early Warning Surveillance Network
- Continue to make measurable progress towards our programmatic goals in Haiti