

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

For 45 years, CDC has helped strengthen Kenya's public health and laboratory systems and operate an integrated research center. CDC Kenya implements the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, U.S. President's Malaria Initiative, and Global Health Security Agenda to build and strengthen the country's core public health capabilities. These include laboratory capacity; workforce and institutions; prevention and response; innovation and research; and policy, communications and diplomacy.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Data & Surveillance

- Enhanced surveillance and health information systems by spearheading state-of-the-art and mobile data collection systems



Laboratory

- Facilitated 89 laboratories in achieving international standard accreditation over the last 15 years



Workforce & Institutions

- Supported training of over 1,500 global health leaders who graduated from the Field Epidemiology Laboratory Training Program (FELTP)



Prevention & Response

- Created a network of more than 20 sub-national EOCs who have responded to more than 100 disease outbreaks as of 2024



Innovation & Research

- Support cutting edge research and the launch of an Applied Science Hub to expand surveillance and introduce novel diagnostic methods such as advanced molecular and serology-based methods



Policy, Communications & Diplomacy

- Supported a measles-rubella vaccination campaign in high-risk counties, resulting in the vaccination of over 3 million children

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

Surveillance Systems

CDC conducts surveillance to better understand emerging health threats and how to prevent them. This strengthens Kenya's ability to rapidly detect and respond to disease outbreaks and other health threats. CDC enhances surveillance and health information systems by:

- Supporting the development and implementation of population, facility-based, rapid mortality, and event-based surveillance systems
- Spearheading state-of-the-art and mobile data collection systems
- Implementing the Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance program
- Supporting the Health and Demographic Surveillance System

Laboratory systems strengthening

CDC strengthens laboratory systems in Kenya by helping to build the critical laboratory network necessary to assure health security. CDC provides ongoing support to select KEMRI laboratories, regional and county laboratories, and the NPHL on diagnostics, outbreak detection and systems development. On-going technical assistance priorities include whole genome sequencing and diagnostics capacity for endemic and emerging pathogens.

Workforce development

The CDC-supported FELTP is designed to build national, regional, and local capabilities to stop diseases at the source. Kenya's FELTP implements all three programs—Advanced, Intermediate and Frontline. FELTP residents serve as first responders to prepare and respond to public health emergencies like COVID-19, yellow fever, and Ebola.

Emergency response

CDC supported the design and provided equipment for the Kenya National Public Health Emergency Operations Center established in 2013. CDC has trained Ministry of Health (MOH) staff in public health emergency management, incident command systems, geographic information systems, risk communication, and through the Public Health Emergency Management Fellowship. During the COVID-19 response, CDC supported Kenya in data collection, surveillance, laboratory, testing, border health, workforce training, and vaccine rollout efforts.

HIV and TB

Since 2004, CDC has supported the Government of Kenya and local and international partners in efforts to strengthen prevention and control of HIV and TB. CDC provides technical and financial support through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). CDC works to:

- Develop strategic policy guidelines, national HIV surveillance, and strategic information systems, enabling early adoption of new scientific evidence and data use
- Improve service delivery in HIV and TB prevention, identification, linkage, treatment, and retention of people living with HIV or TB
- Implement high-quality laboratory services, strengthening health systems, and establishing close partnerships with national and county governments to enhance program sustainability

- Establish and maintain sound financial management systems to ensure transparency, accountability, and compliance with required regulations

IMMUNIZATION

CDC's Global Immunization Program supports the Government of Kenya and the region in developing national policies, strategies, action plans and projects to prevent and control vaccine preventable diseases. CDC Kenya assisted the Government of Kenya in preparing for and accelerating COVID-19 vaccination. CDC's activities focus on maintaining polio-free status, achieving measles elimination and rubella control, and maintaining elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus. CDC's Immunization Program also enhances Kenya's vaccine preventable diseases laboratory systems by supporting diagnostics, outbreak detection, and sequencing for polio, measles, and rubella.

MALARIA

Kenya's population is at risk for malaria. As a co-implementer of the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), CDC coordinates with USAID, the Government of Kenya, and partners to implement and evaluate malaria prevention and control activities. CDC has also collaborated with KEMRI since 1979 to establish one of the premier malaria research field stations in the world.

INFLUENZA

CDC's Influenza Program Regional Hub in Kenya supports enhanced surveillance and laboratory capacity. This allows for the timely detection and characterization of seasonal influenza, detection of novel viruses, as well as other respiratory viruses of pandemic potential. CDC works closely with partners and MOH in Kenya and other countries in the region including Ethiopia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

MIGRATION HEALTH

It is anticipated that approximately 20,000 refugees per year will resettle into the U.S. from Africa – the largest contributor to the U.S. refugee resettlement program. CDC's Global Migration Health Africa Program, located in Kenya, works with local and international partners to address public health needs associated with population mobility.

The program is responsible for the medical requirements for U.S. immigration and refugee resettlement to prevent importation of infectious diseases of public health significance into the United States. The program collaborates with the following partners:

- U.S. Department of State Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration
- U.S. consulates
- International Organization for Migration
- United Nations Refugee Agency

