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INFECTIOUS DISEASE DETECTION AND SURVEILLANCE (IDDS) PROJECT

Strengthening the ability of health systems in low- and middle-income countries to quickly detect, track, and respond to infectious disease threats

WHY IT MATTERS

The threat of infectious diseases continues, and outbreaks have increased in frequency and severity since the start of the 21st century. This increase is due in large part to global travel and trade, population growth, climate change, and increased contact between humans and animals. There has also been a rise in antimicrobial resistance, with approximately 700,000 people dying each year from drug-resistant infections.

Strong diagnostic and surveillance systems are essential for the provision of quality health care. They detect infectious diseases before they spread and ensure that health officials and other decisionmakers have the information required to take decisive action. However, many low- and middle-income countries lack the capacity to detect and respond to both known and new infectious diseases, including regions at high risk for diseases with pandemic potential and antimicrobial resistance. Laboratory systems and diagnostic testing capacity are frequently overlooked and underfunded in health systems in low- and middle-income countries.

ABOUT IDDS

Established in May 2018, USAID's Infectious Disease Detection and Surveillance (IDDS) project is a five-year, \$120 million initiative that operates in more than 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia where there are significant gaps in health systems' ability to detect, track, and rapidly respond to infectious diseases and drug-resistant infections that pose a major threat to public health and global health security.

IDDS is led by ICF and a consortium of organizations with extensive expertise in infectious diseases, disease detection and surveillance, and health information systems: FHI 360, PATH, the Mérieux Foundation, the African Society for Laboratory Medicine, Abt Associates, Gryphon Scientific, Metabiota, and the Association of Public Health Laboratories.

IDDS cuts across diseases and sectors, and it identifies and addresses gaps in systems that other disease-specific programs aren't designed to address. Because it can take in funds from multiple sources, IDDS can also pivot quickly as countries' priorities evolve.

Country teams, led primarily by host-country nationals, collaborate closely with ministries of health and a wide range of local partners to ensure that the project's efforts are aligned with country priorities and tailored to local needs.



A primary focus for IDDS is to develop the capacity of laboratories in partner countries to provide safe testing and accurate, quick results—and to effectively communicate those results to health care providers, public health officials, and other key decisionmakers.

IDDS strengthens laboratory systems by working with partner countries and their ministries of health to:

- Assess laboratory and overall capacity to provide diagnostic services
- Develop strategic plans, guidelines, training materials, and standard operating procedures
- Establish laboratory biosafety and biosecurity systems to protect the workforce and communities
- Train laboratory personnel in best practices, and support workforce development and quality assurance
- Enhance the availability of essential supplies, reagents, and functional equipment
- Improve access to testing by decentralizing laboratory testing and bringing it closer to patients
- Establish or enhance systems for safe and rapid transport of samples from community sites to regional and central testing facilities
- Assist with the rollout and scale-up of new testing tools and technologies
- Strengthen data quality and develop interoperable systems to facilitate data sharing
- Strengthen the capacity of community surveillance to detect and report potential outbreaks and raise awareness in the community

Taking a “One Health” approach that recognizes the interconnection between people, animals, and our shared environment, the project also works to develop the capacity of animal health systems to detect and report zoonotic diseases that could become threats to humans, and to foster collaboration and data sharing between the animal and human health sectors.

IDDS prioritizes testing for diseases and drug-resistant pathogens that have the potential to spread quickly, devastate health, and disrupt economies.

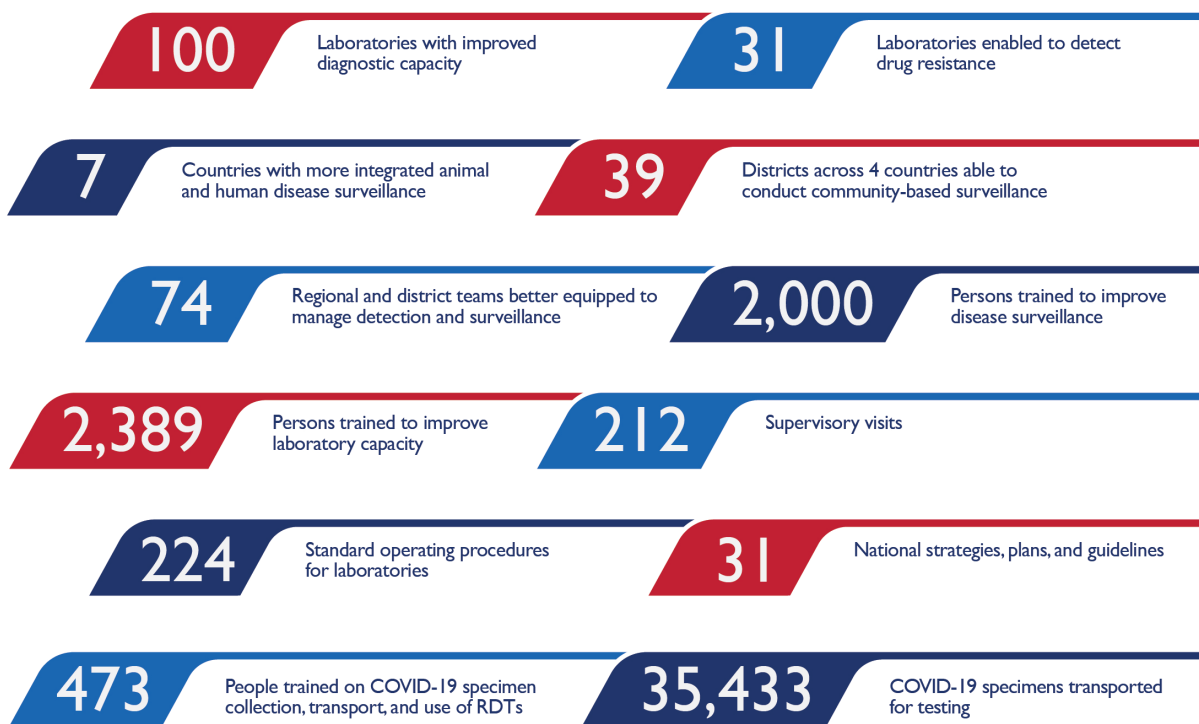
Priority diseases include tuberculosis—one of the world’s deadliest infectious diseases prior to COVID-19, causing approximately 1.5 million deaths each year—as well as Ebola, COVID-19, and other potentially deadly infectious diseases.

IDDS also works to identify and monitor the spread of drug-resistant bacteria that make it increasingly difficult to treat tuberculosis and other common infectious diseases.

IDDS is also on the frontlines of USAID’s emergency response.

In addition to strengthening the ability of health systems in our partner countries to quickly detect and accurately diagnose infectious diseases during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are also working on the frontlines of USAID’s COVID-19 and Ebola response efforts.

IDDS BY THE NUMBERS (FISCAL YEAR 2021)



IDDS Contacts

Lisa Nichols
Project Director
lisa.nichols@icf.com

Ochiawunma Akwiwu-Ibe
Deputy Project Director
ochi.akwiwuiibe@icf.com

Amy Piatek
USAID Contracting
Officer’s Representative
apiatek@usaid.gov

Cheryl Kamin
USAID Alternate Contracting
Officer’s Representative
ckamin@usaid.gov

Dorothy Peprah
USAID Technical Advisor
dpeprah@usaid.gov

@IDDS_Project

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/usaid-ids>

Infectious Disease Detection and Surveillance
530 Gaither Road, Rockville, MD 20850