**STRATEGIC FOCUS**

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Angola office (CDC-Angola) established a partnership with the Angola Ministry of Health (MoH) in 2002 to strengthen the national public health system; in 2004 CDC began building capacity within the MoH to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. CDC-Angola collaborates with the MoH and the Instituto Nacional de Luta Contra o SIDA’s (INLS) (U.S. National AIDS Institute equivalent) to strengthen public health systems to deliver quality HIV testing and treatment services and to respond to relevant public health events. CDC-Angola’s strategic focus is to work with implementing partners (IPs) to:

- Build public health capacity and infrastructure
- Strengthen health information systems

**KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**Building Public Health Capacity**

**Strengthening Public Health and HIV Testing, Treatment & Retention Services:** CDC-Angola focuses on implementing HIV programming in 22 health facilities across the four provinces of Benguela, Cunene, Huambo, and Lunda Sul. In collaboration with the MoH, CDC-Angola supports a combined facility-community approach for index testing to maximize the impact of HIV testing at the 22 U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) supported health facilities. CDC-Angola provides technical assistance for implementing the “Test and Treat” program which aims to start patients newly diagnosed with HIV on anti-retroviral therapy (ART) the same day they are diagnosed. Patients remaining on ART for life is key to epidemic control. CDC-Angola provides retention-focused technical assistance to health facilities and healthcare providers and supports work in community settings to provide an integrated approach to HIV and tuberculosis (TB) care and ensure uninterrupted treatment.

**Strengthening HIV/AIDS Policies:** CDC-Angola’s technical assistance (TA) to the MoH and INLS facilitated key HIV policy changes in Angola. These HIV policy changes include: 1) updated ART regimens to include Tenofovir Lamivudine Dolutegravir (TLD) for adults and children; 2) pharmacies to dispense up to three months of ART to patients to decrease interruptions in treatment; and 3) revised national HIV laboratory procedures.

**Strengthening Laboratory Systems and Networks:** CDC-Angola’s TA is developing laboratory quality assurance/management systems and building laboratory capacity to increase high quality HIV diagnostic and management services. CDC-Angola support facilitated the development of a national point of care early infant diagnosis (EID) testing package, including a transport network for laboratory samples from health facilities, and implementing an electronic laboratory information system to track HIV exposed children. CDC supported work for an External Quality Assurance (EQA) system, enabling the MoH to enroll nine COVID19 laboratories into EQA programs and to implement a lab information system for COVID19.

**Strengthening health information systems**

**Data Collection and Use:** CDC-Angola supported a comprehensive Data Quality Assessment (DQA) in 2019. The results were used to improve monitoring and evaluation systems and pilot a facility-based electronic patient tracking system. In collaboration with the MoH, CDC-Angola developed a national register of HIV positive patients at each PEPFAR-supported point of service to reduce duplicate data and improve linkage to treatment and retention of patients.