Connecting Organizations for Regional Disease Surveillance (CORDS)

Enhancing Global Disease Surveillance Capacity by Building Networks of Trust

Description	Established in 2010, CORDS is a non-governmental platform where regional infectious disease surveillance networks around the world interact with each other and with other global partners to strengthen international health security. The CORDS process brings together professionals from disease hotspots to build a dialogue and cross-border cooperation to complement existing ways of countering infectious disease, strengthening global cooperation and communication for effective disease surveillance. In addition, CORDS facilitates sharing of information and standards and serves as a forum for communication between the World Health Organization (WHO) and Member States. Four strategic objectives include: improving capacity, advancing one health, promoting innovation, and building sustainable networks.
Purpose	Strengthen the standard of infectious disease surveillance globally by connecting and enhancing existing and nascent regional disease surveillance networks. Establish new networks, particularly in conflict or low-resource settings.
Scope	Global
Primary Funders	The Rockefeller Foundation, The Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), The Skoll Global Threats Fund, and The Peter G. Peterson Foundation.
Participants & Key Collaborators	NTI, Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance Network (MBDS), Middle East Consortium on Infectious Disease Surveillance (MECIDS), South-eastern European Health Network (SEEHN), Asian Partnership on Emerging Infectious Disease Research (APEIR), Southern African Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance (SACIDS), East African Integrated Disease Surveillance Network (EAIDSNet). Select intergovernmental organizations participate as observers.
Definition of One Health	None. The CORDS vision is based on the premise that infectious diseases do not respect borders, such that cross-border collaboration is essential for effective response.
Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy	NTI has conducted an initial survey of the value creation of CORDS (the value of learning enabled by a community of practice and networking). The action plan for programmatic and organizational activities through 2013 includes evaluating the immediate value of community activities, potential value of knowledge capital, applied value in changes in practice and realized value of performance improvement. The results of this baseline survey will be used to gauge the impact of CORDS as the organization matures.
Sources of Information	Website: http://www.nti.org CHORDS Brochure: http://www.ghsi.org/CHORDS-Brochure-122310.pdf Interviews with Louise Gresham, Deborah Rosenblum (NTI)
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