

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) began working in Sierra Leone in 2008 through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). A permanent country office, established in 2015, supports the Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS). CDC's HIV and tuberculosis (TB) focus is:

- Providing technical assistance and enhancing partner coordination at the national and district levels,
- Implementing effective prevention programs by improving HIV testing and preventing mother-to-child transmission,
- Strengthening surveillance, program monitoring, and evaluation,
- Improving care and treatment services including HIV/TB diagnosis, and antiretroviral treatment,
- Enhancing point of care laboratory testing for multidrug-resistant TB, extensively drug-resistant TB, and HIV/TB co-infection, and
- Building high-quality laboratory systems to support HIV and TB testing.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Partnerships

- CDC continues to be a strong and active participant throughout Sierra Leone, including through the National AIDS Control Program (NACP).

Laboratory Systems

- CDC and PEPFAR partners continue to strengthen the national HIV program by providing technical assistance to develop and validate the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission (eMTCT) Strategic Plan and pediatric HIV treatment in the country.
- In collaboration with The Global Fund and the African Society for Laboratory Medicine, CDC continues to strengthen the capacity of viral load and Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) testing by supporting national expansion of viral load testing from one to 28 facilities and EID to 21 facilities.
- CDC has strengthened the TB testing program through development and review of an integrated specimen management policy and guideline.
- CDC has provided support to develop system tools and to implement Quality Management Systems, raising the World Health Organization – Africa (WHO-AFRO) Strengthening Laboratory Management Towards Accreditation score from zero to three stars in the National Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory, ultimately leading to attaining accreditation.
- CDC provided technical assistance to test TB samples by solid culture and conduct drug susceptibility testing for first- and second-line drugs through Line Probe Assays.

Data for Decision Making

- CDC is supporting capacity building of MOHS to use data for decision-making to guide HIV and TB programs.

Quality Improvement

- Improve coverage of in-patient HIV testing and use of isoniazid preventive treatment to prevent TB amongst people living with HIV by supporting MOHS to design and implement two quality improvement collaborations involving 24 healthcare facilities.

Technical Assistance

- Supported MOHS to update the National AIDS Control Program (NACP) monitoring and evaluation registers to be more robust and responsive to demand at the health facility and program levels and to enable NACP to track HIV-positive patients screened for TB along the continuum of care for the first time.
- Trained five public health workers in Frontline and Intermediate Field Epidemiology Training Program on HIV and TB surveillance.
- Provided training to improve HIV services through quality improvement.

Key Country Leadership

President:
Julius Maada Bio

Minister of Health:
Alpha T. Wurrie

U.S. Ambassador:
Maria E. Brewer

CDC/Regional Director:
Michael Melchior

[Country Quick Facts](http://worldbank.org/en/where-we-work)
(worldbank.org/en/where-we-work)

Per Capita GNI:
\$500 (2018)

Population (million):
7.65 (2018)

Under 5 Mortality:
111/1,000 live births (2017)

Life Expectancy:
52 years (2017)

[Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic](http://aidsinfo.unaids.org)
(aidsinfo.unaids.org)

Estimated HIV Prevalence
(Ages 15-49): 1.5% (2018)

Estimated AIDS Deaths
(Age ≥15): 1,600 (2018)

Estimated Orphans Due to
AIDS: 41,000 (2018)

Reported Number
Receiving Antiretroviral
Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15):
27,296 (2018)

[Global Tuberculosis
\(TB\) Epidemic](http://who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en)
(who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en)

Estimated TB Incidence:
301/100,000 population
(2017)

TB patients with known HIV
status who are HIV positive:
12% (2017)

TB Treatment Success Rate:
89% (2016)

TB Mortality:
39/100,000 population
(2017)

DGHT Country Staff: 00
Locally Employed Staff: 00
Direct Hires: 00
Fellows & Contactors: 00

Our success is built on the backbone of science and strong partnerships.

July 2019 | The CDC Division of Global HIV & TB activities are implemented as part of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); non-HIV related TB activities are supported by non-PEPFAR funding

