

INDIA

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established an office in India in 2001 to assist the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) in addressing a concentrated HIV epidemic affecting key populations (KP), such as female sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender individuals, and people who inject drugs. As a key implementer of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC focuses on evidence-based, high impact, sustainable interventions in prevention, testing, linkage to treatment, retention, and viral load (VL) suppression to reach people at risk of HIV and people living with HIV (PLHIV), including KPs. CDC provides technical assistance (TA) for the generation and use of real-time granular data for decision-making to achieve program objectives. CDC also works closely with the National Tuberculosis (TB) Elimination Program (NTEP).

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HIV Treatment: CDC works closely with NACO in the development and implementation of programs to increase prevention and testing, antiretroviral therapy (ART) coverage, retention in care, and VL suppression. In collaboration with NACO and State AIDS Control Societies (SACS), CDC has successfully demonstrated and scaled strategies to improve service delivery and treatment options. With these partners, CDC led the implementation of 'Treat All' tracing of over 6,000 persons with HIV in care but not on treatment, helping them start life-saving ART. This approach was later scaled through a national campaign. CDC supported treatment optimization and successfully demonstrated client-centered differentiated service delivery strategies such as multi-month dispensation, later adopted by NACO across the country through over 540 ART centers.

Strengthening Laboratories: CDC collaborates with NACO in VL scale-up efforts including building capacity of molecular labs to provide routine VL test services to PLHIV for treatment monitoring and early diagnosis of treatment failure; establishes a VL lab network through a laboratory quality improvement (QI) and accreditation program to provide 100 percent access to quality-assured VL testing; strengthens the lab-clinical interface for rapid result utilization; builds lab capacity and improves access to diagnosis of opportunistic infections; and strengthens information systems to provide lab data to support the effectiveness of viral suppression. CDC has provided extensive TA implementing a structured program of laboratory QI toward ISO accreditation for 130 HIV national and state level labs and scaled at over 5,000 HIV testing sites, leading to a marked improvement in quality and timely diagnosis of HIV through a tiered laboratory network. All 13/13 (100%) national reference labs and 84/117 (72%) state reference labs are ISO accredited; June 2020.

National Surveillance Systems: CDC, NACO and other local partners, ensure the quality of HIV annual sentinel surveillance and provide TA for nationwide integrated biological and behavioral surveillance of KP. CDC has supported development of national guidelines for community-led mapping and KP size estimation. CDC supported the national strategic information management system, focusing on secondary data analysis, data use, and the development of technical policy briefs, as well as dashboards for program divisions for real-time decision-making, including Targeted Interventions.

HIV Prevention Among KP - Northeastern India: CDC, under Project Sunrise, successfully demonstrated and scaled strategies to improve prevention (low threshold harm reduction strategies) and expanded HIV testing (including index partner testing), linkage, and co-located service delivery for people at risk of or living with HIV in the highest HIV prevalence states in the North East (Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland). With the Government of India, CDC demonstrated integrated care strategies through a package of services for women who use drugs. Through Project Sunshine, these successes are being amplified for national scale-up. In March 2021, CDC and partners inaugurated a community-led Transgender Health and Wellness Center in Imphal, Manipur as a model for integrated care delivery for KPs, which included point-of-care laboratory services.

TB: CDC supports NACO and the NTEP in rolling out single-window services through ART centers to manage TB in PLHIV, including training of staff, intensive HIV/TB case finding, early diagnosis, testing, and HIV and TB treatment. CDC provided support to Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) to implement multi-disciplinary Airborne Infection Control units across 10 Mumbai wards. CDC supports MCGM to improve treatment outcomes for patients with multi-drug resistant TB in Dharavi slum through use of point-of-care audiometry and ECG monitoring for adverse drug effects and ensuring treatment continuity for migrants. CDC helped strengthen NTEP laboratory capacity through national implementation of external quality assessment of the rapid molecular based TB testing known as cartridge-based nucleic acid assay and accreditation of national and intermediate level reference TB labs.

Key Country Leadership

Prime Minister:
Narendra Modi

Minister of Health:
Harsh Vardhan

U.S. Chargé d'Affaires:
Atul Keshap

CDC/DGHT Director:
Melissa Nyendak

Country Quick Facts
(worldbank.org/en/where-we-work)

Per Capita GNI:
\$1,900 (2020)

Population (millions):
1,380.00 (2020)

Under 5 Mortality:
34/1,000 live births (2019)

Life Expectancy:
70 years (2019)

Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic
(aidsinfo.unaids.org)

Estimated HIV Prevalence
(Ages 15-49): N/A (2020)

Estimated AIDS Deaths
(Age ≥15): N/A (2020)

Estimated Orphans Due to
AIDS: N/A (2020)

Reported Number Receiving
Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)
(Age ≥15): 1,429,965 (2020)

**Global Tuberculosis
(TB) Epidemic**
(who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en)

Estimated TB Incidence:
193/100,000 population (2019)

TB Patients with Known HIV
Status who are HIV-Positive:
2.6% (2019)

TB Treatment Success Rate:
82% (2018)

Estimated TB Mortality:
33/100,000 population (2019)

DGHT Country Staff: 15
Locally Employed Staff: 13
Direct Hires: 2
Fellows & Contractors: 0

Our success is built on the backbone of science and strong partnerships.

September 2021 | The CDC Division of Global HIV & TB activities are implemented as part of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); non-HIV related TB activities are supported by non-PEPFAR funding

