

CAMBODIA

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) is a global leader in the fight against HIV. It has decreased adult infection rates by nearly two-thirds since 2010 and is providing HIV treatment to over 99 percent of diagnosed people living with HIV (PLHIV). The RGC is on track to eliminate HIV as a public health problem by 2025. Since 2002, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Cambodia (CDC Cambodia) has been supporting the RGC to strengthen HIV diagnosis, prevention, and treatment services across the country.

Currently CDC Cambodia focuses on:

- Finding undiagnosed PLHIV.
- Ensuring that all PLHIV stay on treatment.
- Improving the quality, availability and use of HIV data.
- Improving laboratory systems to ensure high quality viral load testing.
- Providing technical assistance (TA) to the RGC to implement international HIV policies.
- Using innovative approaches, such as virtual outreach to key populations, to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Finding undiagnosed PLHIV:

- Using high-yield methods to find more undiagnosed PLHIV (e.g., notifying and testing partners of PLHIV, improving information on HIV risk).
- Using a test that can identify recent HIV infections to allow the RGC to respond quickly to new infections.
- Provide access to HIV self-testing for populations who may be at risk but fear stigma and discrimination at a clinic.

Increasing the number of PLHIV who stay on treatment:

- Find patients who have stopped treatment and get them back into treatment.
- Improve counseling and support services for PLHIV so they can stay on lifelong antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Improving the quality, availability and use of data:

- Link HIV information systems so that PLHIV can be monitored in real-time across the clinical cascade, from HIV diagnosis to treatment, to viral suppression. This will result in improved clinical decisions and quality of care.

Improving laboratory systems to ensure high quality viral load testing and other results:

- Ensure that all PLHIV get a viral load test and that results are returned quickly to clinicians and patients to determine viral suppression.
- Improve laboratories by implementing the Laboratory Quality Management Systems (LQMS) approach and using state-of-the-art technology for viral load testing.
- In 2019, with support from CDC, the National Institute of Public Health Laboratory (NIPHL) received international standards accreditation (ISO 1589), the first public laboratory in Cambodia to receive this distinction. Cambodia is working towards achieving ISO 1589 accreditation in two additional public laboratories.

Helping the RGC to implement international HIV policies:

- Ensure all PLHIV begin treatment on the same day of their diagnosis, have access to treatment (including dolutegravir), and are placed on tuberculosis preventive treatment.
- Ensure stable PLHIV have access to six months of medications.

Key Country Leadership

Prime Minister:
Hun Sen

Minister of Health:
Mam Bunheng

U.S. Ambassador to
Cambodia:
W. Patrick Murphy

CDC/DGHT Director:
Rachel Albalak

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

Per Capita GNI:
\$1,490 (2020)

Population (millions):
16.72 (2020)

Under 5 Mortality:
27/1,000 live births (2019)

Life Expectancy:
70 years (2019)

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

Estimated HIV Prevalence
(Ages 15-49): 0.5% (2020)

Estimated AIDS Deaths
(Age ≥15): 1,100 (2020)

Estimated Orphans Due to
AIDS: 35,000 (2020)

Reported Number Receiving
Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)
(Age ≥15): 60,645 (2020)

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

Estimated TB Incidence:
287/100,000 population (2019)

TB Patients with Known HIV-
Status who are HIV-Positive:
2.7% (2019)

TB Treatment Success Rate:
94% (2018)

Estimated TB Mortality:
20/100,000 population (2019)

DGHT Country Staff: 19

Locally Employed Staff: 17
Direct Hires: 1
Fellows & Contactors: 1

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.

