

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) began work in Cameroon in 1998 as an HIV laboratory and research program. CDC partnered with the Government of the Republic of Cameroon in 2008 to strengthen disease control efforts and develop sustainable public health capacity. Through public health technical and financial assistance from CDC, Cameroon has accelerated progress to HIV epidemic control and leveraged capacity developed through CDC’s support to respond to COVID-19 and other health threats.

Strengthening Public Health Systems: CDC supports the Cameroon Ministry of Health in delivering clinical services in more than 300 health facilities across all ten regions through implementing partners. Health systems strengthening efforts include building epidemiology, surveillance, laboratory, research, and workforce capacity, to support HIV and TB prevention, and treatment programs along the clinical cascade to achieve HIV epidemic control.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HIV Prevention and Treatment Scale Up: As a key implementing agency of the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in Cameroon, CDC scaled up HIV prevention, care, and treatment services for people living with HIV (PLHIV) in all ten regions of the country to achieve HIV epidemic control in Cameroon by the end of 2023. CDC’s clinical program is focused on achieving the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets: 95 percent diagnosed among all PLHIV, 95 percent on antiretroviral therapy (ART) among diagnosed, and 95 percent virally suppressed among treated, across all age groups, sex, and sub-populations in Cameroon by 2024.

Tuberculosis (TB) Prevention and Treatment: TB is a major cause of mortality among PLHIV. Cameroon ranks among the top 30 countries with the highest HIV and TB co-infection burden globally. CDC supports Cameroon’s National TB Control Program integrating HIV services in TB settings and integrating TB services in HIV clinics. For TB prevention, CDC is currently supporting the scale up of TB screening among PLHIV and the provision of TB preventive treatment. CDC also supports TB infection prevention and control activities to prevent transmission in healthcare settings.

Laboratory System Strengthening: CDC’s laboratory capacity building efforts in Cameroon led to the implementation of the first national proficiency testing program to ensure quality and reliable results and the rollout of the Strengthening Laboratory Improvement Process Towards Accreditation, a framework for evaluating the progress of laboratories toward international accreditation. Through CDC’s support, laboratory capacity has strengthened across the country, including national reference laboratories for Early Infant Diagnosis, HIV viral load, and COVID-19 testing. Over 1,200 laboratories are participating in the HIV rapid test proficiency testing program. CDC’s efforts in Cameroon have resulted in five International Organization for Standardization (ISO)-15189 accredited laboratories – the first internationally accredited laboratories in Central Africa, and the first internationally certified blood bank in West and Central Africa.

Health Information Systems and Strategic Information: CDC supports strengthening of Cameroon’s health information and disease surveillance systems to ensure quality data for decision-making. This includes technical and financial support for Cameroon’s national HIV monitoring and evaluation system and strengthening the District Health Information System at national, regional, and district levels. CDC is building capacity of health facility staff on the use of site-level data for continuous quality improvement and is supporting efforts to achieve the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets and sustained HIV epidemic control in Cameroon.

Key Country Leadership

President:
H.E. Paul Biya

Minister of Health:
Dr. Manaouda Malachie

U.S. Ambassador:
Christopher J. Lamora

CDC/DGHT Director:
Clement B. Ndongmo

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

Per Capita GNI:
\$1,590 (2021)

Population (millions):
27.22 (2021)

Under 5 Mortality:
72.2/1,000 live births (2020)

Life Expectancy:
59.6 years (2020)

Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic aidsinfo.unaids.org

Estimated HIV Prevalence (Ages 15-49): 2.9% (2021)

Estimated AIDS Deaths (Age ≥15): 9,100 (2021)

Estimated Orphans Due to AIDS: 390,000 (2021)

Reported Number Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15): 376,827 (2021)

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

Estimated TB Incidence: 174/100,000 population (2020)

TB Patients with Known HIV-Status who are HIV-Positive: 24% (2020)

TB Treatment Success Rate: 86% (2019)

DGHT Country Staff: 29

Locally Employed Staff: 23
Direct Hires: 4
Fellows & Contractors: 2

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

