

NAMIBIA

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Namibia office was established in 2002, followed by the opening of satellite offices in Zambezi, Kavango East, and Oshana regions. CDC works with the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MOHSS) providing support and technical assistance (TA) to build health system capacity and implement key programs.

Achieving Sustained Epidemic Control: CDC is focused on supporting Namibia to achieve HIV epidemic control in a sustainable manner, optimizing locally led program implementation to reach the last, most challenging hotspots and areas of unmet need.

Strengthening Surveillance and Health Information Systems: CDC provides TA to build capacity to collect and analyze data to improve program decision-making and make timely adjustments to achieve epidemic control goals.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HIV Case Finding, Scale Up of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Program and Differentiated Service Delivery:

CDC Namibia is supporting MOHSS to expand HIV index partner testing and self-testing to find people living with HIV (PLHIV) who are not yet diagnosed and to implement immediate linkage to ART for all patients. CDC is also supporting the MOHSS to expand recency testing and the public health response to address hotspots of new infections. Through these key methods, CDC is supporting the MOHSS to find the remaining PLHIV who are not yet linked to treatment. CDC is supporting the care and treatment of PLHIV through the strengthening of differentiated service delivery methods such as patient support groups, outreach points to deliver medicine, and multi-month dispensing so that patients may receive their medicine for up to six months at a time. CDC is also supporting the MOHSS to establish Chronic Medicine Dispensing smart lockers where patients can collect their medicine, which is quicker and more convenient for patient and healthcare provider. CDC is also targeting support for children, adolescent, and young people living with HIV to improve viral load (VL) suppression through optimized ART and peer support. CDC is strengthening long-term patient care through the scale-up of cervical cancer screening. CDC is particularly focused on addressing age and geographic disparities in treatment, incorporating mental health into HIV care, and ensuring better outcomes for prisoners and populations near the border.

Strengthened Health Systems: CDC supports MOHSS to strengthen the health system by ensuring an adequate supply of skilled health professionals through the hiring of doctors, nurses, clinical mentors, data monitoring personnel, and other key staff. This supports the decentralization of ART services and ensures that important targets are met. CDC supports the weekly use of the Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (Project ECHO) platform as an effective means of building expertise in the country. Project ECHO, is an internet-based digital learning platform that connects remote sites to specialists and empowers health care providers with advanced skills to treat patients with complex diagnoses.

Data to Inform Decisions: The UNAIDS 90-90-90 target of: 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status; 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV will receive sustained ART; and 90% of all people receiving ART will have viral suppression. By 2021, Namibia had achieved these targets with the country figures currently at 90:98:91 (PEPFAR data 2020). CDC has supported the implementation of numerous national-level surveys including the Namibia Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (NAMPHIA), two successive Integrated Bio-Behavioral Surveillance Surveys (IBBSS) to identify specific needs of key populations, a Violence Against Children Survey, and a Tuberculosis (TB) prevalence study.

TB/HIV: CDC supports comprehensive TB/HIV activities in Namibia, including improving and integrating TB and HIV services for co-infected individuals, providing TB preventive treatment (TPT) for all eligible HIV-positive individuals, and supporting TB infection control efforts in health care facilities. CDC is also supporting MOHSS to roll out a new method of TB testing (TB-LAM) that makes diagnosis quicker, meaning that patients start medication sooner.

Strengthening Laboratory Systems: CDC Namibia supports the Namibia Institute of Pathology (NIP) to provide accurate, timely, and quality HIV and TB diagnostics and VL testing to ensure that adults and children living with HIV manage their condition and stay healthy.

Key Country Leadership

President:
Hage Geingob

Minister of Health:
Kalumbi Shangula

Chargé d'Affaires:
Jessica Long

CDC/DGHT Director:
Steven Hong (Acting)

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

Per Capita GNI:
\$4,520 (2020)

Population (millions):
2.54 (2020)

Under 5 Mortality:
42/1,000 live births (2019)

Life Expectancy:
64 years (2019)

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

Estimated HIV Prevalence
(Ages 15-49): 11.6 % (2020)

Estimated AIDS Deaths
(Age ≥15): 2,700 (2020)

Estimated Orphans Due to
AIDS: 51,000 (2020)

Reported Number
Receiving Antiretroviral
Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15):
175,406 (2020)

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

Estimated TB Incidence:
486/100,000 population
(2019)

TB patients with known HIV
status who are HIV-positive:
32% (2019)

TB Treatment Success Rate:
86% (2018)

Estimated TB Mortality:
107/100,000 population
(2019)

DGHT Country Staff: 48
Locally Employed Staff: 38
Direct Hires: 10
Fellows & Contactors: 0

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

