



TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

IMA World Health (IMA) supports countries and communities in preventing, preparing for, detecting and responding to outbreaks or pandemics in accordance with the Global Health Security Agenda. IMA collaborates with governments, regional networks, national partners, and the private sector to mitigate threats and strengthen global health security by ensuring integrated, quality health care services for last-mile communities and people living in fragile settings. IMA works with state and community actors to support preparedness and health resilience activities, systems strengthening for rapid outbreak and case detection, and emergency management activities for immediate response.

Prevent and Prepare

Health Systems Strengthening: IMA works with local actors to assess and address gaps within the six WHO health system building blocks: health service delivery, health workforce, health information systems, access to essential medicines, health systems financing, and governance. In so doing, IMA strengthens both short- and long-term capacity to establish and strengthen resilient health systems, reducing chronic vulnerabilities and promoting more inclusive health development by addressing risks and responses to shocks and stresses. Globally, IMA leads the USAID Momentum Integrated Health Resilience activity to accelerate reductions in maternal and child mortality, including strengthening the capacity of local organizations and governments to respond to public health challenges, now and in the future.

Community Engagement: Early and effective community engagement is key to preparing for pandemics or other public health emergencies. IMA works in communities to promote

social cohesion, positive behavioral changes, and gender equity as critical elements in prevention and preparedness efforts.

Vaccination: IMA addresses the human, financial, social and physical capital needs of a health system to improve its vaccine service delivery and universal access at scale by strengthening the capacities of a country's health workforce to safely procure, manage and deliver vaccines through training, mentoring, and the provision of equipment and other resources, including for the cold chain. IMA collaborates with ministries of health, health care workers, local leaders and partners to conduct social listening, promote education, dispel misinformation, uplift trusted local vaccine champions to support advocacy and fuel demand, and develop and execute on risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) plans.

Infection Prevention and Control: IMA focuses on infection prevention and control (IPC) by implementing specialized disease control projects tailored to the needs of underserved communities. By strengthening health systems and enhancing service delivery, IMA ensures that effective IPC measures are integrated into health care practices, ultimately reducing the burden of diseases among at-risk populations.



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One Health: IMA recognizes the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health through a One Health approach. IMA addresses critical issues such as antimicrobial resistance, zoonotic and vector-borne diseases, food safety, and environmental impacts that threaten health and well-being. Through efforts to enhance livelihoods, address animal health, and promote safe agriculture in collaboration with fellow Corus organization Lutheran World Relief, community-led total sanitation (CLTS) initiatives and the training of volunteer animal health agents have fostered social and behavior change regarding household WASH practices and animal health and waste management. These strategies reduce the incidence of illness and environmental contamination, helping to mitigate potential public health crises.

Detect

Data Collection and Reporting: IMA works with governments at all levels to collect, analyze, and apply data for planning and program improvement. IMA has been instrumental in scaling up District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2), an open-source health data management system to collect data on national public health statistics, and other facility-level data collection in challenging contexts such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, and Kenya.

Community-based Surveillance: IMA helps train, equip, and mobilize health workers in community-based surveillance, including house-to-house visits. IMA also supports the

identification and reporting of potential health risks or unusual events in real time through mobile systems or other methods of communications. If a government response becomes overwhelmed, IMA supports or supplements ministry of health responses to fill gaps in specific health areas and ensure underserved communities are reached.

Contact Tracing: In response to COVID-19 or Ebola, IMA collaborates with WHO-supported contact tracing teams to conduct daily surveillance and case monitoring. Officials then report those findings, using WHO-approved contract tracing data collection tools.

Report

Supply Chain Management: IMA has deep experience preserving and mobilizing emergency supply chains, having done this successfully in difficult settings such as South Sudan during and after the conflict of 2013, in eastern DRC, and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health Worker Training: Alongside local actors, IMA leverages in-house and external expertise to train staff (train the trainers) and to ensure subsequent training for health workers at the community and facility levels. IMA employs an innovative, hybrid learning model for health care workers in low-resource and conflict settings that combines key elements of traditional classroom with adaptations from virtual learning to address the challenges of building health worker capacity in settings that include a limited workforce, unreliable internet access, and logistical and travel-related constraints.



Enhanced Facility Response: IMA helps health facilities strengthen their capacity to curtail transmission and safeguard staff and patients through a deeper understanding of relevant protocols and supply chains, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) use, and improvements in waste management, potable water supplies, solid waste management and containment systems for suspected patients.

Health Emergency Response: IMA swiftly addresses health emergencies by deploying medical resources and collaborating with local actors to mitigate the impact of crises such as floods, earthquakes, and disease outbreaks. By developing and maintaining operational readiness, IMA engages in effective responses to public health disasters like cholera in Haiti or Ebola in the DRC with essential measures such as material resources, WASH interventions, and infection prevention and control. IMA's longstanding partnerships with local networks, like the Africa Christian Health Associations Platform (ACHAP), enhance the ability to sustain essential health services during emergencies. By incorporating disaster risk reduction into emergency response work, IMA aims to not only respond to immediate needs but also promote long-term sustainability and preparedness.

In Practice

Consistent across our programming, IMA's **COVID-19 response** has been context-driven and locally led. Understanding that time is precious in the face of a crisis, IMA acted quickly to ensure health workers had the PPE, equipment, and resources necessary to reach at-risk communities and, later, mobilized rapidly to support faith-based health care networks across Africa to promote COVID-19 vaccine awareness and support vaccine delivery. Through our local partnerships, IMA has:

- Provided information, technical assistance, equipment, and supplies to implement infection prevention and control in health facilities, communities, and project sites;
- Supported community surveillance and contact tracing efforts;
- Developed and disseminated evidence-based messaging on the virus and safety measures;
- Strengthened the health system and community capacity and resilience.

Beginning in April 2022, IMA and its longstanding partner the Africa Christian Health Associations Platform (ACHAP) launched the **Promotion of COVID-19 Vaccine Equity through Faith-Based Networks in Africa** (CoV-FaB) project with the support of the Osprey Foundation and the



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The project responded to the significant lag in vaccination rates within East, West, Central, and Southern African countries and supported 860,422 COVID-19 vaccine doses in Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe alone (August 2022-March 2023). In Sierra Leone, these efforts contributed to a national increase in the fully vaccinated rate to 71.2% of the 12+ years population as of December 2022. IMA and ACHAP are continuing engagement to strengthen health emergency preparedness through the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN), a Christian non-profit comprising 136 faith-based organizations whose pharmacists, health care providers, and supply chain professionals provide care to over 300 million people.

IMA recognizes early warning systems (EWS) are vital components of disaster risk management and the resilience of health systems, providing local stakeholders — governments, service providers, and communities — with the necessary information and time to prepare for and respond quickly to disasters and other hazardous events. Through **USAID Momentum Integrated Health Resilience**, led by IMA, EWS enables health workers and facilities to minimize disruptions to service delivery and continue to reach at-risk populations with essential health care and support in times of crisis. IMA employs a model based on disaster risk knowledge; detection, observations, monitoring, analysis, and forecasting of hazards; warning dissemination and communication; and preparedness and response capabilities. The model adopts an integrated, people-centered approach to protect affected populations, incorporating effective governance and institutional arrangements, community involvement, and gender-sensitive strategies to protect vulnerable populations.

IMA is also able to tap into the multisector programming of Corus International and strengthen existing groups and networks in response to disease outbreaks. For example, Corus mobilized farmer groups, digital outreach platforms, and community leaders across sectors to disseminate COVID-19 information in coordination with national ministries of health beginning in the early months of the pandemic. In Mali, IMA's Osprey Foundation-supported **Animal Inclusive - Community Led Total Sanitation** (A-CLTS) project piloted an innovative WASH model that integrates strategies to reduce animal-human disease transmission and manage animal waste, tailored to the realities of rural households. IMA partnered with the Union of Livestock Breeder Cooperatives (USCET), the International Livestock Research Institute's (ILRI) One Health Center, and academic research partners.

IMA and our partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo have facilitated community-based **Ebola prevention, preparedness, and response** and supported health service continuity since the 2018-2020 outbreak. IMA supported the delivery of nearly \$1 million in PPE to frontline healthcare workers, the establishment of 78 Ebola triage and isolation units, the installation of water supply and hygiene systems at 164 health clinics, and training on community-based surveillance and Ebola messaging for more than 1,000 religious and community leaders.

The Corus Effect

Founded in 1960, IMA World Health is a leading public health organization that delivers solutions to health-related problems across the developing world. We work with local partners and governments to strengthen existing health systems, prevent and treat diseases, improve maternal and child health, promote nutrition and WASH, respond to sexual and gender-based violence, and contribute to global health security.

IMA World Health leads global health programming at Corus International, an organization that unites an array of world-class nonprofits and businesses, each with specialized expertise. Our reach and capabilities are amplified by the other global leaders in our Corus International family, including Lutheran World Relief, CGA Technologies and Ground Up Investing. Together, we bring the multi-dimensional, holistic needed to truly achieve lasting change.



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