

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) began its partnership with Côte d'Ivoire in 1987 by opening the Project Retrovirus Côte d'Ivoire (Retro-CI) laboratory in collaboration with the Ivorian Health Ministry. In 2004, this partnership expanded when the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) started providing services in Côte d'Ivoire. Today, Côte d'Ivoire has made significant progress in providing treatment to those who know they have HIV: 97 percent of them are on antiretroviral therapy (ART), and 84 percent of those on treatment are virally suppressed based on UNAIDS' 2022 SPECTRUM estimates. However, HIV/AIDS is still one of the top causes of mortality in Côte d'Ivoire, and challenges remain in case finding and achieving long-term viral suppression among men, children, adolescents, and key populations.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Prevention and Treatment of HIV: CDC expertise supports national efforts to deliver high quality, client-centered HIV prevention, care, and treatment services. To achieve epidemic control, CDC is intensifying HIV testing efforts for men, children, and key populations and increasing testing coverage among women. CDC has also redesigned its office to intensify partner management and to provide the necessary site-level technical assistance for improved program outcomes. CDC's partners support integrated health services to reach men and children by scaling up safe and ethical index testing services and optimizing provider-initiated testing and counseling. In addition, the country has prioritized services in a targeted subset of health districts, representing more than 87 percent of the HIV burden. CDC support has led to dramatic increases in treatment optimization; 96 percent of adult ART patients are now on Tenofovir-Lamivudine-Dolutegravir (TLD), and 98 percent of children on ART are now on pediatric Dolutegravir (pDTG). These transitions will directly accelerate progress towards long-term viral suppression. CDC support is also facilitating the rapid scale-up of tuberculosis (TB) preventive treatment, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and differentiated service delivery models for stable patients receiving treatment. In 2022, CDC will help Côte d'Ivoire improve child/adolescent HIV care by introducing a highly successful peer support model.

Laboratory Systems and Networks: CDC helped expand HIV viral load testing and early infant diagnosis (EID) to every health region. CDC expertise supported the creation of regional health labs to ensure better access to HIV testing services. With CDC support, Côte d'Ivoire recently established an external quality control program for the country's more than 3,000 HIV testing sites. Together with the Global Fund, CDC is supporting diagnostic network optimization to ensure that laboratory platforms are used at capacity to support HIV prevention, care, and treatment services.

Strengthening Public Health Systems: CDC is building capacity in the Ivorian Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene and the Ministry of Women, Family, and Children to coordinate and ensure quality HIV prevention and treatment services nationwide. These systems include TB diagnosis and treatment; HIV testing services; prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission; prevention among key and priority populations, including the Determine Resilient Empowered, AIDS-free Mentored and Safe (DREAMS) program for adolescent girls and young women; care and support for orphans and vulnerable children; and reduction of stigma and discrimination. CDC is also building the capacity of civil society organizations for quality services through community-led monitoring. Due to CDC, Côte d'Ivoire is the first country in West Africa and in Francophone Africa to participate in the Extension for Community Health Care Outcomes (Project ECHO). Project ECHO uses technology to livestream the trainings rather than requiring all participants travel to specific locations. The platform has played a critical role in supporting virtual trainings for providers on HIV, TB, and COVID-19 policies and guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Finally, the Retro-CI laboratory has been certified as a WHO pre-qualification site for HIV molecular diagnostics; it is the first such laboratory in West Africa.

Strategic Information: CDC provides technical assistance to the Ivorian health ministry and local partners to enhance data quality and use for decision-making. CDC has been a key player in planning a national data quality improvement plan. Côte d'Ivoire is the first county in Francophone Africa to implement CDC's Violence Against Children Survey.

Tuberculosis: Among people living with HIV in Côte d'Ivoire, TB is the number one cause of death. CDC is helping local clinics implement new approaches to identify, treat, and prevent TB. These methods include routing testing for co-infection whenever someone tests positive for HIV or TB, and then closely monitoring patients with co-infections to achieve viral suppression and successful TB treatment outcomes, TB infection control, and TB preventive treatment.

Key Country Leadership

- President: Alassane Ouattara
- Minister of Health: Pierre N'Gou Dimba
- U.S. Ambassador: Richard K. Bell
- CDC/DGHT Director: Shirish Balachandra

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

- Per Capita GNI: \$2,450 (2021)
- Population (millions): 27.05 (2021)
- Under 5 Mortality: 78/1,000 live births (2020)
- Life Expectancy: 58 years (2020)

Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic
aidsinfo.unaids.org

- Estimated HIV Prevalence (Ages 15-49): 1.9% (2021)
- Estimated AIDS Deaths (Age ≥15): 8,200 (2021)
- Estimated Orphans Due to AIDS: 320,000 (2021)

Reported Number Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15): 279,404 (2021)

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

- Estimated TB Incidence: 135/100,000 population (2020)
- TB Patients with Known HIV-Status who are HIV-Positive: 15% (2020)
- TB Treatment Success Rate: 84% (2019)

DGHT Country Staff: 6

- Locally Employed Staff: 0
- Direct Hires: 6
- Fellows & Contractors: 00

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

