

Mpox

CAPACITY STATEMENT

September 2024

RISE

Reaching Impact, Saturation,
and Epidemic Control

Reaching Impact, Saturation and Epidemic Control (RISE) assists countries to respond to the HIV, global health security, and mpox health emergencies, providing technical assistance, service delivery, research, and cross-cutting health systems support to address critical pandemic response priorities. While initially funded to address the HIV epidemic, RISE jumped into the worldwide response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The same technical capacities that have been brought to bear on HIV and COVID-19 are the exact capacities that we are adapting to the ongoing mpox outbreak. Led by Jhpiego, the RISE consortium has offices across Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Consortium members include:

- ICAP at Columbia University (ICAP)
- Management Sciences for Health (MSH)
- ANOVA Health Institute (ANOVA)
- BAO Systems
- Mann Global Health (MGH)
- Johns Hopkins University (JHU) Center for Public Health and Human Rights, Center for Global Emergency Care and Center for Health Security




The RISE project is uniquely positioned to respond to the current mpox outbreak in sub-Saharan Africa. Our extensive experience in the management of mpox patients and established infrastructure in global health security enable us to provide comprehensive support to health systems in the region, ensuring effective management and containment of mpox.

Experience and Expertise

- Under the **RISE project**, Jhpiego has received funding from USAID to advance mpox-related activities in **India, South Africa, and Sierra Leone**. In response to the declaration of mpox as a public health emergency of international concern, we rapidly developed and deployed just-in-time learning modules to equip the healthcare workforce with the necessary skills to identify, manage, and contain mpox. These modules were later expanded to include the management of patients with a range of high-consequence pathogens, thereby building health systems' resilience against emerging threats. As the mpox outbreak






progresses, RISE continues to support multi-country multi-sectoral coordination, strengthening incident command structures, and improving capacity for effective response.

- RISE built the capacity of **India's** state ministries of health (MOHs) to manage mpox outbreaks. Strategies include screening and treating mpox and working with India's Regional Disease Diagnosis Labs in six regions to strengthen mpox disease diagnosis and surveillance within the animal population.
- Our partnership with the **JHU Center for Global Emergency Care** provides us with direct access to leaders in the emergency response and management of high-consequence pathogens such as mpox. We apply WHO best practices and evidence-based innovation to enhance our mitigation activities.
- **Jhpiego, MSH** and **ICAP** have broad footprints in global health security, with various projects focused on strengthening laboratory infrastructure, expanding surveillance, and enhancing emergency response and management. Our activities aim to fortify national response mechanisms through the development of incident command centers and emergency operation centers, as well as strengthening clinical case management via health workforce training.

RISE Capacity to Respond to mpox in Sub-Saharan Africa

- **Health Workforce Training:** Leveraging our experience from the RISE project and our just-in-time learning modules, RISE is well-equipped to train healthcare workers in sub-Saharan Africa to effectively identify and manage mpox cases. Our training programs will ensure that public health precautions for containment are reinforced and disseminated widely. In **Sierra Leone**, ICAP is supporting the MOH with mpox preparedness, including strengthening the capacity of health facilities to detect and report suspected cases through enhanced mentorship, training the health workforce on mpox case identification, management and infection prevention and control protocols, and developing risk communication messages for dissemination at national and community levels. In 2023 MSH, through the global USAID Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPS) Program (2018-2025), trained 319 people in **DRC** to prevent, detect, and/or respond to mpox.
- **Research and Surveillance:** RISE can conduct research to better understand the mpox outbreaks in sub-Saharan Africa. This includes characterizing the epidemiology of the outbreak, developing, and validating diagnostic assays, and studying immune responses. Our research will inform evidence-based recommendations for clinical case management and public health interventions.
- Leveraging **ICAP's** established clinical research centers in New York City (NYC) and following the global mpox outbreak in 2022, ICAP conducted a cross-sectional seroprevalence survey to estimate the prevalence of orthopoxvirus/mpox IgG antibodies among men, transgender persons and nonbinary individuals who have sex with men in NYC. The study also assessed accessibility, uptake and attitudes surrounding mpox testing, treatment and vaccination and explored participants' anticipated attitudes and practices in the event of a potential mpox resurgence in NYC, including primary and booster vaccine intentions. Findings from this study will provide a greater understanding of the extent of the 2022 outbreak, including the prevalence of undetected cases, and allow for the evaluation of the public health response, including vaccination efforts. This information can be disseminated to public health authorities to inform future mpox response strategies. ICAP is well positioned to conduct similar studies globally, as well as to support MOH to utilize routinely collected surveillance data to inform mpox response and vaccination efforts.
- Faculty from the **Johns Hopkins University Schools of Medicine, Public Health, Nursing, and Engineering** implemented a system-wide surveillance initiative, including dashboards and point-of-care testing, to characterize the mpox outbreak within Baltimore. This research has yielded new knowledge on diagnostic assays, immune responses, and social behavioral interventions to mitigate stigma associated with mpox. The findings have informed clinical case management recommendations and strategies for linking infected individuals to appropriate care both locally and internationally.
- **Health Systems Strengthening:** RISE partners have extensive experience in global health security which can be leveraged to strengthen health systems in sub-Saharan Africa. Combined experience and expertise globally includes enhancing laboratory capacity for expanded surveillance, supporting the development of incident command centers and emergency operation centers, and improving clinical case management through comprehensive training programs.
- **Infection Prevention Control (IPC):** RISE has worked extensively with health facilities to strengthen IPC practices in care venues. Including the training of non-clinical staff as Safety Officers, that focus on addressing supply chain issues, conducting needs assessments, drafting SOPs, and provision of rapid response training. In **DRC**, ICAP is working with the MOH to strengthen IPC capacity for mpox prevention and mitigation. This support includes sensitization and awareness building with healthcare



providers using communities of practice for sharing guidelines, best practices and exchanging experiences; supporting implementation of facility-level IPC assessments and preparedness activities to prevent and control mpox; integration of mpox capacity building in outbreak management activities; and supporting national response activities.

- **Risk Communication:** RISE created an extensive awareness campaign to support COVID test-to-treat adoption in six countries. We have an extensive network of community partners, and deep expertise in community engagement to mitigate stigma and strengthen innovation adoption.
- **Regulatory support for vaccines & other medical products/supplies:** MSH has worked with National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) to rapidly introduce quality-assured vaccines, medicines, medical devices; expedite emergency use authorization and registration; align medicine and pharmacy laws and regulations; apply smart regulatory mechanisms using reliance and recognition of regulatory decisions made by well-resourced or reference NRAs; enhance post-marketing surveillance and patient safety. A critical area of support, specifically in **Kenya** and **Rwanda**, was building the NRA's capacity to manage and control domestic vaccine manufacturing through technology transfer, which is also planned by the manufacturers of MPXV vaccines.
- **Pharmacovigilance and patient safety:** Another critical element of rapid and safe mpox vaccine introduction is a well-functioning national pharmacovigilance system tuned for active surveillance, monitoring and managing adverse events following immunization (AEFI). MSH through the MTaPS program has successfully supported **Bangladesh, Kenya, Rwanda, Mozambique, Jordan, and Tanzania** to enhance their pharmacovigilance systems to ensure safety of COVID-19 and Ebola vaccines administration, including mobile systems for AEFI reporting by points of vaccination.
- **Procurement and supply management:** Through MTaPS, MSH assisted 17 countries with the rapid deployment of COVID-19 vaccines, which directly impacted the speed and scope of vaccine rollouts, ensuring timely access to vaccination and helping the governments to achieve vaccination coverage goals. Key steps included: support to quickly adopt supply chain solutions that factor in cold chain requirements to preserve vaccine stability; vaccine sourcing, procurement and emergency supply chain response strategies, including value-for-money based procurement; microplanning; forecasting of vaccine demand, prioritization, and quantification; rapid evaluation and strengthening of cold chain; integrated distribution systems and accessing third-party logistics services; inventory management; and, monitoring and visibility via transparent national digital dashboards. During the COVID-19 pandemic, ICAP supported procurement of more than 320,000 supply items across 12 countries, including personal protective equipment, thermometers, handwashing stations and other commodities. And through RISE COVID-19 support, Jhpiego has delivered 4,160 oxygen-related commodities and supplies to more than 120 facilities in 10 countries and has strengthened oxygen supply forecasting and management systems in **Kenya, Lesotho, and Mozambique**.

RISE has a proven track record in supporting the management of high-consequence pathogens, supported by experts from across Johns Hopkins and Columbia Universities, as such we are well positioned as a leader to respond to the mpox outbreak in sub-Saharan Africa. Our integrated approach to training, research, and health systems strengthening will ensure a robust and effective response, ultimately enhancing the region's resilience against current and future health threats.

For more information about RISE, contact:

At RISE: Kelly Curran, RISE Project Director (Kelly.Curran@Jhpiego.org)

At USAID: Brian Bingham, USAID Agreement Officer's Representative or Jacqueline Firth, USAID Alternate Agreement Officers' Representative (RISEAORteam@usaid.gov)