

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) office in Zambia has had a long-standing partnership with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and its provincial health offices to build a robust national HIV/AIDS response. Over the past 19 years, CDC supported the MOH to scale-up key HIV programs to turn the tide against the HIV epidemic in Zambia. Over the last year, CDC has focused on improving case identification for people living with HIV (PLHIV) and immediate linkage to treatment, improving quality of HIV services in a sustainable way, and building capacity of Zambian staff to detect and respond to public health threats.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HIV Epidemic Control: With over 1.2 million PLHIV, Zambia is one of the countries most affected by HIV globally. As a key U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) implementing agency, CDC focuses on helping Zambians know their HIV status and access immediate linkage to treatment for those who are found to be HIV-positive and assures HIV viral suppression among patients who are on treatment. This is being done to help Zambia meet the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets for HIV epidemic control. According to PEPFAR data, by the end of March 2019, 905,264 (80%) PLHIV in Zambia were on antiretroviral treatment (ART), of which 504,235 (56%) were in four provinces supported by CDC. Overall viral load suppression among patients on ART was over 85%. CDC led the development and rollout of a HIV screening tool, which is reducing over-testing and aimed at achieving improved targeting of HIV testing. Additionally, CDC played a lead role in the rollout of HIV testing through index testing, resulting in over 14,000 new cases diagnosed between October 1 and December 31, 2018, as shown through PEPFAR results.

Project ECHO (Extension of Community Healthcare Outcomes): To address knowledge gaps among health care providers in small towns and rural health facilities in Zambia, CDC developed a clinical mentorship program to support provincial health offices hiring health care workers trained by CDC and deployed to provide support on best practices for HIV management. CDC also led the implementation of Project ECHO, which enables tele-mentoring through the utilization of practice-based learning, and multipoint video conferencing to support ongoing training of frontline providers treating over 100,000 patients. This model has reduced the number of days providers are away from their sites for trainings and resulted in a noticeable improvement in rates of viral load suppression among clients in participating facilities.

Sustaining HIV Treatment Using the U=U Campaign: CDC led the development and rollout of the national Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) campaign with the MOH. This is based on new scientific findings, which demonstrate that a person living with HIV who has a durable undetectable HIV viral load cannot sexually transmit HIV. The President of Zambia and the U.S. Zambia Ambassador launched the campaign to encourage people living with HIV to take their HIV medicine daily and know their viral load status.

Zambia Assessment of TB and HIV in the Mines (ZATHIM): CDC supported the Tropical Diseases Research Centre to implement the first-ever evaluation of knowledge, attitudes, and practices of mineworkers and health care workers regarding access to TB and HIV services in the high TB burden provinces of Copperbelt and North Western. Mineworkers have a nearly 10-fold increased risk of TB but are not accessing TB services. Findings from more than 2,500 study participants demonstrated that fear of job loss and direct and indirect costs of seeking care were major barriers to TB diagnosis and treatment. Findings have been used by MOH and the Zambia government to propose new policies to protect miners and improve access to care.

TB/HIV: CDC is supporting the national scale-up of tuberculosis preventive treatment (TPT) among eligible PLHIV, including supporting the Ministry of Health in revisions to Latent TB Infection Guidelines, developing of monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and supporting implementation across CDC-supported sites.

Zambia Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP): In December 2018, eight Medical Officers graduated from the Zambia FETP after two years of extensive training in field epidemiology. During their training, the eight residents assisted in the investigation of HIV clusters of new infections, and they continued to work with the MOH to investigate disease outbreaks all over Zambia and strengthen surveillance.

Key Country Leadership

President:
Edgar C. Lungu

Minister of Health:
Chitalu Chilufya

U.S. Ambassador:
Daniel L. Foote

CDC/DGHT Director:
Simon G. Agolory

Country Quick Facts
(worldbank.org/en/where-we-work)

Per Capita GNI:
\$1,430 (2018)

Population (million):
17.35 (2018)

Under 5 Mortality:
60/1,000 live births (2017)

Life Expectancy:
62 years (2017)

Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic
(aidsinfo.unaids.org)

Estimated HIV Prevalence
(Ages 15-49): 11.3% (2018)

Estimated AIDS Deaths
(Age ≥15): 14,000 (2018)

Estimated Orphans Due to
AIDS: 470,000 (2018)

Reported Number
Receiving Antiretroviral
Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15):
915,573 (2018)

**Global Tuberculosis
(TB) Epidemic**
(who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en)

Estimated TB Incidence:
361/100,000 population
(2017)

TB patients with known HIV
status who are HIV positive:
59% (2017)

TB Treatment Success Rate:
88% (2016)

TB Mortality:
30/100,000 population
(2017)

DGHT Country Staff: 76
Locally Employed Staff: 62
Direct Hires: 14
Fellows & Contactors: 0

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

