

Accessible link: <https://www.cdc.gov/global-health/countries/ghana.html>

CDC established an office in Ghana in 2007. CDC Ghana works closely with the Ministry of Health, Government of Ghana, and partner organizations to build and strengthen the country's core capabilities. These include data and surveillance; laboratory capacity; workforce and institutions; prevention and response to health threats; innovation and research; and policy, communications and diplomacy.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Data & Surveillance

- Supported establishing at least one influenza sentinel surveillance site across Ghana's 16 regions



Laboratory

- Led the implementation of an innovative national system for transporting blood and specimen samples to centralized laboratories for processing



Workforce & Institutions

- Supported training for over 400 Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) participants who have conducted more than 100 outbreak investigations, including meningitis, cholera, yellow fever, influenza, measles, rubella, and anthrax



Prevention & Response

- Supported the operationalization of the National Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) and four regional PHEOCs in the Northern, Ashanti, Western, and Volta regions



Innovation & Research

- Provided technical support to monitor impact of a new, longer-lasting insecticide, developed a national insecticide resistance-monitoring program, and created a national insecticide resistance and entomological database



Policy, Communications & Diplomacy

- Provided direct technical assistance and financial support to develop policies that strengthen laboratory systems and services, improve the national HIV testing algorithm, and to implement differentiated HIV service delivery

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

CDC's global health security efforts in Ghana help strengthen the country's ability to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks. These efforts help Ghana reach the goals outlined in the Global Health Security Agenda. CDC works with the MOH and other partners to provide expertise and assistance across technical focus areas. These include disease surveillance, laboratory systems, workforce development, emergency management, and other critical areas.

Surveillance, Laboratory, and Public Health Systems Strengthening

CDC helps implement indicator- and community-based disease surveillance to strengthen early detection and reporting of priority diseases, conditions, and unusual health events. CDC supports improvements in laboratory quality and safety. CDC supported ISO 15189:2012 accreditation. CDC and partners developed a national specimen referral policy and referral system in Northern and Greater Accra regions. This system reduced the turnaround time and release of results by 50% for many public health specimens. CDC helped establish molecular testing laboratories for two zonal laboratories in the Northern and Western regions. In addition, CDC helped establish genomic sequencing laboratories at the National Public Health and Reference Laboratory and the Genomic and Infectious Disease Laboratory. CDC supported the operationalization of the National Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) and four regional PHEOCs in the Northern, Ashanti, Western, and Volta regions. CDC supported establishment of the Tamale Infectious Disease Treatment Center at the Tamale Teaching Hospital in the Northern region.

Workforce Development

CDC supports training scientists through the Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP). Established in 2008, this program trains epidemiologists to detect, prevent, and control diseases before they become epidemics. FELTP participants learn to gather critical data and turn it into evidence-based action.

HIV AND TB

As a key implementer of PEPFAR, CDC works with Ghana to build a sustainable, high-impact national HIV program. This work helps accelerate progress toward The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) goals to control the HIV epidemic. CDC leads efforts to improve data collection and analysis in testing, treatment, and viral load suppression to inform decision-making. In addition to helping generate estimates of people living with HIV, CDC helps develop tools and collect data for key populations. These include female sex workers and men who have sex with men.

MALARIA

Under PMI, CDC assigned a resident advisor to support implementation of malaria prevention and control activities in Ghana. Key activities include:

- Providing long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets
- Providing indoor residual spraying
- Preventing malaria in pregnancy
- Improving diagnostics and case management

In partnership with PMI, Ghana has made significant progress against malaria. Child death rates have fallen and life-saving tools, such as bed nets and preventive treatment for pregnant women, are reaching more people.

Ghana also uses an updated electronic District Health Information Management System, which improves malaria data quality, timely reporting, and completeness. CDC Ghana also collaborated with the Kintampo Center for Diagnostic Excellence in Ghana to support the establishment of a WHO-certified national archive of malaria slides for training and quality assurance.

INFLUENZA

CDC works with partners in Ghana to help strengthen influenza surveillance and laboratory capacity to prevent, detect, respond, and prepare for influenza threats. Since 2007, CDC has partnered with the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), the Ghana Health Service/MOH, and the US Naval Medical Research Unit 3 on influenza surveillance and laboratory activities in the country. CDC supports the influenza surveillance system to conduct inpatient and outpatient respiratory disease surveillance in 36 health facilities across the country. This surveillance system is used to monitor influenza and other respiratory infections among all age groups. Ghana hosts the CDC Influenza Division regional hub for West Africa. From the West Africa regional hub, CDC supports the NMIMR by providing trainings, conducting technical assistance visits and providing emergency supplies to increase neighboring countries' capacity to respond to influenza and other respiratory infections of public health importance.

