

## STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has had a long-standing partnership with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Ministry of Health (MOH) began in 2002. Since the launch of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in 2004, CDC has partnered with the Ministry of Health and others to rapidly expand and align to achieve UNAIDS 95-95-95 global targets: 95 percent of people living with HIV (PLHIV) to know their status, providing antiretroviral therapy (ART) for 95 percent of those who know their status, and achieving 95 percent viral suppression for those on ART. CDC is adopting a patient-centered approach for all populations and strategically focusing on:

- Scaling up HIV prevention and treatment programs to achieve sustained epidemic control through finding PLHIV, initiating and maintaining them on treatment, eliminating mother-to-child transmission, increasing viral load coverage, and increasing access and uptake of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).
- Integration of HIV and Tuberculosis (TB) care and treatment programs.
- Strengthening public health system: surveillance, health information systems, laboratory capacity, and health workforce development.
- Strengthening Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) interventions.

### Strengthening Laboratory Systems

CDC supports building resilient laboratory infrastructure and networks for quality diagnostics and surveillance services, and includes a laboratory information system, an integrated sample transportation system, equipment maintenance, and quality management systems. Achieving laboratory efficiency and quality through diagnostic network optimization and continuous quality improvement has led to laboratory accreditation, consistently accurate patient results, and better-informed clinical decisions.

### Strengthening Surveillance and Health Information Systems

CDC supports the MOH in assessment, innovative design, and use of HIV electronic reporting system through a data repository to increase capacity in the health management information systems and to inform strategic and programmatic decision making.

## KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**ART Services:** As of the end of FY2021, CDC supported the delivery of high-quality ART services to 100,364 adults and children (PEPFAR Annual Progress Report, 2021). CDC significantly contributed to adopting the Test and Start approach and new national HIV management guidelines, including transitioning to a Dolutegravir-based regimen.

**Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT):** CDC experts contributed to developing the National Elimination of Mother-to Child Transmission (eMTCT) plan. In FY 2021, CDC supported 1,536 pregnant women on ART (PEPFAR Annual Progress Report, 2021).

**Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC):** CDC embraced a holistic approach to keep children safe, healthy, stable, and in school. Through CDC support, 29,552 OVC received services to improve their health and well-being in FY 2021.

**TB/HIV Integration:** CDC supported TB screening and diagnosis among PLHIV, developing a national TB infection control plan, and transitioning to an improved regimen (3HP) for TB Preventive Therapy (TPT). In FY 2021, CDC supported 23,444 ART patients completing TPT (PEPFAR Annual Progress Report, 2021).

**Viral load (VL):** CDC increased capacity and access to early infant diagnosis and VL testing services. In FY 2021, CDC, through its network of 8 supported laboratories, achieved 79 percent VL coverage.

**Key populations:** FY2021, 15,729 female sex workers and 4,498 men who have sex with men were successfully tested for HIV, resulting in 1,196 positive results. Of these individuals diagnosed with HIV, 1,189 (99.4 percent) were initiated on ART.

## Key Country Leadership

Prime Minister:  
Felix Antoine Tshisekedi  
Tshilombo

Minister of Health:  
Jean-Jacques Mbungani  
Mbanda

U.S. Ambassador:  
Lucy Tamlyn

CDC/DGHT Director:  
Peter Fonjongo

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

Per Capita GNI:  
\$580 (2021)

Population (millions):  
92.38 (2021)

Under 5 Mortality:  
81.2/1,000 live births  
(2020)

Life Expectancy:  
61 years (2020)

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

Estimated HIV Prevalence  
(Ages 15-49): 0.7% (2021)

Estimated AIDS Deaths  
(Age ≥15): 9,200 (2021)

Estimated Orphans Due to  
AIDS: 540,000 (2021)

Reported Number  
Receiving Antiretroviral  
Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15):  
420,364 (2021)

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

Estimated TB Incidence:  
319/100,000 population  
(2020)

TB Patients with Known HIV  
Status who are HIV Positive:  
7.8% (2020)

TB Treatment Success Rate:  
92% (2019)

## DGHT Country Staff: 27

Locally Employed Staff: 23  
Direct Hires: 4  
Fellows & Contractors: 00

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

