Training Public Health Managers to Protect the Globe From Disease

**BACKGROUND**

Part of the CDC’s global health effort, IMPACT is a fellowship program that works closely with partner countries to build a workforce of public health workers who are able to translate science into action. IMPACT provides fellows with experience in public health program planning, implementation, management, and evaluation through specialized, hands-on training, supervision, and mentorship.

**THE PROBLEM**

Disease threats can spread faster and more unpredictably than ever before. Building the skills of public health managers can improve the capacity of health systems globally and help keep the world safe from known and emerging infectious disease challenges.

**THE UNION APPROACH**

Working in a strategic partnership with the CDC, The Union developed a robust and comprehensive training program to help boost the management skills of IMPACT fellows. The curricula, led by experienced faculty, are designed to build competency in:

- Project Management
- Supervision and Delegation
- Budget and Finance Management
- Supply Chain Management

The CDC IMPACT Program is very thoroughly evaluated, and The Union contributes by designing and managing practical sessions that are held during the end of year symposiums program. During the sessions, an average two-days long, the fellows put to practice the management skills that they have learned during that year.

The Union is helping to build the capacity of local trainers and providing them with the latest facilitating methods so they can teach the various modules effectively.

**THE RESULTS**

In 2016, the CDC launched a 2-year long pilot of the IMPACT training program in Kenya. Fellows’ self-assessment of knowledge in all areas of the IMPACT Program increases especially in courses developed by The Union. Initial results led the CDC to launch a second pilot program in Bangladesh and announce plans to launch the program this year in Cambodia.