

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has had a long-standing partnership, since 2002, with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Ministry of Health (MOH). Since the launch of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in 2003, this partnership rapidly expanded, and aligned itself with the UNAIDS 95-95-95 global objectives by achieving 95% diagnosed among all people living with HIV (PLHIV), 95% on antiretroviral therapy (ART) among diagnosed, and 95% virally suppressed (VS) among treated. CDC is strategically focusing on:

- HIV prevention and treatment: summarized in Test and Start approach
- Integration of HIV and Tuberculosis (TB) care and treatment
- Strengthening public health system, health information systems, laboratory capacity, and health workforce development
- Strengthening Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) activities toward epidemic control

Strengthening Public Health Systems

CDC provides technical and financial assistance to the MOH in the areas of service delivery and policy development. Through CDC support, MOH is empowered to provide comprehensive and integrated HIV services in the Haut-Katanga and Kinshasa provinces.

Strengthening Laboratory Systems

CDC builds capacity of laboratory functions including diagnostics and quality management systems. CDC scales-up laboratory infrastructures to meet the increasing needs for viral load and emerging infectious diseases (EID). CDC implemented an in-country development program for laboratory accreditation. During Fiscal Year FY2021, one additional molecular laboratory in Kolwezi has been established and is processing samples.

Strengthening Surveillance and Health Information Systems

CDC supports the innovative use of HIV electronic reporting system through a data repository to increase capacity in the health management information systems.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ART Services: CDC has helped strengthen the scope and quality of ART services for adults and children. As of FY 2020, CDC has (78,500) PLHIV on treatment (PEPFAR Annual Progress Report, 2020). CDC also significantly contributed to the adoption of the Test and Start approach and new national HIV management guidelines.

Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT): CDC experts contributed to the HIV elimination (eMTCT) plan, and the rollout of optimized Tenofovir-based regimen (TLD). In FY 2020, CDC had (1,107) pregnant women on ART (PEPFAR Annual Progress Report, 2020).

Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC): CDC aims to keep children safe, healthy, stable, and schooled. Through CDC support, in FY 2020, 22,435 OVC received services to improve their well-being.

Tuberculosis (TB)/HIV Integration: CDC helps to develop a TB infection control national plan, promote TB Preventive Therapy (TPT), and supports TB case identification. In FY 2020, 1,339 TB/HIV co-infected patients at CDC-supported facilities received ART (PEPFAR Annual Progress Report, 2020).

Viral load (VL): CDC increased capacity and access for early infant diagnosis and VL testing. In FY 2020, PEPFAR supported laboratories and processed 56,606 samples (82% coverage) for VL.

Key populations: FY2020, resulted in over 13,956 female sex workers (FSW) and 3,919 men who have sex with men (MSM) tested for HIV, resulting in 1,530 positives. Of these HIV-positives, were initiated on ART. The remaining HIV negative clients were supported to stay negative.

Key Country Leadership

Prime Minister:
Felix Antoine Tshisekedi
Tshilombo

Minister of Health:
Jacques Mbanda Mbungani

U.S. Ambassador:
Michael Hammer

CDC/DGHT Director:
Peter Fonjungo

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

Per Capita GNI:
\$1,830 (2020)

Population (millions):
5.52 (2020)

Under 5 Mortality:
48/1,000 live births (2019)

Life Expectancy:
65 years (2019)

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

Estimated HIV Prevalence
(Ages 15-49): 0.7% (2020)

Estimated AIDS Deaths
(Age ≥15): 9,800 (2020)

Estimated Orphans Due to
AIDS: 440,000 (2020)

Reported Number
Receiving Antiretroviral
Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15):
354,948 (2020)

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

Estimated TB Incidence:
320/100,000 population
(2019)

TB Patients with Known HIV
Status who are HIV Positive:
11% (2019)

TB Treatment Success Rate:
93% (2018)

Estimated TB Mortality:
60/100,000 population
(2019)

DGHT Country Staff: 23

Locally Employed Staff: 19
Direct Hires: 4
Fellows & Contactors: 00

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

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