

STRATEGIC FOCUS

South Sudan continues to face a prolonged conflict, famine, some of the worst health outcomes in the world, and an HIV response that lags more than a decade behind other neighboring countries.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collaborates closely with the Ministry of Health (MOH), South Sudan AIDS Commission, Global Fund, and other key partners to strengthen the fragile health system by providing resources and technical assistance in adult and pediatric HIV treatment, HIV/Tuberculosis (TB) collaborative activities, prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), targeted prevention programming, laboratory strengthening, blood safety, and strategic information.

Essential Health Services: Through the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR), CDC supports HIV prevention and treatment services in the highest prevalence areas of South Sudan, focusing on increasing HIV service access and quality through mentorship, supportive supervision at all treatment sites, and program monitoring. There are four CDC-supported service delivery partners providing facility-level support to enable the MOH to achieve the Global UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets.

Health Systems Strengthening: CDC provides extensive assistance to the MOH in strengthening the health system, including operationalizing the National Public Health Laboratory, strengthening laboratory quality assurance and accreditation programs, developing of guidelines and standard operating procedures for quality HIV service delivery, strengthening the national health/laboratory information management system, and supporting national priority HIV surveillance and surveys.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Sustained Essential Health Services: PEPFAR performance data for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 indicates CDC directly supported 20,500 people on antiretroviral treatment (ART), accounting for 70% of people on ART nationally. CDC partners initiated 6,500 new people on ART, which is 72% of all PEPFAR supported new on treatment (8,989). CDC provides the MOH with critical support to conduct in-country Viral Load (VL) testing for those on ART. In FY 2018, 45% of people eligible for VL testing were tested (12,000). CDC PEPFAR results contributed to the bulk of testing and treatment gains. CDC implementing partners continue to provide HIV testing and treatment support across the three greater equatorial region states.

Between 2016 and 2018, HIV testing increased significantly, resulting in a greater number of HIV-positive individuals identified, and those diagnosed received ART. During FY 2018, 10,426 people living with HIV (PLHIV), a 25% increase over FY 2017, were identified by the PEPFAR program in South Sudan, of which CDC supported partners identified 70% (7,263).

TB/HIV: TB continues to be the leading cause of mortality for people living with HIV. CDC continues to work with the national TB program and other stakeholders to improve collaboration between TB and HIV programs. In FY 2018, almost all TB patients were tested for HIV and those who tested HIV positive were linked to care and treatment. Conversely, HIV-positive cases identified at CDC-supported facilities were screened for TB. Positive TB cases were linked to TB treatment services.

HIV Surveys: CDC has supported four rounds of antenatal clinic (ANC) surveys (2007, 2009, 2012, and 2017). CDC also supported two bio-behavioral surveys (BBS) of female sex workers in Juba (2016) and Nimule (2017). There are advanced plans to conduct another BBS survey in Wau Town in 2019. The outcome data provides policy makers information they need to steer programmatic efforts and recalibration if needed.

PEPFAR Five-Year Strategy: CDC continues to lead the implementation of an interagency, five-year PEPFAR strategy to focus programs on high-prevalence areas with partner geographic rationalization. CDC is focused on scaling-up case identification through index testing, same-day ART initiation, multi-month scripting, and rigorous partner management for program improvement. The strategy is to strengthen national ownership of the HIV response and activities, including HIV testing services, scaling-up provider-initiated testing and counseling, treatment services, PMTCT, prevention among key populations, quality assurance, laboratory systems, and strategic information strengthening.

Key Country Leadership

President:
Salva Kiir Mayardit

Minister of Health:
Riek Gai Kok

U.S. Ambassador:
Thomas J. Hushek

CDC/DGHT Director:
Sudhir Bunga

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

Per Capita GNI:
\$460 (2018)

Population (million):
10.98 (2018)

Under 5 Mortality:
96/1,000 live births (2017)

Life Expectancy:
57 years (2017)

Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic
aidsinfo.unaids.org

Estimated HIV Prevalence
(Ages 15-49): 2.5% (2018)

Estimated AIDS Deaths
(Age ≥15): 8,000 (2018)

Estimated Orphans Due to
AIDS: 120,000 (2018)

Reported Number
Receiving Antiretroviral
Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15):
29,266 (2018)

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

Estimated TB Incidence:
146/100,000 population
(2017)

TB patients with known HIV
status who are HIV positive:
12% (2017)

TB Treatment Success Rate:
82% (2016)

TB Mortality:
27/100,000 population
(2017)

DGHT Country Staff: 8
Locally Employed Staff: 7
Direct Hires: 1
Fellows & Contactors: 0

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

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