

# CDC in Kenya



© David Snyder/CDC Foundation



## For over 30 years, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

has helped strengthen public health and laboratory systems in Kenya, creating an integrated and state-of-the-art research and program center. This model ties together multiple program areas, leveraging program strengths and working in partnership with the Government of Kenya to help build sustainable public health capacity.

CDC Kenya saves lives by conducting research on the effectiveness of new interventions—such as vaccines, drugs, and diagnostics—and by implementing evidence-based public health programs to prevent disease and reduce death and disability. As part of the Center for Global Health, CDC Kenya advances science and technology in Kenya and the East Africa region, particularly where current solutions are lacking. Once tools are shown to be effective, CDC Kenya evaluates ways to improve delivery and address obstacles to uptake. CDC Kenya helps translate research findings into policy recommendations alongside the Government of Kenya, World Health Organization, and other partners. CDC Kenya plays a key role in several global health initiatives, including the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.



### Staff

CDC office (physical presence)  
**172** U.S. Assignees and Locally Employed



### At a Glance

Population: 44,306,000  
Per capita income: \$2,890  
Life expectancy at birth women/men: 65/60 yrs  
Under 5 mortality: 39/1000 live births

Source: [Population Reference Bureau 2014: Kenya](#)

### Top 10 Causes of Death

1. HIV/AIDS 15%
2. Lower Respiratory Infections 12%
3. Diarrheal Diseases 6%
4. Protein-Energy Malnutrition 4%
5. Birth Asphyxia & Trauma 4%
6. Stroke 4%
7. Preterm Birth Complications 4%
8. Malaria 3%
9. TB 3%
10. Ischemic Heart Disease 3%

Source: [WHO Country Health Profiles 2012: Kenya](#)

## Our Areas of Focus

### Developing Surveillance and Health Information Systems

- Supporting the development and implementation of population and facility-based disease surveillance systems that provide for data collection, analysis, and reporting to assess disease burden in communities, identify outbreaks, and evaluate the impact of health interventions.
- Spearheading state-of-the-art and mobile data collection systems.

### Building Public Health Workforce Capacity

- Training future public health leaders in clinical, laboratory, public health science, program management, and leadership competencies.

### Strengthening Laboratory Systems

- Building the critical laboratory network necessary to assure health security.

### Improving Emergency Preparedness & Response

- Strengthening public health capacity to rapidly identify and contain infectious disease threats as well as respond to natural and man-made disasters.

### Conducting Research and Monitoring & Evaluation

- Partnering with the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), universities, and other stakeholders to provide an evidence base for interventions, like insecticide treated bed nets, used around the world.

### Implementing Evidence-based Public Health Programs

- Evaluating, implementing, and scaling up proven approaches to achieve large-scale and demonstrable reductions in morbidity and mortality.

### Translating Research into Public Health Policy & Practice

- Collaborating with partners in Kenya and globally to use evidence gained through research to develop and implement effective public health policies applicable to low resource settings.



## Our Programs

**Global Health Protection** supports efforts to protect the public's health by developing and strengthening Kenya's ability to rapidly detect and respond to disease outbreaks and emerging infectious diseases.

- **Refugee Health Program** works with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other partners to reduce morbidity and mortality among refugees by responding to outbreaks and tracking health risks in East Africa.
- **International Emerging Infections Program** provides technical assistance to governments in the East Africa region to ensure rapid, coordinated detection and response and promote comprehensive outbreak surveillance.
- **Influenza Program** supports influenza surveillance to detect new influenza strains, monitor risk factors for severe disease associated with influenza virus infections, and to evaluate new diagnostic, treatment, and prevention strategies.
- **Diagnostics and Laboratory Systems Program** helps Kenya develop enhanced state-of-the-art diagnostic capacity to process and test specimens in-country.
- **Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program** has graduated 100 future global health leaders with advanced skills in epidemiology and laboratory management.
- **Integrated Human-Animal Health Program** promotes a "One Health" approach and involves human, animal, and environmental health experts to address epidemic threats of zoonotic origin.
- **Risk Communication and Emergency Response Program** works with first responders, humanitarian organizations and Ministries of Health in the region providing technical support on emergency preparedness, response and recovery and risk communication.
- **Global Immunization Program** works with international partners on improving immunization, particularly in polio outbreak response in Kenya and neighboring countries.

**U.S. President's Malaria Initiative** provides technical assistance to design, implement and evaluate key malaria prevention and control activities in close coordination with the Government of Kenya and other partners.

**Global HIV/AIDS Program** supports the Government of Kenya's efforts to expand and strengthen national HIV prevention, care, treatment, and surveillance by providing technical and financial support through the U.S. President's Emergency Relief Fund for AIDS (PEPFAR).

- **HIV Prevention** develops guidance and supports best practices among partners who offer HIV testing and counseling; voluntary medical male circumcision, evidence-based behavioral interventions, and prevention programs for key populations at high risk for HIV.
- **HIV Care & Treatment** helps thousands of Kenyans living with HIV to receive care and treatment, including services for pregnant women and mothers with HIV designed to reduce risk of mother-to-child transmission of the virus.
- **Health Systems and Evaluation** strengthens health systems and promotes quality of data, programs and scientific dissemination to advance Kenya's national HIV response.
- **Surveillance and Epidemiology** provides expert guidance in implementing HIV surveillance and conducting public health research to improve programs and inform HIV policy.
- **Laboratory, Blood Safety & Infection Control** focuses on improving the accessibility and quality of laboratory services and reducing the risk of HIV infection through improved blood safety and infection control practices in healthcare and laboratory facilities.

**Western Kenya Programs** are implemented in close collaboration with KEMRI. This collaboration of more than 30 years has developed into a sophisticated and comprehensive platform for scientific study and service delivery.

- **HIV Research** evaluates new tools to prevent the spread of the epidemic and improve the health of persons infected with HIV.
- **Tuberculosis Research** measures the burden of TB and helps develop new ways to prevent and treat the disease.
- **Malaria Research** conducts surveillance, and innovative research aimed at reducing morbidity, mortality and transmission. CDC supports important work including the Health and Demographic Surveillance System, which allows scientists to monitor the health and demographic information for over 225,000 people in Kibera, Nairobi and Lwak, Western Kenya. Surveillance data are used to inform policy and plan public health interventions. In addition, CDC supports research on Neglected Tropical Diseases.

## Impact in Kenya

- **3.4 million** people received HIV counseling and testing results in 2014 *Of 6.5 million under PEPFAR Kenya*
- **6.5 million** Malaria rapid diagnostic tests and 4 million treatments for malaria procured and delivered by the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) in 2013
- **ISO 15189** laboratory accreditation obtained for CDC, KEMRI and National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) microbiology laboratory activities
- **31,000** HIV-positive pregnant women received a full course of antiretroviral prophylaxis in 2014 *Of 57,000 under PEPFAR Kenya*
- **425,000** individuals received antiretroviral therapy, including 40,000 children, in 2014 *Of 740,000, including 71,000 children, under PEPFAR Kenya*
- **154,000** voluntary medical male circumcisions to reduce HIV risk were performed in 2014 *Of 229,000 under PEPFAR Kenya*
- **1,300** individuals are enrolled into two phase III malaria vaccine trials of one of the most promising vaccines
- **58,000** people participate in surveillance for respiratory, jaundice, febrile, and diarrheal conditions
- **225,000** people are part of a health and demographic surveillance system that collects health and demographic information every four months

For more information please contact Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

**CDC-Atlanta**

1600 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30333

Web: <http://www.cdc.gov/global>

For more country information: [www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/kenya](http://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/kenya)

Publication: April 2016