

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) began working in Sierra Leone in 2008 through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). A permanent country office, established in 2015, supports the Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS). CDC's HIV and tuberculosis (TB) technical assistance focuses on:

- Providing technical assistance and enhancing partner coordination at the national and district levels
- Implementing effective prevention programs by improving HIV testing and preventing mother-to-child transmission
- Strengthening surveillance, program monitoring, and evaluation
- Improving care and treatment services including HIV/TB diagnosis, and antiretroviral therapy
- Enhancing point of care laboratory testing for multidrug-resistant TB, extensively drug-resistant TB, and HIV/TB co-infection
- Building high-quality laboratory systems to support HIV and TB testing

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Partnerships

- CDC continues to be a strong and active participant in several sectors across the country's health system, including the national AIDS response.
- CDC routinely collaborates with U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, the lead PEPFAR implementing agency in Sierra Leone.

Laboratory Systems

- In service to the National AIDS Response and supported by PEPFAR, CDC continues to provide technical assistance to strengthen laboratory performance aspects central to achieving epidemic control.
- CDC and PEPFAR partners supported the MOHS in developing a National Quality Manual for Quality Management Systems, producing improvements across a broad range of systems and processes at the site level.

Data for Decision Making

- In service to the National AIDS Response and supported by PEPFAR, CDC provides strategic information and technical assistance to focus on unmet needs and advance progress toward epidemic control, emphasizing key populations as the primary source of increasing incidence.
- CDC supports capacity building of MOHS to use data for decision-making to guide HIV and TB programs.

Quality Improvement

- CDC improved coverage of in-patient HIV testing and use of isoniazid preventive treatment to prevent TB amongst people living with HIV by supporting MOHS to design and implement two quality improvement collaboratives involving 24 healthcare facilities.
- CDC has supported partners to improve HIV diagnosis through community-based resources to find contacts of index clients with HIV infection, improving HIV case identification.
- CDC and PEPFAR partners supported MOHS to improve HIV identification by utilizing an HIV screening tool, improving HIV diagnosis in 15 healthcare facilities.
- CDC and PEPFAR partners supported MOHS to improve linkage of newly identified people living with HIV (PLHIV) to antiretroviral therapy through enhanced mentorship of service providers and patient-centered interventions.

Technical Assistance

- CDC supports the National AIDS Secretariat in conducting a national Integrated Bio-behavioral Surveillance Survey (IBBSS).
- CDC-Sierra Leone's Field Epidemiology Training Program has completed 17 HIV and TB-related projects, including identifying newly diagnosed TB cases, analyzing HIV viral load and HIV linkage to care data, and evaluating the early infant diagnosis.

Key Country Leadership

President:
Julius Maada Bio

Minister of Health:
Austin Demby

U.S. Ambassador:
David Reimer

CDC/Regional Director:
Trong Ao

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

Per Capita GNI:
\$510 (2021)

Population (million):
8.14 (2021)

Under 5 Mortality:
107.8/1,000 live births (2020)

Life Expectancy:
55.1 years (2020)

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

Estimated HIV Prevalence (Ages 15-49): 1.4% (2021)

Estimated AIDS Deaths (Age ≥15): 1,800 (2021)

Estimated Orphans Due to AIDS: 48,000 (2021)

Reported Number Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15): 45,058 (2021)

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

Estimated TB Incidence: 298/100,000 population (2020)

TB patients with known HIV status who are HIV positive: 14% (2020)

TB Treatment Success Rate: 88% (2019)

DGHT Country Staff: 0
Locally Employed Staff: 0
Direct Hires: 0
Fellows & Contractors: 0

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

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