

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) South Africa began its collaboration with South African non-governmental and community-based organizations in 1989 to address the country's growing HIV epidemic. In 1994, CDC South Africa strengthened its support and began working with The Government of South Africa to develop national HIV clinical, ethical, and research guidelines along with HIV and tuberculosis (TB) service delivery programs. With the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) launch in 2003, this support rapidly expanded, and today strategically focuses on:

- HIV prevention,
- Integration of HIV and TB in clinical services,
- Health workforce capacity, placement, and retention,
- Health information systems, surveillance, and response systems that monitor HIV, TB, and other diseases of national significance, and
- Creation of a policy and legal framework for the National Public Health Institute (NPHI).

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HIV Care and Treatment: In fiscal year (FY) 2020, CDC supported antiretroviral therapy (ART) services for over 1.9 million people living with HIV (PLHIV), which is 37% of the 5.2 million people who are on ART in South Africa (PEPFAR FY20 APR performance data).

Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC): CDC supports efforts aimed at increasing the uptake of VMMC for men aged 15 years and older. CDC supported 144,622 medical male circumcisions in 2020 (PEPFAR FY20 APR performance data).

Key Populations (KP): CDC supported comprehensive HIV and TB prevention, care and treatment services, reaching 106,828 key populations (KP) in FY 2020 (PEPFAR FY20 APR performance data). Packages of services are tailored to the needs of each KP group - female sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender people, people who inject drugs, and people in prison.

DREAMS: CDC focuses support on programs designed for adolescent girls (aged 15-19 years) and young women (aged 20-24 years) through the Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-Free, Mentored, and Safe (DREAMS) program. CDC uses multiple evidence-based interventions, including post-violence care, parenting/caregiver programs, and facilitating access to existing resources such as cash transfers and education subsidies to address factors that increase girls' HIV risk.

TB/HIV: In the districts supported by CDC South Africa (CDC SA) implementing partners, 90% of TB patients were tested for HIV in 2020 and 57% were HIV co-infected. Of those who were co-infected, 88% received ART in addition to TB treatment (PEPFAR FY20 APR performance data).

Adult and pediatric treatment: By the end of March 2021, an estimated 93% of PLHIV knew their status, of those, 75% were receiving ART. Of those on treatment who had a viral load (VL) test done, 88% achieved VL suppression (VL <1,000 copies/mL). Among children <15 years, 80% are estimated to know their status of which 59% are receiving ART and 65% are virally suppressed (District Health Information Software).

Surveillance: CDC supported local implementing partners, including the Human Sciences Resource Council, National Institute for Communicable Diseases, and the South African Medical Research Council, to conduct research that informs South Africa's HIV response and program implementation. This research includes population surveys to understand HIV prevalence and incidence, enhanced antenatal surveys in pregnant women, HIV drug resistance surveillance, and HIV mortality surveillance. CDC also supports bio-behavioral surveys on all KP groups.

Human Resources for Health: CDC is supporting additional health workers in communities and facilities to increase the number of HIV-positive persons on ART. As of FY21 Q2, CDC SA was supporting 10,632 HRH (full time equivalent; PEPFAR SA Human Resources Information Database).

Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT): CDC-supported implementing partners are committed to eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV in South Africa. CDC-PEPFAR reported data showed reduced mother-to-child transmission rates of less than one percent at six weeks gestational age. In FY2020, maternal HIV testing coverage was 98% and maternal ART coverage was 99% (PEPFAR FY20 APR performance data).

Laboratory: CDC supports national programs that increase laboratory diagnostic quality and public health laboratory service. These programs provide support for the quality of laboratory testing through accreditation and management of laboratory results by ensuring that facilities have access to laboratory information systems, such as eLABS and Results for Action reports, for timely result delivery and proper documentation of results in patient charts and the patient management system.

Key Country Leadership

President:
Cyril Ramaphosa

Minister of Health:
Joe Phaahla

U.S. Chargé d'Affaires:
Todd P. Haskell

CDC/DGHT Director:
John Blandford

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

Per Capita GNI:
\$5,410 (2020)

Population (millions):
59.31 (2020)

Under 5 Mortality:
35/1,000 live births (2019)

Life Expectancy:
64 years (2019)

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

Estimated HIV Prevalence
(Ages 15-49): 19.1% (2020)

Estimated AIDS Deaths
(Age ≥15): 79,000 (2020)

Estimated Orphans Due to
AIDS aged 0-17: 1,600,000
(2020)

Reported Number Receiving
Antiretroviral Therapy (ART):
5,451,234 (2020)

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

Estimated TB Incidence:
615/100,000 population
(2019)

TB patients with known HIV
status who are HIV-positive:
58% (2019)

TB Treatment Success Rate:
71% (2018)

Estimated TB Mortality:
99/100,000 population (2019)

DGHT Country Staff: 123
Locally Employed Staff: 93
Direct Hires: 18
Fellows & Contactors: 12

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

