



# Global HIV/AIDS



## Global HIV/AIDS

Today, an estimated 35 million people worldwide live with HIV/AIDS. Nearly three-fourths of the **2.1 million** new HIV infections in 2013 occurred in sub-Saharan African countries.

### CDC's Role

CDC provides support to more than **60** countries (see map) to strengthen their national HIV/AIDS programs and build sustainable public health systems through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

CDC provides direct technical assistance through 44 field offices with more than 1,500 staff and over 400 additional staff providing support from CDC headquarters in Atlanta.

### Public Health Impact

CDC uses science to save lives and, through PEPFAR, has helped support:

- Life-saving antiretroviral treatment for **7.7 million** men, women, and children\*
- Care and support for more than **5 million** orphans and vulnerable children\*\*
- Voluntary medical male circumcision for more than **6.5 million** men\*
- Training for more than **140,000** new healthcare workers\*
- HIV testing and counseling for more than **56.7 million** people\*\*
- HIV testing and counseling for more than **14.2 million** pregnant women, and antiretroviral medications for the **749,313** women who tested positive to prevent mother-to-child transmission\*\*

\* As of September 30, 2014

\*\* FY 2014

## CDC plays a unique role in the fight against global HIV/AIDS

**A**s the U.S. science-based public health and disease prevention agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) plays an essential role in implementing the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

CDC uses its technical expertise in public health science and long-standing relationships with Ministries of Health across the globe to work side-by-side with countries to build strong national programs and sustainable public health systems that can respond effectively to the global HIV/AIDS epidemic and to other diseases that threaten the health and prosperity of the global community at large.

Ensuring global health strengthens U.S. health, economic, and national security. Improving the health of people in developing countries also impacts the productivity and political stability of those nations. This results in a safer, more prosperous, and secure world community that benefits Americans at home and abroad.

### Unmatched scientific and technical expertise

With over 60 years of expertise in epidemiology, surveillance, laboratory systems, and public health services, CDC works with Ministries of Health to strengthen their national HIV/AIDS programs by:

- **Leveraging CDC's science and technical expertise** to translate research findings into innovative programs and to assist countries in building capacity for data-driven decision making that maximizes disease impact and cost effectiveness.
- **Establishing and strengthening public health systems and services** including high quality laboratories and surveillance systems for rapid detection and response to HIV and other emerging global health threats.

### Critical support for building workforce capacity

CDC works with Ministries of Health in 44 countries to build their programmatic and fiscal management capacity so that they are in a stronger position to lead and manage their national HIV/AIDS programs. CDC does this by:

- **Providing direct technical assistance and knowledge transfer** to Ministries of Health. This in-country presence has resulted in increased performance, capacity development, and public health impact.
- **Building a trained local workforce** through daily mentoring to over 1,100 locally employed staff by CDC's highly trained clinicians, epidemiologists, public health advisors, health scientists, and laboratory scientists. CDC also provides training programs and funding to local educational institutions to establish a pipeline of qualified, well-trained public health professionals.

# On the path to an AIDS-free generation

CDC's approach to the fight against global HIV/AIDS is to work with Ministries of Health in foreign countries to strengthen their capacities and systems to deliver quality, cost-effective services for sustainable health impact. Three key interventions have been identified as pivotal for drastically reducing new HIV infections:

(1) prevention of mother-to-child transmission, (2) voluntary medical male circumcision, and (3) scaling up treatment of HIV-positive persons to stop the transmission of HIV to others. Implementing these high-impact interventions in combination now puts us on a path for achieving an AIDS-free generation. CDC works with countries to implement and scale-up this combination-prevention strategy.

## CDC Focus Areas



### Expanding quality HIV/AIDS care and treatment services

Care and treatment services, including antiretroviral drugs, help prevent new HIV infections, save lives, and provide hope to people and countries crippled by HIV/AIDS. CDC helps countries plan, implement, and evaluate effective services for HIV/AIDS care and treatment. These resources are leveraged by linking them to other mainstream healthcare services (e.g., for tuberculosis). Applying this integrated health care approach strengthens a country's entire health care system as well as HIV service delivery effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability.



### Implementing effective HIV prevention programs to halt new infections

Preventing new infections is critical for stemming the global HIV/AIDS pandemic in the absence of an HIV vaccine. CDC works with countries to implement a multifaceted prevention approach to build synergies between prevention, care, and treatment programs to reduce the number of new HIV infections. Focus areas include HIV testing and counseling, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, voluntary medical male circumcision, unsafe blood and medical practices, and sexual HIV transmission in special populations including youth and HIV-infected persons and their families.



### Building high quality laboratories and a trained local workforce for HIV diagnosis

A strong national public health laboratory system is essential for responding effectively to HIV and other diseases and health conditions. CDC works with countries to build high quality laboratory networks and systems that are essential for HIV diagnosis, treatment, and associated care. CDC helps ensure that laboratories produce quality diagnostics and surveillance services for HIV/AIDS, and works to develop integrated laboratory systems that address other public health threats like tuberculosis. CDC also provides countries with technical assistance to prepare for laboratory accreditation including training and mentoring laboratorians to increase local workforce capacity and ensure quality test results.



### Strengthening local surveillance and epidemiology capacity to support strategic planning

Information from health surveillance activities allows countries to make informed decisions about HIV service needs and program implementation. To assure data-driven decision-making, CDC works with Ministries of Health to build their capacity to design and implement HIV/AIDS surveillance systems and surveys, and to monitor and evaluate the outcomes and impact of their national HIV/AIDS programs. These activities maximize program impact by helping countries identify the characteristics of their local epidemic including the populations most affected for more effective program implementation.



### Developing and integrating robust health information systems to support HIV/AIDS program implementation, cost analysis, and resource planning

CDC strengthens the capacity of Ministries of Health to use information technology to collect and analyze data from multiple sources (e.g., surveys, statistical analysis, surveillance, patient monitoring, and program evaluation) to make sound evidence-based decisions about their HIV/AIDS programs. CDC applies rigorous economic analyses of country programs to identify and replicate interventions and best practices that are cost effective and efficient, and to estimate the health impact, cost savings and net societal cost and benefit of programs.