

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) is a global leader in the fight against HIV. It provides HIV treatment to over 99 percent of diagnosed people living with HIV (PLHIV) and is among the first U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) supported countries aiming to eliminate HIV by 2025. Since 2002, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Cambodia (CDC-Cambodia) has supported the RGC to strengthen HIV diagnosis, prevention, and treatment services across the country. The goal is to fully transition the HIV response to the government, ensuring that health policies and systems are equitable and sustainable.

CDC Cambodia currently focuses on:

- Finding undiagnosed PLHIV and immediately placing them on treatment.
- Ensuring that all PLHIV stay on treatment.
- Improving the quality, availability, and use of HIV data to improve programs.
- Improving laboratory systems to ensure high-quality viral load testing and coverage.
- 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.
- Providing 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 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, outcomes, 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.
- Improve laboratories by implementing the Laboratory Quality Management Systems (LQMS) approach and using state-of-the-art technology for viral load testing.
- Support the Ministry of Health (MOH) to achieve international organization for standardization (ISO 1589) at two additional medical 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 on tuberculosis preventive treatment.
- Ensure stable PLHIV have access to six months of medication.

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

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:
\$1,550 (2021)

Population (millions):
16.94 (2021)

Under 5 Mortality:
25.7/1,000 live births (2020)

Life Expectancy:
70.1 years (2020)

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

Estimated HIV Prevalence
(Ages 15-49): 0.6% (2021)

Estimated AIDS Deaths
(Age ≥15): 1,100 (2021)

Estimated Orphans Due to
AIDS: 36,000 (2021)

Reported Number Receiving
Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)
(Age ≥15): 61,561 (2021)

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

Estimated TB Incidence:
274/100,000 population (2020)

TB Patients with Known HIV-
Status who are HIV-Positive:
2.5% (2020)

TB Treatment Success Rate:
96% (2019)

DGHT Country Staff: 19

Locally Employed Staff: 18
Direct Hires: 1
Fellows & Contractors: 0

