

STRATEGIC FOCUS

**Maximizing Unique Government-to-Government Relationships with the Ministry of Health (MoH):** CDC and the Government of Cameroon began a partnership in 2008 to support the development of sustainable public health capacity and infrastructure. CDC’s role has evolved from solely providing technical leadership to now including direct clinical support and assistance to the Ministry of Health (MOH).

**Strengthening Public Health Systems:** CDC provides public health science leadership and direct assistance to the MOH and local non-governmental organizations to prevent, detect and respond to public health challenges while strengthening epidemiology, surveillance, laboratory, operations research, HIV prevention and treatment programs, and workforce capacity development. CDC-Cameroon’s HIV program strategy focuses on increasing antiretroviral (ART) treatment, prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT), strengthening laboratories, linkages to treatment and care, and strategic information.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Treatment scale up:** CDC PEPFAR specific priorities include: scaling-up access to HIV prevention, testing and treatment among those most in need to reach epidemic control. Cameroon’s Accelerating Children’s HIV/AIDS Treatment (ACT) Initiative has made great strides in providing ART to children. Through a strong partnership, MOH has approved test and start and task shifting policies and delivery of ART medications for adults and children living with HIV to reach epidemic control. HIV/TB remains a major cause of morbidity and mortality for people living with HIV. HIV testing ensures access to early ART to prevent AIDS related morbidity and mortality; adding isoniazid preventive therapy (IPT) prevents further TB morbidity.

**Laboratory Capacity:** National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) renovation is completed and the national strategic laboratory plan was enhanced; CDC launched and implemented the first national proficiency testing program (PT), which currently has over 800 laboratories enrolled for HIV rapid testing, and CDC assisted with the implementation and roll out of the Strengthening Laboratory Improvement Process towards Accreditation (SLIPTA) with one laboratory obtaining SANAS Accreditation and 13 laboratories currently enrolled in the accreditation process. CDC provided technical assistance and laboratory support to set up and build the capacity of two laboratories for DNA/RNA polymerase chain reaction testing, one of which is now the first SANAS ISO-15189 Accredited laboratory for Cameroon and Central Africa. Both laboratories currently serve as national reference laboratories for early infant diagnosis and viral load testing services to support the country’s care and treatment program.

**Strategic Information:** CDC has supported improvement in the national HIV/AIDS monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system and harmonization of M&E registers and data collection tools with close to 25,000 registers printed and distributed nationally. CDC is strengthening Cameroon’s Health Information System through technical and financial support for the customization, piloting, and rollout of District Health Information Software (DHIS) at national, regional, and district levels. The AIDS Indicator survey (CAMFIA) will be starting data collection and results are expected at the end of the year to help inform decision making.

Key Country Leadership

President:  
Paul Biya

Minister of Health:  
André Mama Fouda

U.S. Ambassador:  
Michael Hoza

PEPFAR Coordinator:  
Amber Kimbro

CDC/DGHT Director:  
Edgar Monterroso

Country Quick Facts

Per Capita GNI:  
\$1,330 (2015)

Population:  
23.34 million (2015)

Under 5 Mortality:  
88 / 1,000 live births (2015)

Life Expectancy:  
55 years (2014)

Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic

Estimated HIV Prevalence (Ages 15-49): 4.5% (2015)

Estimated AIDS Deaths (Age ≥15): 30,000 (2015)

Estimated Orphans Due to AIDS: 310,000 (2015)

Reported Number Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15): 161,153 (2015)

Global Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemic

TB Treatment Success Rate: 84% (2015)

Estimated TB Incidence: 212 / 100,000 (2015)

Estimated Who are HIV Positive: 36% (2015)

Country Staff: 26

Locally Employed Staff: 21  
Direct Hires: 3  
Fellows & Contactors: 2

