U. S. CDC

Mali

Accessible link: https://www.cdc.gov/global-health/countries/mali.html

Since CDC's partnership with Mali began in 1966, the agency's support to the Ministry of Health (MOH) has expanded to build and strengthen the country's core public health capabilities. These include data and surveillance; laboratory capacity; workforce and institutions; prevention and response; and policy, communications, and diplomacy. Priority program areas address malaria, meningitis, and influenza, as well as strengthening Mali's laboratory, surveillance, and workforce capacity to respond to disease outbreaks.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Data & Surveillance	• Support the implementation of the 7-1-7 target for early detection, timely reporting, and rapid response to outbreaks
Laboratory	• Facilitated 49 districts, 7 regional laboratories, and 7 national laboratories to perform diagnostic tests for 13 priority pathogens
Workforce & Institutions	• Supported training for over 270 field epidemiologists from all regions who graduated from the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) since 2016
Prevention & Response	• Collaborated in the establishment of a National Public Health Institute (NPHI) in 2019 and supported NPHI in establishing a national public health emergency management training program in 2024
Policy, Communications & Diplomacy	• Supported polio eradication activities such as data management, communication, and surveillance through the Stop Transmission of Polio program

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

CDC supports Mali in achieving the goals outlined in the Global Health Security Agenda and implementing the International Health Regulations. CDC's global health security work in Mali focuses on strengthening the country's public health systems across the following core areas:

Workforce Development

Since 2016, CDC has supported training scientists through the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP). Participants learn to gather critical data and turn it into evidence-based action. Through FETP, CDC strengthens Mali's workforce capacity to identify and stop outbreaks before they spread. Mali implements FETP Intermediate and Frontline, and Malian candidates participate in FETP Advanced in Burkina Faso and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Most of the FETP Advanced graduates are in MOH leadership or FETP training support positions. Mali FETP trainees and graduates have also actively participated in outbreak investigations and responses for Rift Valley Fever, measles, meningitis, polio, yellow fever, rabies, Ebola, dengue, and COVID-19.

Emergency Response

With CDC technical assistance, a national health Emergency Operations Center was established to test, detect, and rapidly respond to public health emergencies. CDC collaborated with the MOH to establish a National Public Health Institute (NPHI) in 2019. CDC works with NPHI and MOH to build capacity in leadership in Public Health Emergency Management through training programs. CDC helps develop guidance on incidence management systems and operations. CDC has also collaborated with the West Africa Health Organization, World Health Organization (WHO), and German World Technical Assistance to conduct simulation exercises to test and improve the capacity for Malian health authorities to respond to cross border health emergencies. During the COVID-19 response, CDC provided support coordinating the response. CDC also enhanced the country's capacity to respond to future outbreaks by procuring laboratory equipment for key laboratories.

Surveillance Systems

CDC helps strengthen Mali's disease surveillance systems to better track and respond to disease through the following activities:

- Partnering with WHO to train district surveillance officers on the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response framework
- Supporting implementation of the 7-1-7 target (identify suspected outbreaks within 7 days of emergence, initiate investigation and response within 1 day, and efficiently respond within 7 days)

Laboratory Systems Strengthening

CDC supports the MOH and NPHI by providing:

- Technical assistance and coordination of partners operating in Mali
- Financial support to reinforce specimen referral and transport across tiered laboratory networks, decentralizing diagnostic testing for priority diseases
- Implementation genomic surveillance and external quality assessment proficiency testing for priority diseases
- Training on biosafety and biosecurity
- Mapping partner lab systems
- Strengthening preparedness for disease detection
- Decentralizing molecular diagnostic capacity to four regions
- Strengthening bioinformatics

MALARIA

Malaria is the primary cause of morbidity and mortality in Mali, particularly among children under five years of age. CDC has worked with United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Mali since 2008 to reduce malaria deaths and illness through the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI). Mali's malaria control strategy emphasizes specific epidemic and entomological surveillance and universal coverage of key malaria interventions, as well as targeted operational research.

INFLUENZA

CDC works with Mali's Center for Vaccine Development to help build surveillance and laboratory capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to influenza threats. Surveillance is being conducted using sentinel sites in two regions and in the capital city of Bamako.

POLIO

CDC, in collaboration with WHO and the African Field Epidemiology Network, provides technical support to strengthen surveillance of acute flaccid paralysis in the high-risk health districts of Nioro, Bougouni, and Kignan.

MENINGITIS

CDC has a long history of collaboration with the Mali MOH on meningitis prevention and control. Activities include:

- Technical support and evaluation of the 2010-2011 MenAfriVac mass vaccination campaign
- Assessment and strengthening of meningitis surveillance
- Technology transfer of real-time sensitive diagnostics for the three main vaccine-preventable bacterial meningitis pathogens
- Partner support to the NPHI to strengthen surveillance of meningitis and laboratory capacity for bacterial meningitis testing

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