

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established its office in Vietnam in 1998. Since 2003, CDC has been a principal implementing agency for HIV programs under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in Vietnam. With Vietnam's entry into middle-income status, the country continues to embrace financial and program responsibility for HIV and TB services for its citizens. Partnering with the Ministry of Health, CDC-Vietnam supports the transition of HIV services to domestic financing and program responsibility. This transition prioritizes continuity and quality of patient services while accelerating toward sustainable HIV epidemic control through concentrated efforts among key populations (KP) in two priority regions - the Northern Economic Zone and Ho Chi Minh City Metropolitan Area. CDC also supports Vietnam's National Tuberculosis (TB) Program (NTP) with direct technical assistance (TA) to strengthen efforts to find, cure, and prevent TB, HIV-associated TB, and multidrug-resistant TB. These efforts include building capacity to operationalize new and existing TB control tools and using evidence to propel data-driven TB control and prevention activities. As a vital partner of the Government of Vietnam (GVN), CDC supported innovative methods for ensuring the uninterrupted provision of essential services for people living with HIV/TB during COVID-19.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CDC-Vietnam supports the national HIV response through innovations, including scale-up of national HIV recency testing and case-based surveillance; undetectable equals untransmittable (U=U [K=K in Vietnamese]) messaging and support for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention; and strengthened capacity for differentiated service delivery models informed by community monitoring and client-friendly approaches. CDC is a lead partner in evaluating and improving TB case finding, optimizing TB treatment for latent and active cases, infection control, and surveillance and laboratory capacity building. Key activities and accomplishments include:

- CDC supported provinces are leading a successful transition of HIV patients to the GVN's social health insurance (SHI). As of March 2022, at least 92 percent of CDC-supported sites were processing SHI reimbursements for HIV treatment services. Per the Vietnam Administration for AIDS Control (VAAC), 85 percent of patients were insured, and 57 percent of CDC-supported provinces are subsidizing either enrollments or co-payments. People living with HIV (PLHIV) began receiving antiretrovirals (ARVs) through SHI in March 2019, and CDC sites were the first to implement multi-month dispensing (MMD) of ARVs through SHI.
- CDC leads the national implementation of recency testing to rapidly mobilize resources and TA to HIV hotspots as part of a public health response approach and supports the GVN to establish a national HIV case-based surveillance system to track sentinel events, which will be scaled from its current 15 provinces to all 63 provinces to inform epidemiologic trends, data-to-care, and the public health response.
- In treatment sites supported by CDC/PEPFAR, per PEPFAR data, 98 percent of tested patients have HIV viral load (VL) of <1000 copies/mL, and 97 percent are virally suppressed below 200 copies/mL (source: PEPFAR program data, 2020), meaning they cannot transmit HIV to sexual partners. With CDC support, over 8,000 clients have accessed PrEP making them effectively protected from acquiring HIV.
- Building on the internationally recognized K=K campaign, CDC partners with GVN, the Vietnam Network of People Living with HIV (VNP+), and community-based and international organizations to emphasize biomedical prevention and an innovative status-neutral approach to HIV treatment and prevention services.
- CDC drives innovative approaches, such as community advisory boards and scorecards and KP-friendly standards, to ensure the community's voice is heard in developing differentiated HIV programming that fits KP needs and increases access, including MMD, same-day treatment initiation, and diversified service delivery in academic, public, and private sites.
- CDC supports GVN in implementing and establish the national policy of HIV testing and counseling among TB patients.
- CDC takes the lead on TB innovation with GVN, including using 2X (X-ray and GeneXpert) algorithm for intensified case-finding and demonstrating the short course TB preventive treatment (3HP) among PLHIV.
- CDC supports Vietnam in independently producing GeneXpert proficiency testing panels and leading external quality assessment for GeneXpert laboratory sites in Vietnam and the region.
- Through the American Rescue Plan Act, CDC supports efforts to ensure uninterrupted HIV services during COVID-19 through remote service delivery, vaccine access, and virtual TA and community outreach. PLHIV were among the first people in Vietnam to receive COVID-19 vaccines.

Key Country Leadership

Prime Minister:
Phạm Minh Chính

Acting Minister of Health:
Đo Xuân Tuyền

U.S. Ambassador:
Marc Knapper

CDC/DGHT Director:
Eric Dziuban

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

Per Capita GNI:
\$3,560 (2021)

Population (millions):
98.17 (2021)

Under 5 Mortality:
20.9/1,000 live births (2020)

Life Expectancy:
75.5 years (2020)

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

Estimated HIV Prevalence
(Ages 15-49): 0.3% (2021)

Estimated AIDS Deaths
(Age ≥15): 3,300 (2021)

Estimated Orphans Due to
AIDS: 83,000 (2021)

Reported Number Receiving
Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)
(Age ≥15): 172,144 (2021)

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

Estimated TB Incidence:
176/100,000 population (2020)

TB Patients With Known HIV-
Status Who Are HIV-Positive:
3.3% (2020)

TB Treatment Success Rate:
91% (2019)

DGHT Country Staff: 49
Locally Employed Staff: 42
Direct Hires: 6
Fellows & Contractors: 1

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

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