



Emergency support: When there is a disaster or emergency response, every second counts. Through donor support, the CDC Foundation helps stand in the gap to meet urgent needs.

Responding to emergencies

The issue: As America's health protection agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is prepared to rapidly deploy disease detectives, lifesaving vaccines and medicines and other crucial support during a health emergency at home or abroad. However, federal dollars, even during emergencies, are tied to appropriations or approvals, restrictions and purchasing procedures that can limit CDC's ability to act quickly.

Why it matters: When a health threat strikes, speed saves lives. Disease threats can spread faster and more unpredictably than ever before. Since 2011 alone, CDC has responded to dozens of public health threats including hurricanes, foodborne disease outbreaks, influenza, cholera, Ebola and Zika. CDC's state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Center operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to ensure America's health security.

Solution and impact: The CDC Foundation's Emergency Response Fund provides immediate, flexible resources to CDC experts addressing emergencies that affect the public's health—whether natural disasters, emerging disease outbreaks or bioterrorist threats. As just one example, CDC Foundation donors supported a wide variety of efforts for CDC's Ebola response, including establishing emergency operations centers in Guinea,

About us: The CDC Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization and the sole entity created by Congress to mobilize philanthropic resources to support CDC's critical health protection work. Since 1995, we have launched nearly 1,000 programs in more than 100 countries and raised over \$700 million through engagements with philanthropies, corporations, organizations, governments and individuals.

Liberia and Sierra Leone; providing vehicles and motorcycles for disease surveillance and contact tracing; enhancing communications technology for field workers; funding training and communications efforts in the region; and much more.

How you can help: CDC and the CDC Foundation urgently need your help to protect the health, safety and security of America and the world. Join with us to ensure that CDC has a backup source of funding when needed most to fill gaps and address critical, in-the-moment needs that can help save and protect lives during health emergencies.

Learn more: Contact Advancement at the CDC Foundation: advancement@cdcfoundation.org or 404.653.0790.

Protecting America and the world



2,000+

CDC has responded to thousands of disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies over the past 10 years

Stories of impact: Ebola on the frontlines



Join us: With your support, we can help CDC safeguard America and the world from deadly infectious diseases, urgent health emergencies, and dangerous, costly chronic conditions.

Early on a Sunday morning in Liberia, West Africa, a small group of CDC Foundation staff, along with representatives of eHealth Africa and the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, had the opportunity to see firsthand the challenges and successes that come with tracking down contacts of Ebola patients in Liberia.

On this morning during the Ebola epidemic, the group was led by Dorissa Bestman, a contact tracer in the New Kru Town neighborhood in Monrovia, the nation's capital city. Dorissa, a nursing student, knew the neighborhood well, having grown up there. Her job during the emergency was to monitor the daily temperatures and potential symptoms of those who had come in close contact with Ebola-infected patients.

Dorissa told the team that at first she encountered a great deal of resistance to her work as a contact tracer. Things began to change, though, as she built trust with her community. In her rounds, Dorissa typically walked many miles through thick sand and over uneven roads in the heat as she followed up with contacts.

The CDC Foundation team headed out early to connect with community members before they went to church later in the morning. At the first house Dorissa visited, she approached an elderly woman who slowly got up and walked over. The woman came in contact with Ebola while caring for her sick brother, who later died. Dorissa took the woman's temperature, and it was normal. She showed no signs of the disease and had a week to go before reaching the 21-day monitoring period in which Ebola symptoms would arise. She hoped to receive the welcome news that she did not have the disease.

From there, the group began the walk to the next person's home. On the way, Dorissa pointed to a small house and said, "There were 30 people living there—29 died from Ebola." The house was occupied, but the faint early morning light gave it an eerie appearance. Looking in, it was difficult to imagine the trauma of the lone survivor, who, the group was told, was receiving psychosocial counseling.

"There were 30 people living there—29 died from Ebola."

—Dorissa Bestman

Dorissa was taking part in an Ebola case monitoring trial program in Liberia using tablet computers. Funding for both the tablets and the training for the effort was made possible through CDC Foundation donors. The tablets were loaded with software used to track patients and keep their records.

While West Africa is now Ebola free, contact tracers were vitally important to that achievement. The CDC Foundation, our donors and partners were proud to support everyone who played a role in beating back the deadly disease. Today, through investments from our donors, Sierra Leone's health systems are stronger and more robust, with improved capabilities to prevent future disease outbreaks.

You can make a difference: Join with us to ensure people like Dorissa on the frontlines of emergencies are equipped to protect our health at home and abroad. To learn more, contact Advancement at the CDC Foundation: advancement@cdcfoundation.org, 404.653.0790.