



FPDI PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Building Resilience in Disaster Response Systems

The Food Protection and Defense Institute (FPDI) at the University of Minnesota received an award from the Paul G. Allen Ebola Program to leverage innovative research and technology originally developed for global food systems to support public health emergency preparedness and response. The project will improve 1) early detection of emerging disease outbreaks and 2) delivery of critical medical supplies during public health emergencies. Project aims include:

Utilize predictive analytics & machine learning to identify emerging disease outbreaks from non-traditional data sources. By using an ontology-based approach, FPDI is developing an innovative and scalable system that will support the automated scanning, analysis, and coding of a diversity of data sources ranging from news media to government reports to social media.



Develop technology solutions to improve supply chain visibility and resilience by facilitating critical information sharing across public and private stakeholders. The technology is designed to support both pandemic preparedness and response during a crisis. FPDI is partnering with the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations' (UN) mandated leader for humanitarian logistics and emergency response in crises, to establish protocols and processes to more effectively and efficiently execute in future emergency response efforts.

Additionally, FPDI is working closely with other UN agencies, US government agencies, the private sector, and others to ensure the technology meets the needs of all stakeholders that play key roles in responding to public health emergencies.

Project Leads:

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