

# CDC in KENYA

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For more than 40 years, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has helped strengthen Kenya's public health and laboratory systems and operate an integrated research center. CDC Kenya implements programs funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), and the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA).



Two of CDC-supported Kenya Medical Research Institute laboratories are part of a network of five labs that can sequence SARS-CoV-2 samples



60% of Kenya's COVID-19 samples were tested in CDC-supported KEMRI labs (September 2022)



CDC worked with Kenya port health authorities to detect, assess, notify and report events, and respond to public health risks at more than 20 points of entry, such as airports, land border, and ports



Over 40 residents of the CDC-supported Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) deployed to more than 20 counties as part of the COVID-19 response



CDC supported the installation of 18 county Emergency Operations Centers that cover nearly 50% of the population, as well as an EOC within Kenya Prisons Services



More than 765,000 people living with HIV (PLHIV) are on antiretroviral treatment (ART). Of those, 96% have an undetectable HIV viral load



Nearly 400,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women know their HIV status due to testing by CDC-supported sites. Of those who tested positive, 99% are on HIV treatment



Nearly all HIV-infected TB patients treated in CDC-supported sites were on ART during TB treatment. More than 85% of people living with HIV received TB preventive treatment



CDC delivered more than 5 million insecticide treated bed nets, protected 2 million people from malaria with indoor residual spraying, and gave malaria preventive treatments to more than 1 million pregnant women

## COVID-19

The first case of COVID-19 in Kenya was confirmed on March 12, 2020. CDC helped Kenya adapt surveillance and laboratory platforms to detect SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. U.S. government investments, through CDC, strengthened Kenya's COVID-19 response. CDC Kenya's COVID-19 Team provided hands-on frontline expertise, financial support, and training in the following ways:

- Helped Kenya expand the National Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC), established in 2013. This allowed Kenya to better coordinate the response, share data, and identify response gaps.
- CDC Kenya helped start FELTP Frontline programs in the countries of Somalia and Djibouti through COVID-19 regional workforce development.
- As of September 7, 2022, Kenya administered more than 15 million COVID-19 vaccine doses across the country. Almost 35% of all eligible adults are fully vaccinated.
- CDC Kenya provided close to \$2.5 million to support the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 vaccination rollout in 14 counties from March 2021 to July 2022. More than 600,000 people were fully vaccinated.

## Global Health Security

CDC helps conduct surveillance to better understand emerging health threats and how to prevent them. This strengthens Kenya's ability to rapidly detect and respond to disease outbreaks. CDC also oversees the planning of medical screening of U.S.-bound immigrants and refugees.

- **Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program** has trained over 800 epidemiologists with basic, intermediate, and advanced skills in applied epidemiology and laboratory management.
- **Infectious Disease Surveillance Platforms** based in 12 facilities and multiple communities serve as sentinel and early warning systems for pathogen detection

## HIV & Tuberculosis (TB)

CDC supports Kenya's efforts to expand and strengthen national HIV prevention, care, treatment, and surveillance with technical and financial support through U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

## Malaria

The U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) household surveys

show a reduction in malaria parasite prevalence by nearly 50% over the past decade.

## Global Research Hub

Global Research Hub studies are implemented in collaboration with host nation research institutions. This CDC flagship international research site has developed into a sophisticated and comprehensive platform for scientific study and service delivery particularly in the fields of HIV, TB, malaria, and maternal and child health.

## Immunization

To prevent and control vaccine-preventable diseases, CDC collaborates with Kenya and the region to develop national policies, strategies, action plans, and implement and monitor projects. CDC's activities in Kenya focus on maintaining polio-free status, achieving measles elimination and rubella control, and maintaining elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus.

- Accelerated COVID-19 vaccination in Kenya targeting 14 counties, largely in Western Kenya, which had a lower vaccination coverage compared to other counties. CDC trained over 6,000 health workers how to correctly store, transport, administer, and monitor COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Supported a measles-rubella vaccination campaign targeting high- and very-high-risk counties. More than 3.7 million children were safely vaccinated.

## Migration Health

CDC's Global Migration and Quarantine Africa Field Program, located in Kenya, works with local and international partners to address public health needs associated with population mobility. The program is responsible for the medical requirements for U.S. immigration and refugee resettlement to prevent importation of infectious diseases of public health significance into the United States. It is anticipated that approximately 20,000 refugees per year will resettle into the United States from Africa.

## Influenza

CDC's Influenza Program Regional Hub in Kenya supports enhanced surveillance and laboratory capacity. These activities allow for the timely detection and characterization of seasonal influenza, novel and emerging variants, and other respiratory viruses of pandemic potential. CDC works with partners and Ministries of Health in Kenya and other countries in the region including Ethiopia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.



### CDC STAFF

21 U.S. Assignees  
143 Locally Employed



### AT A GLANCE

Population: >54.9 million  
Per capita income: \$4,950  
Life expectancy: F 64 / M 59 years  
Infant mortality rate: 30/1,000 live births

Sources: World Bank, 2021, Kenya;  
Population Reference Bureau, 2021, Kenya



### TOP 10 CAUSES OF DEATH

1. HIV/AIDS
2. Lower respiratory infections
3. Diarrheal diseases
4. Neonatal disorders
5. Stroke
6. Tuberculosis
7. Ischemic heart disease
8. Cirrhosis
9. Malaria
10. Diabetes

Source: GBD Compare 2019, Kenya

For more country information  
<https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/kenya/>

