

# CDC's Division of Global Migration Health



Accessible version: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dgmq/focus-areas/irmh.html>

## Immigrant and Refugee Health Branch

### Who We Are

The Division of Global Migration Health's Immigrant and Refugee Health Branch (IRHB) is responsible for the medical requirements for U.S. immigration and refugee resettlement. IRHB improves the health of and promotes health equity among migrant populations after resettlement in the United States. Additionally, IRHB works to strengthen health systems at country borders to promote and improve the health of globally mobile populations (e.g., immigrants, refugees, migrants, and cross-border populations).



### What We Do

IRHB safeguards the health of U.S.-bound immigrant and refugee populations and helps to prevent the international spread of disease by:

- Administering regulations for, overseeing, and providing technical instructions and training on the required medical exam for U.S. immigration, both overseas and domestically
- Providing vaccinations and presumptive treatment for certain infectious diseases for U.S.-bound refugees
- Notifying U.S. health officials and providing them with overseas medical information for newly arriving immigrants and refugees
- Collaborating with partners to provide evidence-based guidance to inform domestic medical examination of refugees after arrival
- Collaborating with countries and providing technical assistance to improve surveillance, preparedness, and response in internationally mobile populations, refugee populations, refugee host countries, and at border crossings
- Using epidemiological and statistical science to advance IRHB's programs and identify new approaches to further its mission

### Where We Work

IRHB fulfills its mission through domestic and overseas programs. IRHB collaborates with federal agencies responsible for immigration, and state and local health departments. Its staff also operates field programs in Africa and Asia and participates in active partnerships and projects in more than 145 countries.

## How We Work Together

IRHB works with international and domestic partners such as governments, academic institutes, nongovernmental organizations, and intergovernmental partners to address public health needs associated with globally mobile populations. Partner activities include conducting overseas medical exams, transmitting exam records to partner agencies in the U.S., and connecting mobile populations with domestic resources to ensure a continuum of care.



## Program in Action

### Preparing for, Tracking, and Responding to Outbreaks:

- IRHB works with partner countries to detect, track, and respond to disease outbreaks. IRHB improves understanding of the epidemiology of diseases of concern by supporting surveillance initiatives and analysis of mobility and social connectivity trends among mobile populations. Additionally, IRHB strengthens public health capacity through national and local partnerships in other countries working at their points of entry and across borders.

### Immigration Medical Examinations and Treatment Programs:

- IRHB ensures the quality of medical examinations and laboratory diagnostics for U.S.-bound refugees and immigrants, including children adopted overseas. Additionally, IRHB supports the Vaccine Program and the Presumptive Treatment Program for malaria and intestinal parasites for U.S.-bound refugees based on the country they originated from or resided in prior to resettlement.



### Post-arrival U.S. Medical Follow-Up:

- IRHB develops guidance related to refugee populations for domestic healthcare providers and manages the Electronic Disease Notification system for sharing overseas medical exam records with health departments for post-arrival follow-up.

**For more information:  
Visit the Immigrant and Refugee Health Site**



**Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention**  
National Center for Emerging and  
Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

[www.cdc.gov/migrationhealth](http://www.cdc.gov/migrationhealth)