

## STRATEGIC FOCUS

CDC-Dominican Republic (CDC/DR) through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has three main HIV related goals:

1) Increase detection, access to care, and retention of people living with HIV to reduce mortality and HIV transmission, 2) Improve the quality of care and HIV clinical cascade of individuals who are seen at public health facilities, and 3) Increase access to, and uptake of, HIV testing and counseling, condoms, and other evidence-based interventions focused on key populations.

**Epidemiology and Surveillance:** CDC-DR supports the MoH to characterize its HIV/AIDS epidemic and assists in the implementation of the National HIV Patient Registry which collects demographic, antiretroviral (ARV) therapy, and laboratory data; the SINAVE national electronic reportable disease surveillance system; and the SLeTB electronic reporting system for tuberculosis. CDC/DR has also collaborated on several large population surveys such as the Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance Survey (IBSS) that collected data on key populations and migrants living in Santo Domingo, and the Demographic Health Survey (DHS) that collected behavioral data among populations at high-risk of HIV/AIDS.

**Laboratory Systems:** CDC/DR laboratory efforts focus on implementing the Stepwise Laboratory Improvement Program Towards Accreditation (SLIPTA) in 20 national and regional laboratories to reduce receipt of HIV test results from days to a matter of hours. CDC/DR also spearheaded the development of SLIPTA in the Central and South American regions.

**Tuberculosis:** CDC-DR provides technical assistance in 3 primary areas: 1) strengthening infection control practices in HIV clinics; 2) ensuring clinics accurately collect and report TB and TB-HIV co-infection data; and 3) surveillance and epidemiologic capacity building through the National TB Patient Monitoring System, including the adoption and use of geospatial information systems (GIS). Advances in each of these areas has enabled the MoH's National TB Program to more rapidly detect and respond to disease clusters, and improve data quality for decision-making at local and national levels.

## KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

To reach the UNAIDS 90-90-90 treatment targets, the CDC/DR focuses on supporting HIV testing services and ARV adherence to achieve viral load suppression of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Through technical guidance and training, the CDC/DR also supports the MoH in complying with the International Health Regulations (IHR) by increasing laboratory capacity to perform molecular and genetic testing, establishing a robust public health laboratory network, and further improving the laboratory role as an integral link to disease surveillance.

Accomplishments include:

- Assisted the MoH to implement a national strategy for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis
- Launched a national laboratory accreditation program and strengthened laboratory capacity
- Designed and implemented HIV prevention interventions among men-who-have-sex-with-men, sex-workers and migrant populations
- Conducted Behavioral Surveillance Studies (BSS) of migrants, which highlighted a higher HIV prevalence in the DR than previously reported
- Trained >200 field epidemiologists in basic and intermediate levels
- Developed an electronic HIV Patient Monitoring System (FAPPS) that has allowed tracking of individuals on ART

## Key Country Leadership

President:  
Danilo Medina Sanchez

Minister of Health:  
Christopher Tufton

U.S. Ambassador:  
Patrick Dunn

PEPFAR Coordinator:  
Christopher Detwiler

CDC/DGHT Director:  
Nelson Arboleda

## Country Quick Facts

Per Capita GNI:  
\$6,130 (2015)

Population:  
10.53 million (2015)

Under 5 Mortality:  
31 / 1,000 live births (2015)

Life Expectancy:  
73 years (2014)

## Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic

Estimated HIV Prevalence (Ages 15-49): 1.0% (2015)

Estimated AIDS Deaths (Age ≥15): 3,000 (2015)

Estimated Orphans Due to AIDS: 44,000 (2015)

Reported Number Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15): 32,512 (2015)

## Global Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemic

TB Treatment Success Rate: 83% (2015)

Estimated TB Incidence: 60 / 100,000 (2015)

Estimated Who are HIV Positive: 24% (2015)

## Country Staff: 17

Locally Employed Staff: 11  
Direct Hires: 2  
Fellows & Contactors: 4

