

GLOBAL DISEASE DETECTION OPERATIONS CENTER

Tracking Global Outbreaks

BY THE NUMBERS

30-40 

Monitors approximately 30-40 public health threats each day

140 

Tracked over 140 unique diseases globally

150 

Identified outbreaks in over 150 countries

We detect and respond in the earliest stages of an outbreak, often before the cause is determined.

Keeping an eye on GLOBAL HEALTH THREATS

The Global Disease Detection Operations Center monitors outbreaks across the globe and assesses their potential risk to the global community.

The Operations Center was established in 2007 to address weaknesses or gaps in global public health surveillance and response capacity. The Operations Center monitors outbreaks from infectious and non-infectious causes, including public health events attributable to disasters, intoxications, and chemical, radiological, or nuclear events. Animal outbreaks of diseases that can be transmitted to humans (zoonotic diseases) are also monitored to assess whether emerging or re-emerging disease outbreaks among humans are occurring.

Between March 2014 and February 2016, the Operations Center tracked over 235 outbreaks in 137 countries, in addition to the Ebola outbreaks. From MERS in the Middle East to yellow fever in West Africa to Zika virus in the Americas, these outbreaks justify global concern and have affected many lives.



A local boy looks on as a CDC team responds to a call about a man showing symptoms of Ebola in a community outside of Freetown, Sierra Leone.

HOW WE DO IT

There are two main ways the Global Disease Detection (GDD) program uncovers disease threats and helps countries respond to an outbreak:

- From the GDD Centers located in 10 countries
- From the GDD Operations Center, located at CDC headquarters in Atlanta

The GDD Operations Center scans numerous sources of information about disease events and other health threats, searching the internet and other media for key words in over 50 languages. Modeled on the World Health Organization's Alert and Response Operations, the Operations Center serves as CDC's platform for detecting and monitoring global public health events of international importance.



Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
Center for Global Health