

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (LAOS)

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has collaborated with multilateral, governmental, non-governmental, and civil society organizations to discover, evaluate and implement new tools, programs and policies to combat HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and tuberculosis (TB) in Laos since 2009. With funding through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC supports the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 90-90-90 goals in Laos. The UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets are, by 2020: 90 percent of all people living with HIV (PLHIV) will know their HIV status; 90 percent of all people with diagnosed HIV will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART); and 90 percent of all people receiving ART will have viral suppression.

CDC initiatives promote and demonstrate sustainable epidemic-control solutions that have been adopted, integrated and scaled-up into existing health systems by the government and stakeholders in Laos. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, CDC supports life-saving activities for PLHIV in Laos by working with the World Health Organization (WHO) and partners in three high burden provinces to:

- Optimize and institutionalize HIV index partner testing.
- Reduce loss to follow-up, increase retention, and address barriers to retention using peer navigators and case managers.
- Improve access to viral load testing.
- Optimize HIV testing strategies (i.e., self-testing; index testing [which involves identifying current and former partners and household members of PLHIV]; and HIV infection recency testing) in order to more promptly diagnose HIV in migrant and key populations.
- Implement same-day ART and multi-month dispensing of ART.
- Improve data systems and cascade monitoring.
- Strengthen technical collaboration with other partners, including the Global Fund.
- Support a phased transition to a sustainable government-led response.
- Support TB case finding and TB preventive treatment.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CDC initiatives in Laos have improved access to and retention in high quality HIV care, promoted continuous quality improvement activities for HIV testing, treatment and laboratory services, strengthened and streamlined surveillance to monitor the HIV epidemic and risk behaviors among key populations, and supported the utilization of strategic information for program monitoring and evaluation. During FY 2018-2019, CDC's accomplishments in Laos included:

- Successfully improved the quality of HIV counseling, testing, care and treatment services and contributed to the development of updated standard operational procedures.
- Built capacity in epidemiologic methods, data quality assurance, and data analysis and interpretation among national, provincial and local staff to increase the use of monitoring and surveillance data for program planning and development.
- Provided technical assistance to design, implement, standardize and improve the quality of HIV surveillance, which in turn contributed to Laos' HIV policy and program planning, by streamlining program monitoring between the national, provincial and hospital levels.
- Expanded the laboratory HIV testing external quality assurance (EQA) program from 64 sites in 2017 to 136 sites in 2018, and successfully transitioned the EQA program to the National Center of Laboratory and Epidemiology, Ministry of Health with domestic resources.

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

JULY 2019 | The CDC Division of Global HIV & TB activities are implemented as part of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); non-HIV related TB activities are supported by non-PEPFAR funding

Key Country Leadership

President:
Bounnhang Vorachit

Prime Minister:
Thongloun Sisoulith

Minister of Health:
Boukhang Syhavong

U.S. Ambassador:
Rena Bitter

CDC Country Director:
John R MacArthur

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

Per Capita GNI:
\$2,460 (2018)

Population (million):
7.06 (2018)

Under 5 Mortality:
63/1,000 live births (2017)

Life Expectancy:
67 years (2017)

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

Estimated HIV Prevalence
(Ages 15-49): 0.3% (2018)

Estimated AIDS Deaths
(Age ≥15): <500 (2018)

Estimated Orphans Due to
AIDS: 8,100 (2018)

Reported Number Receiving
Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)
(Age ≥15): 6,205 (2018)

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

Estimated TB Incidence:
168/100,000 population (2017)

TB Patients With Known HIV-
Status Who Are HIV-Positive:
6% (2017)

TB Treatment Success Rate:
86% (2016)

TB Mortality:
37/100,000 population (2017)

DGHT Country Staff: 1

Locally Employed Staff: 1
Direct Hires: 0
Fellows & Contactors: 0

