

## STRATEGIC FOCUS

CDC began working in Sierra Leone in 2008 through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). In 2015, after helping the nation respond to Ebola, a permanent country office was established to support the Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS) in building public health and emergency management capacity through the Global Health Security Agenda. CDC HIV and TB focus is:

- Providing technical assistance and enhancing partner coordination at the national and district level
- Implementing effective prevention programs by improving HIV testing and preventing mother-to-child transmission
- Strengthening surveillance and program monitoring and evaluation
- Improving care and treatment services including HIV/TB diagnosis and antiretroviral (ART) treatment
- 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 throughout Sierra Leone, including the National AIDS Consortium.

### Laboratory Systems

- CDC and PEPFAR partners helped establish and continue to strengthen the Central Public Health Reference Laboratory, including the MoHS-led laboratory technical workgroup and national laboratory strategic plan and policy
- Assist the MoHS in expanding viral load testing and TB diagnostics using GeneXpert laboratory technology in every district

### Surveillance

- CDC provided technical expertise to expand antenatal clinic surveillance survey from 13 to 20 sentinel sites

### Tuberculosis

- Improve pediatric TB diagnosis and management through updated guidelines and health facility quality improvement projects

### Technical Assistance

- Develop and test ways to improve antiretroviral treatment services and adherence by implementing quality improvement in communities and health facilities in partnership with ICAP-Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health
- Technical assistance to expand HIV testing amongst at-risk populations and link to treatment services
- CDC has supported the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) program through expert technical assistance to the National PMTCT/Pediatrics Core Team and to field sites implementing PMTCT, Early Infection Diagnosis (EID) services, and pediatric care and treatment

### Workforce Capacity

- CDC's Field Epidemiology Laboratory Training Program trained 50 health officers in epidemiology and outbreak investigation
- Conduct hands-on monitoring and evaluation training for district-level HIV program managers
- Provide leadership and management training to improve HIV services through quality improvement

## Key Country Leadership

President:  
Ernest Bai Koroma

Minister of Health:  
Abu Bakarr Fofanah

U.S. Ambassador:  
John Hoover

CDC/DGHT Director:  
Sara Hersey

## Country Quick Facts

Per Capita GNI:  
\$630 (2015)

Population:  
7 million (2015)

Under 5 Mortality:  
151 / 100,000 live births (2015)

Life Expectancy:  
51 years (2014)

## Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic

Estimated HIV Prevalence (Ages 15-49): 0.1% (2015)

Estimated AIDS Deaths (Age ≥15): 2,200 (2015)

Estimated Orphans Due to AIDS: 23,000 (2015)

Reported Number Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15): 13,466 (2015)

## Global Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemic

TB Treatment Success Rate: 85% (2015)

Estimated TB Incidence: 307 / 100,000 (2015)

Estimated Who are HIV Positive: 14% (2015)

## Country Staff: 23

Locally Employed Staff: 15  
Direct Hires: 7  
Fellows & Contactors: 1

