

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention -Dominican Republic (CDC/DR) through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has three main goals related to HIV and tuberculosis (TB):

- 1) Increase detection, treatment, and retention of people living with HIV (PLHIV) to reduce mortality and HIV transmission and reach UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets to obtain epidemic control;
- 2) Improve the quality of HIV and TB care; and
- 3) Increase access to, and uptake of, HIV testing and counseling and other evidence-based interventions among key and priority populations (KP/PP)

Key strategies include:

- 1) Supporting the Government of the DR (GoDR) in the transition to Test and Start for antiretroviral treatment (ART) initiation;
- 2) Implementing service delivery models that contribute to closing the treatment gap for KP/PP; and
- 3) Addressing system-wide challenges in the national HIV response, such as viral load (VL) monitoring, supply chain management, health information management, and workforce capacity development

PEPFAR's cornerstone approaches in the DR include:

- 1) Strategically pairing local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) with public sector health facilities to foster exchanges that lead to better service quality and performance in both sectors;
- 2) Implementing different HTC modalities, including facility- and community-based index client testing; and
- 3) Developing differentiated models of HIV treatment, notably through mobile clinics, to ensure that migrants and other hard-to-reach populations receive comprehensive treatment in a non-stigmatizing environment

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CDC/DR implements PEPFAR activities by working directly with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to foster system-wide changes, and to support clinic-level activities currently focused on nine facilities and two mobile clinics in four high-HIV-burden provinces.

Epidemiology and Surveillance: CDC/DR supports the MoH to characterize its HIV/AIDS epidemic by assisting in the development and implementation of the National HIV Patient Monitoring System (HPMS), which collects key information to describe HIV risk factors, characterize key populations, and assess the HIV cascade. CDC also supports the HIV Testing Monitoring System (HTMS), which is the first nominal HIV testing registry implemented in the country.

Laboratory Systems: CDC/DR works to scale-up viral load (VL) testing in all patients on ART and strengthen the quality of laboratory services to provide accurate and reliable CD4 count and VL testing. Through technical guidance and training, CDC/DR supports the MoH in complying with International Health Regulations by increasing laboratory capacity to perform molecular and genetic testing, establishing a robust public health laboratory network, and improving the laboratory's role in disease surveillance.

Tuberculosis: CDC/DR provides technical assistance in three 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) building surveillance and epidemiologic capacity through the National TB Patient Monitoring System.

CDC/DR Accomplishments include:

- Established the country's first two mobile clinics in Santiago and Puerto Plata
- Developed an electronic HIV Patient Monitoring System (HPMS/FAPPS) to track individuals on ART
- Implemented the Test and Start strategy at the 11 sites CDC/DR supports
- Piloted a biometric patient tracking system to follow patients on ART across HIV care sites
- Developed and implemented a nominal electronic HIV testing register (SIREN-P)
- Implemented the first pilot project to offer pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to men who have sex with men (MSM) in the DR
- Implemented TB infection control plans at 11 sites
- Trained >200 field epidemiologists at the basic and intermediate levels

Key Country Leadership

President:
Danilo Medina Sanchez

Minister of Health:
Rafael Sánchez Cárdenas

U.S. Ambassador
Designate:
Robin Bernstein

PEPFAR Coordinator:
Christopher Detwiler

CDC/DGHT Director:
Nelson Arboleda

Country Quick Facts

Per Capita GNI:
U.S.\$6,390 (2016)

Population:
10.65 million (2016)

Under 5 Mortality:
31.5/1,000 live births
(2016)

Life Expectancy:
74 years (2016)

Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic

Estimated HIV Prevalence
(Ages 15-49): 1.0% (2016)

Estimated AIDS Deaths
(Age ≥15): 2,200 (2016)

Estimated Adults and
Children living with HIV:
67,000 (2016)

Reported Number
Receiving Antiretroviral
Therapy (ART):
30,100 (2016)

Global Tuberculosis
(TB) Epidemic

Estimated TB Incidence:
60/100,000 (2016)

TB patients with known
HIV-status who are HIV-
positive: 24% (2016)

TB Treatment Success
Rate: 80% (2015)

Country Staff: 17

Locally Employed Staff: 14
Direct Hires: 3

