The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established an office in Tanzania in 2001 to support HIV/AIDS prevention. The CDC office expanded through the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in 2003. CDC works with the Government of Tanzania to strengthen tuberculosis prevention efforts for people living with HIV; enhance laboratory, surveillance, and workforce capacity to respond to disease outbreaks through the Global Health Security Agenda; prevent and control malaria under the U.S. President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI); and respond to COVID-19.

CDC helped establish one national and five regional Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) to coordinate and respond to national public health emergencies.

Since 2008, more than 700 residents have graduated from the advanced, intermediate, and frontline Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programs (FELTP).

More than 30 FELTP graduates and residents support COVID-19 surveillance and outbreak response in 15 regions.

More than 1,000 community health care workers and 700 health care workers trained on event-based disease surveillance, including COVID-19 alert detection and reporting, since 2020.

In 2021, nearly 115,000 adults and children initiated antiretroviral therapy (ART) for HIV.

In 2021, over 70,000 people with HIV were identified through index testing – the process of offering HIV tests to contacts of people living with HIV.

In 2021 over 800,000 adults and children received ART through CDC support.

As of 2021, 44 laboratories received international-standards accreditation.

With CDC and WHO support, 74 laboratories in Tanzania have enrolled in the Strengthening Laboratory Management Towards Accreditation program since 2008.

CDC helped train more than 356 laboratory scientists and technologists in microbiology and quality management systems since 2008.

Malaria prevalence among children under age 5 decreased from 18% to 7% over 10 years.

More than 271 health facilities and eight large hospitals across 31 regions in Tanzania and Zanzibar use Project Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (Project ECHO) teleconferencing for knowledge sharing.

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Global Health Security

In today’s globally connected world, disease threats like COVID-19 spread faster and more unpredictably than ever before. Tanzania’s borders span eight countries, including the African Great Lakes region, which increases the country’s risk for cross-border disease outbreaks and epidemics. CDC and partners are well-placed to leverage past successful initiatives and rapidly respond to emerging and existing public health challenges.

CDC supports Tanzania to strengthen International Health Regulations core capacities to comprehensively prevent, rapidly detect, and effectively respond to public health threats. CDC also supports strengthened disease surveillance activities including:

- Expansion of the electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response System
- Strengthened border health capabilities
- Enhanced laboratory testing for pathogens like Ebola and COVID-19
- Establishment of national and subnational EOCs

COVID-19

The first case of COVID-19 in Tanzania was confirmed in March 2020. Since the pandemic was declared, CDC has supported Tanzania with surveillance, infection prevention and control, border health efforts, and activation of rapid response teams and FELTP graduates and trainees. Tanzania received their first batch of COVID-19 vaccines in July 2021. CDC is supporting the Government of Tanzania’s efforts to increase vaccination rates in-country.

HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis (TB)

HIV is a leading cause of death and a health threat to millions worldwide. As a key implementer of PEPFAR, CDC works with Tanzania to build a sustainable, high-impact national HIV response program to accelerate progress toward the UNAIDS global goals to control the HIV epidemic. CDC adapts and adopts new technology and evidence-based approaches to enhance service delivery, improve patient outcomes, achieve HIV epidemic control, and end TB.

CDC works with the Ministry of Health (MOH) in Tanzania and the MOH on the island of Zanzibar to support:

- HIV testing, prevention, and treatment services
- HIV rapid testing quality assurance
- Early infant HIV diagnosis
- Viral load testing
- Strengthening health information systems
- Using data to inform decision-making
- Health worker training, retention, and participation in outbreak response

Project ECHO

CDC launched Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) in Tanzania in 2016. The project uses teleconferencing to facilitate case-based learning and knowledge sharing between participants and subject matter experts. ECHO virtual sessions cover various topics, including HIV and TB clinical care and COVID-19 case management. CDC manages the Project ECHO sites with support from implementing partners.

For more country information
www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/tanzania