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Rapid Ebola test training. Photo by IDDS

Infectious Disease Detection and Surveillance (IDDS) Project

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

Overview

USAID's Infectious Disease Detection and Surveillance (IDDS) project works with host countries to strengthen disease detection networks and surveillance systems for diseases of public health importance including Ebola virus disease (EVD) and tuberculosis (TB).

Detection

IDDS aims to improve the capacity for identification of priority pathogens and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in priority infectious diseases through an accessible, accurate, adaptable, timely, and integrated diagnostic network system.

Surveillance

IDDS improves the quality of real-time surveillance systems for priority diseases to ensure they are consistent, accurate, timely, of high quality, reported nationally, and utilized locally.

DRC and Global Health Security (GHS)

- IDDS is assisting the DRC's Ministry of Health to operationalize its Laboratory Policy and Strategic Plan in eastern DRC. This includes building capacity for equipment maintenance in North Kivu and the surrounding provinces, and support for the INRB's Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory in Goma.
- The project is supporting the establishment of a network of public health laboratories in eastern DRC. This includes mapping laboratory services and evaluating and expanding existing specimen management and referral systems. IDDS also leads

IDDS is led by ICF, and its partners in the DRC are Abt Associates, the African Society for Laboratory Medicine, FHI 360, and the Mérieux Foundation. IDDS collaborates with the DRC's Ministry of Health and the National Institute of Biomedical Research (INRB).



IDDS currently is implementing activities in over 20 countries in Africa and Asia.

the development, implementation, and costing of an operational and sustainability plan for the North Kivu Provincial Public Health Laboratory.

- IDDS is working with the Ministry of Health to update its Outbreak Action Plan and to align it with the Laboratory Policy and Strategic Plan. IDDS will contribute to expanding the capacity for safe specimen handling and transportation through the involvement of local airline and transport companies for safe, secure, and efficient conveyance of specimens.

DRC’s National Tuberculosis Program (NTP)

IDDS is supporting the upgrade and efficient functioning of the National TB Reference Laboratory (NTRL) in Kinshasa and Provincial TB Reference Laboratories in Lubumbashi and Kisangani to ensure regular specimen testing activities and minimize the risk to staff of infection and specimen contamination. These upgrade activities include:

- Repairs on laboratory power lines at the NTRL to reduce power outages, allowing laboratory equipment to operate more efficiently without downtime.
- Supplying fuel for the back-up generators in the event of a power outage.
- Maintenance of biosafety equipment that minimizes the risk of infection to laboratory personnel and contamination of specimens.
- Overseeing repair and maintenance of the NTRL’s mycobacteria growth inhibitor equipment to allow AMR sensitivity testing of anti-tuberculosis drugs.
- Supporting the introduction of Truenat to increase detection of TB and drug-resistant TB.

Response to the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Outbreak

IDDS is supporting the DRC EVD response plan including:

- Supporting training of 99 laboratory technicians, hygienists, nurses, and community health workers on Ebola rapid diagnostic testing for post-mortem surveillance.
- Procurement and distribution of diagnostic commodities needed to undertake safe and reliable EVD testing, including the donation of 1,000 GeneXpert (GX) EVD cartridges to the DRC’s Ministry of Health, through the INRB.



GX EVD cartridges handed over to the DRC’s minister of public health. Photo by IDDS

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