U. S. CDC
India

Accessible link: www.cdc.gov/global-health/countries/india

For over 50 years, CDC has engaged in technical collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare 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. As health threats emerge, CDC and national partners are prepared to leverage initiatives that strengthen global health security and respond to new public health challenges.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Data & Surveillance

- Supported the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Government of India (GoI), and a network of health facilities to strengthen and expand AMR/HAI surveillance across 27 states

Laboratory

- Assisted the Government of India in developing eight model Integrated Public Health Laboratories (IPHLs) and the plan to scale up integration of labs across 730 districts

Workforce & Institutions

- Trained over 20,000 workers in epidemiology and disease surveillance; public health emergency management; laboratory diagnostic testing; and biosafety and quality management

Prevention & Response

- Supported the establishment, operation, and management of national and sub-national EOCs that can coordinate and direct response to disease outbreaks, natural or humanmade disasters, and other public health emergencies

Innovation & Research

- Collaborated with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to help determine the disease and economic burdens of influenza and other respiratory viruses

Policy, Communications & Diplomacy

- Contributed to drafting the national operational guidelines for antiretroviral therapy (ART) services and national guidelines for HIV care and treatment. The guidelines were disseminated to 712 ART centers and 29 state AIDS Control Societies

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS

CDC supports global health security priorities in India by providing technical expertise in strengthening public health systems to prevent, detect, and respond to emerging infectious diseases. Efforts include:

- Evidence-based technical guidance for Integrated Public Health Laboratory (IPHL)
- Leading One Health efforts to adapt training programs
- Prioritizing infectious disease implementation
- Strengthening surveillance and reporting for AMR

CDC has supported training for over 20,000 workers in epidemiology and disease surveillance, public health emergency management, laboratory diagnostic testing, and biosafety and quality management.

LABORATORY SYSTEMS

CDC is collaborating with GoI to develop a tiered lab network capable of detecting emerging and novel pathogens such as Nipah, influenza and others. CDC supports GoI initiatives to improve and serve as a regional leader in:

- Diagnostic capabilities
- Quality management systems
- Biosafety and biosecurity practices
- Specimen referral and transport
- Genomic surveillance

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

CDC's Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) strengthens the public health workforce's abilities to detect, respond, and control disease outbreaks at the source. To meet international health regulation targets, India needs to train over 7,000 epidemiologists. To help achieve this goal, CDC supported the establishment of an advanced FETP, India Epidemic Intelligence Service (India EIS) in 2012. Since then, India FETP has expanded to three hubs, training over 200 officers per year, across three FETP tiers (advanced, intermediate, and frontline). Since 2012, India FETP officers investigated over 550 outbreaks and conducted over 300 surveillance evaluation.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

CDC collaborates with GoI to enhance India's emergency management capabilities and resilience. Through national technical working groups, CDC provides technical assistance to implement modern emergency management concepts and principles, using a common framework for public health response, and exercises for pandemic preparedness. CDC aims to:

- Increase emergency management human resource capacity
- Strengthen national and sub-national emergency operations centers (EOCs)
- Develop and update emergency response plans, protocols, and procedures
- Build and sustain crisis and risk communication capacity
- Enhance points of entry preparedness and response capabilities
- Train and equip rapid response teams with management and operations competence
- Offer real-time support for multiple activations of EOCs and outbreak response systems

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

CDC has been supporting NCDC, GoI, to establish the National Antimicrobial Surveillance Network (NARS-NET) and state level networks to improve quality assured testing, standardize scopes of practice, and conduct trainings. NARS-NET expanded its network from 10 hospital laboratories in 2013 to 60 laboratories across 27 states and 6 union territories. CDC supports All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi in partnership with the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) to develop and implement a network for surveillance and prevention of healthcare associated infections.

HIV AND TB

As a key implementer of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC focuses on evidence-based interventions in prevention, testing, linkage to treatment, retention, and lab system strengthening. PEPFAR provides equitable access to services for people at risk of HIV and people living with HIV. CDC also collaborates with NACO, State AIDS Control Societies, and community-based organizations.

CDC also works closely with the National Tuberculosis (TB) Elimination Program (NTEP) to prevent, detect, treat and build systems towards a TB–free India.

INFLUENZA

CDC helps India prepare for pandemics in alignment with India's Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan. CDC works to strengthen laboratories and training clinicians on effective case management and infection control. Strong influenza surveillance has enabled India to detect influenza seasonal peaks during monsoons, understand the seasonality of influenza in tropical countries, and guide timing for influenza vaccination. CDC works closely with academic and research partners to estimate the influenza disease burden among high risk groups like children, older adults aged more than 60 years and working aged population especially with chronic diseases.

VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

CDC supports efforts to eliminate or control vaccine-preventable diseases through the Universal Immunization Program. Since the mid 1990's, CDC has helped strengthen:

- Epidemiology and laboratory methods
- Routine immunization services
- Training methods, data systems
- Case-based disease surveillance
- Outbreak preparedness and response

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