GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY PARTNERSHIP

Building connections to secure global health

Vietnam's progress prevent, detect, and respond to public health emergencies

The Global Health Security (GHS) Partnership

Our interconnected world is at increasing risk of the emergence and spread of infectious diseases. The 2016 Zika virus outbreak in the Americas and the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa are stark reminders of our collective vulnerability, joining other infectious diseases that have emerged as global threats in the past two decades, such as avian influenza, Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

However, the global interconnectivity that creates the risk of pandemics also provides the means to collaborate on the systems and solutions that enable the world to prevent, detect, and respond to public health threats.

In 2015, PATH joined with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other organizations to help advance the US government's pledge to support, assist, and empower countries in anticipating, preventing, and overcoming infectious disease outbreaks.

> "With all the knowledge, all the medical talent, all the advance technologies at our disposal, it is unacceptable if, because of lack of preparedness and planning and global coordination, people are dying when they don't have to."
>
> US President Barack Obama
> Global Health Security Agenda Summit
> September 26, 2014

GHS Partnership priorities in Vietnam

Key to the success of the GHS Partnership in Vietnam are close collaborations between PATH and the Ministry of Health (MOH), local organizations, and the CDC. Together, we are strengthening, integrating, and sustaining systems that are critical to preventing epidemics, detecting threats early, and responding rapidly and effectively.

PATH works to build the capacity of public and private local health services to diagnose, treat, and manage infectious diseases, like tuberculosis. PATH.

PATH is providing technical assistance to the Vietnam MOH and four of its national and regional institutes to improve infectious disease surveillance to ensure stronger and better linked systems through real-time surveillance, reporting, and development of emergency operations centers. The goal is to create a robust system to detect and report threats more rapidly, efficiently monitor trends, and produce actionable data for public health planning and response.

To ensure these systems are fully functional and sustainable, the GHS Partnership focuses on building capacity of staff at local agencies and organizations by developing training materials and courses, and offering tailored technical assistance.

PATH leverages extensive country experience and partnerships to strengthen critical health systems in Vietnam. The GHS Partnership work is bolstered by PATH's substantial portfolio of work in the Mekong region. This includes projects focused on tackling infectious diseases through the development of new vaccines, improving immunization systems by engaging digital and mobile solutions, and increasing access to a wide range of HIV services and products for those most at risk.

Additionally, PATH is working to build the capacity of public and private local health services to diagnose, treat, and manage infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis.

What has been accomplished?

The GHS Partnership is supporting the establishment of a comprehensive electronic disease reporting system and development of a centralized data warehouse and visualization platform.

We are also providing technical guidance to strengthen Vietnam's emergency operations network. The data from these surveillance systems will play a large role in providing an accurate picture of concerns and threats across the country.

These efforts will bring Vietnam closer to comprehensive disease surveillance with the intent to reduce the burden of infectious diseases on the nation.

The GHS Partnership in Vietnam has achieved the following:

- Supported the development of a centralized data collection system and data visualization platform that will help leaders make rapid and strategic decisions and reduce the impact of outbreaks.
- Worked with partners to equip and strengthen the country's second emergency operations center.
- Supported a pilot, in four provinces, for an event-based surveillance system.

A connected world brings opportunities to work together to ensure communities everywhere are safe and secure from disease threats. PATH.

Next steps

In addition to continuing these activities, the GHS Partnership in Vietnam will:

- Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation system for event-based surveillance activities.
- Strengthen the capacity surrounding infection prevention and control in hospitals, health care- associated infection surveillance, and antimicrobial resistance surveillance in Vietnam.
- Pilot and evaluate the feasibility and acceptability of HIV self-testing among people who inject drugs and their sex partners, as well as the uptake of HIV care and treatment after self-testing.

The GHS partnership in Vietnam will strengthen the capacity surrounding infection prevention and control in hospitals and health care- associated infection surveillance. PATH.

PATH's GHS Partnership, a five-year effort funded by the CDC, will strengthen public health systems in Vietnam, Senegal, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by expanding infectious disease surveillance, strengthening laboratory capacity, and developing effective information systems.

The GHS Partnership is part of a larger effort called the Global Health Security Agenda. The agenda was launched in 2014 and is a growing partnership of nations, international organizations, and nongovernmental stakeholders focusing on progress toward a world safe and secure from public health threats.

For more information about the GHS Partnership in Vietnam, please contact Deputy Country Director Nguyen Tuyet Nga at ntnguyen@path.org.

This publication was supported by the Cooperative Agreement Number 5NUGGH001812-02-00, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Health and Human Services.

PATH

path.org

Hanoi Office
11th Floor, Hanoi Towers
49 Hai Ba Trung Street, Hoan Kiem District
Tel: 84 42 3936 2215 Fax: 84 42 3936 2216
Email: vietnam@path.org

HCMC Office
16th Floor, TNR Office Building
180-192 Nguyen Cong Tru Street, District 1
Tel: 84 8 3914 2982 Fax: 84 8 3914 2901
Email: vietnam@path.org

Date Published
November 2016