

## STRATEGIC FOCUS

The partnership between the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Government of Ghana (GoG) began in 2008, with the goal of strengthening HIV prevention and control. Over the past 10 years, CDC's global HIV/AIDS focus has transitioned from an emergency response approach to one of sustainability and shared responsibility for epidemic control. The CDC-Ghana program has evolved from its initial focus on HIV prevention in key populations (KPs) to playing a significant role in supporting Ghana's recent adoption of the 2015 World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation to treat all people living with HIV (PLHIV).

CDC is the lead agency for building laboratory capacity within the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in Ghana, focused on improving laboratorian skills and increasing the efficiency of laboratory services. CDC also leads PEPFAR-Ghana's strategic information activities, including efforts to improve the capability to capture and analyze data across the HIV Cascade (testing, initiation of treatment, and suppression of viral load). CDC assists in developing and conducting research studies to identify HIV service needs for KPs, female sex workers (FSWs), and men who have sex with men (MSM). All of these efforts provide PEPFAR-Ghana and the GoG with the tools and data needed to achieve goals and objectives towards HIV epidemic control.

## KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- CDC collaborates with the GoG to assess the capabilities of laboratorians in real-world settings and develop strategies to address shortfalls.
- CDC led the implementation of an innovative national system for transporting blood and specimen samples to centralized laboratories for processing. This new sample transport system is expected to increase access to HIV treatment services by eliminating the need for patients to travel long distances for HIV testing and viral load monitoring. In addition to supporting HIV, this sample transport system will support all diseases relying on laboratory analyses.
- CDC-Ghana led the PEPFAR-Ghana effort to negotiate an agreement with the GoG to adopt the 2015 WHO Treat All guidelines, thereby accelerating HIV treatment for all eligible clients.
- CDC-Ghana worked closely with the GoG, Ministry of Health (MoH), Ghana Health Service (GHS), and the National AIDS/Sexually Transmitted Infection Control Program (NACP) to successfully develop and implement the e-Tracker HIV Module. The e-Tracker enhances the GoG's capacity to monitor the HIV cascade by providing a common platform for tracking and providing case management services for PLHIV.
- CDC-Ghana supports the Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC) to develop and launch the Ghana Key Population Unique Identifier System. This unique identifier will help enhance HIV service delivery by allowing the MoH to track and provide targeted services to KPs in Ghana.
- CDC-Ghana supported the GAC to conduct an Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance Survey of MSM in Ghana.
- CDC-Ghana provides direct technical assistance and financial support to the GoG to develop policies that strengthen laboratory systems and services, including developing and monitoring a laboratory sample referral and results transmission system, and finalizing the national viral load scale-up and operational plan.
- CDC-Ghana's laboratory support activities have helped to increase HIV rapid test proficiency from 27% to 91% [Source: *GHS/NACP Dried Tube Specimen Proficiency Testing Round 5 Report*, Feb 2018].

### Key Country Leadership

President:  
Nana Addo Dankwa  
Akufo-Addo

Minister of Health:  
Kwaku Agyeman-Manu

U.S. Ambassador:  
Robert P. Jackson

CDC/DGHT Director:  
Michael Melchior

### Country Quick Facts

Per Capita GNI:  
\$1,380 (2016)

Population:  
28.21 million (2016)

Under 5 Mortality:  
59 / 1,000 live births  
(2016)

Life Expectancy:  
63 years (2016)

### Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic

Estimated HIV  
Prevalence (Ages 15-49):  
1.7% (2017)

Estimated AIDS Deaths  
(Age ≥15): 13,000 (2017)

Estimated Orphans Due  
to AIDS: 190,000 (2017)

Reported Number  
Receiving Antiretroviral  
Therapy (ART) (Age  
≥15): 119,165 (2017)

### Global Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemic

Estimated TB Incidence:  
156 / 100,000 (2016)

TB patients with known  
HIV-status who are HIV-  
positive: 23% (2016)

TB Treatment Success  
Rate: 85% (2015)

### Country Staff: 6

Locally Employed Staff: 5  
Direct Hires: 1

