

UGANDA

STRATEGIC FOCUS

In 1991, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) started work in Uganda—conducting HIV and AIDS research, and officially establishing a country office in 2000. With the launch of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in 2003, Uganda became a focus country for the program delivering high quality HIV services. CDC supports Uganda's Ministry of Health (MOH) and numerous implementing local institutions partners to strengthen HIV and tuberculosis (TB) prevention and control efforts. Using a service delivery model integrated within national, regional, and district structures, CDC's current focus is to identify persons living with HIV (PLHIV) by testing those most at risk; expanding antiretroviral therapy (ART) to all HIV-positive Ugandans immediately upon diagnosis and scaling-up viral load (VL) testing to monitor viral suppression. CDC also supports TB diagnosis and treatment through systemic integrated screening of clients attending HIV clinics and linking them to TB/HIV care and ART for TB/HIV co-infected clients, including children.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HIV prevention:

CDC Uganda supports efforts to reduce new HIV infections through prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), voluntary medical male circumcision, peer-based programs for key populations, the PEPFAR DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe) program, prevention of gender-based violence, and roll out of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Of the 78,910 PEPFAR-supported HIV-positive pregnant and lactating women identified in 2020, close to 60% (46,266) were at CDC sites, and of the 98% enrolled on ART, over half were at CDC-supported sites, enabling babies to be born HIV-free (PEPFAR data 2020). The country has reduced mother-to-child-transmission of HIV infections from 7.5% in 2014 to 1.6% in 2020. Through a robust key populations program, CDC also supports policy advocacy and tailored services for female sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender persons, persons who inject drugs (PWID), and the incarcerated populations. The medically assisted therapy program that helps treat and rehabilitate PWID has already enrolled 116 individuals since its opening on October 1, 2020, with appointment adherence of 97% (PEPFAR data 2020).

Comprehensive HIV & TB Care and Treatment:

CDC has continually supported Uganda to be a quick adopter of optimal ART regimens for both adults and children. In 2020, per PEPFAR data, CDC supported transition of 84% of children and adolescents and 65% of adults in care, to optimal ART regimens—93% of these individuals are virally suppressed. CDC has also been using differentiated service delivery models to ensure retention of HIV and TB clients on treatment amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. CDC provided services to prevent TB in HIV-infected clients through scale-up of TB preventive treatment (TPT)—achieving 75% of TPT enrollment target and 85% TPT completion among all PLHIV in 2020. CDC supported better TB diagnostic services to improve case-finding and 98% of diagnosed TB patients have a documented HIV status. Of the HIV positives, 95% had been started on ART; while 99% of the PLHIV diagnosed with TB were initiated on TB treatment in 2020. CDC also supported other services for advanced HIV disease, including access to TB and Cryptococcal treatment among identified clients (88% and 92% respectively). In 2020, CDC supported Uganda in the planning and roll out of cervical cancer screening and treatment of pre-cancerous lesions targeting 260,619 women living with HIV through 604 high-volume sites.

Laboratory systems strengthening:

CDC supports HIV and TB testing—including early infant diagnosis (EID) and VL testing to inform treatment decisions. While strengthening laboratory capacity improvement through staff training and facility accreditation, CDC helped ensure timely access to accurate and reliable diagnoses, as well as infection control for health care workers and laboratory facilities in the face of COVID-19. CDC supported 27 labs to attain international accreditation in 2020 compared to only seven in 2015; contributed to over half of the total PEPFAR-supported HIV tests; supported 75% of the 26,927 TB tests; and helped scale-up EID point of care (POC) testing for babies 0-2 months from 33 sites in 2019 to 133 in 2020 (PEPFAR data). These improvements have reduced result turnaround time and strengthened same-day linkage to ART for HIV-positive infants for better health outcomes.

Use of data for improved impact:

CDC supports program monitoring and evaluation, health surveillance and information systems, and public health research to generate up-to-date data to drive evidence-based HIV and TB programs and policies. The 2020-2021 Uganda Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (UPHIA) survey concluded field activities and is conducting data analysis to inform and focus country HIV/AIDS and TB interventions.

Key Country Leadership

President:
Yoweri Kaguta Museveni

Minister of Health:
Jane Ruth Aceng

U.S. Ambassador:
Natalie E. Brown

CDC/DGHT Director:
Lisa Nelson

[Country Quick Facts](https://www.worldbank.org/en/where-we-work)
([worldbank.org/en/where-we-work](https://www.worldbank.org/en/where-we-work))

Per Capita GNI:
\$800 (2020)

Population (millions):
45.74 (2020)

Under 5 Mortality:
46/1,000 live births (2019)

Life Expectancy:
63 years (2019)

[Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic](https://aidsinfo.unaids.org)
(aidsinfo.unaids.org)

Estimated HIV Prevalence
(Ages 15-49): 5.4% (2020)

Estimated AIDS Deaths
(Age ≥15): 18,000 (2020)

Estimated Orphans Due to
AIDS: 900,000 (2020)

Reported Number
Receiving Antiretroviral
Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15):
1,279,427 (2020)

[Global Tuberculosis
\(TB\) Epidemic](https://who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en)
([who.int/tb/country/data/
profiles/en](https://who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en))

Estimated TB Incidence:
200/100,000 population
(2019)

TB patients with known HIV
status who are HIV-
positive: 39% (2019)

TB Treatment Success Rate:
74% (2018)

Estimated TB Mortality:
35/100,000 (2019)

DGHT Country Staff: 122
Locally Employed Staff: 107
Direct Hires: 12
Fellows & Contactors: 3

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

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