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CDC has worked in Liberia since 2007 and established an office in Liberia in 2015. CDC Liberia works closely with the Ministry of Health (MOH), National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL), and partner organizations to build and strengthen the country's core public health capabilities. These include data and surveillance; laboratory capacity; workforce and institutions; prevention and response; innovation and research; and policy, communications and diplomacy. Priority program areas address global health security, malaria, and immunization.

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### Data & Surveillance

- Supported the NPHI in establishing and integrating an event-based surveillance unit



### Laboratory

- Supported development of the NPHI and National Public Health Reference Laboratory, and provided technical assistance for the planning, transition, and operationalization of these structures



### Workforce & Institutions

- Supported training of over 400 professionals who graduated from the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)



### Prevention & Response

- Helped established emergency operating centers (EOCs) at the national level and in all 15 counties



### Innovation & Research

- Funded a digital vaccine registry to provide Liberians with a nationalized electronic record of their vaccine history



### Policy, Communications & Diplomacy

- Supported COVID-19 vaccination campaign activities to increase coverage in counties with low rates

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

CDC's global health security (GHS) work in Liberia increases the country's ability to prevent, detect, and respond to disease outbreaks before they become global epidemics. CDC provides expertise and support to the MOH, NPHIL, and other government institutions. CDC helps strengthen core public health capacities in four key GHS technical areas: disease surveillance, laboratory systems, workforce development, and emergency management and response. In addition, CDC supports immunization, infection prevention and control, biosafety and biosecurity, and points of entry.

## Laboratory systems

CDC's support to strengthen the laboratory network includes:

- Developing the NPHIL and National Public Health Reference Laboratory, and providing technical assistance for the planning, transition, and operationalization of these structures.
- Partnering with the World Health Organization, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and other partners on innovative solutions for transporting samples to remote areas
- Training laboratory personnel in biosafety and biosecurity to evaluate and certify biological safety cabinets
- Strengthening diagnostic capacity, laboratory quality management, and data analysis systems at national and sub-national levels

## Surveillance systems

CDC supports Liberia's MOH and NPHIL in strengthening surveillance systems to monitor infectious diseases. Activities include:

- Supporting the implementation of the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response framework
- Establishing and integrating an event-based surveillance unit within NPHIL
- Providing direct technical assistance on data management, data analysis, and surveillance system strengthening

## Workforce development

CDC helped launch Liberia's FETP in 2015. FETP strengthens the public health workforce capacity to investigate and respond to disease outbreaks. Two levels of FETP—frontline and intermediate—train health professionals to identify and contain outbreaks before they become epidemics.

FETP provides capacity for surveillance officers who support early detection, prevention, and response. FETP graduates serve as local and national disease surveillance officers and support outbreak responses and scientific writing. Liberia achieved a key milestone, with one field epidemiologist per 200,000 people. All counties have at least one FETP Intermediate graduate, and all 93 health districts have at least one FETP Frontline graduate—improving data quality, analysis and outbreak investigations.

Liberia was one of the first countries to partner in the Global Laboratory Leadership Program (GLLP). This program provides intensive training and mentorship to current and emerging leaders to build, strengthen and sustain national laboratory systems.

## Emergency response

CDC has established emergency operations centers (EOCs) at the national level and in all 15 counties. CDC helps the EOCs strengthen coordination and communication for rapid responses during outbreaks. Liberia's national and county EOCs have activated for endemic outbreaks and pandemic responses. These have included responses for Ebola, meningitis, Lassa Fever, COVID-19 and mpox. Response activities include strengthening core capacities, such as:

- Health system surveillance, including active case finding and contact tracing
- Laboratory systems and diagnostic capacities
- Public health workforces, including Public Health Emergency Management Fellowships and Rapid Response Teams
- Providing technical assistance to EOCs on emergency management and response

## MALARIA

Malaria remains a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Liberia. As co-implementer of the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) alongside USAID, CDC works with the National Malaria Control Program to:

- Implement vector control activities, including monitoring mosquitoes and their resistance to insecticides
- Distribute insecticide-treated bed nets
- Strengthen malaria surveillance activities
- Roll out the new malaria vaccine

## VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES

CDC works with partners to support Liberia's efforts to reduce illness and death related to diseases that are vaccine preventable. CDC has partnered with NPHIL's EOC to conduct polio campaigns and supplemental immunization activities needed to stop polio virus transmission. CDC is funding a digital vaccine registry that will provide Liberians with a nationalized electronic record of their vaccine history. This government-owned platform will absorb the commercial COVID-19 vaccination platform that was launched during the pandemic. CDC and partners are assisting Liberia's Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) in developing an electronic immunization registry. This registry will monitor and document vaccination coverage, enhance EPI efficiency, and provide reliable data.

