

## STRATEGIC FOCUS

Since 2002, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has had a partnership with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and with the Congolese Ministry of Health (MOH). Since the launch of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in 2003, our partnership has consistently evolved in response to both national and global strategic HIV frameworks and strived to reach the UNAIDS 95-95-95 global objectives. Our strategic focus is on:

- HIV preventing and treating HIV using the Test and Start approach
- Integrating HIV and Tuberculosis (TB) treatment
- Strengthening the public health system through targeted investments in health information systems, laboratory capacity, and health workforce development
- Strengthening Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) activities toward epidemic control

## KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Strengthening Public Health Systems

CDC provides technical and financial assistance for sustainable epidemic control to the MOH in the areas of service delivery and policy development. Through CDC support, MOH is providing comprehensive and integrated HIV services in the high burden Haut-Katanga and Kinshasa provinces.

### Strengthening Laboratory Systems

CDC builds laboratory capacity in HIV and TB diagnostics and quality management systems. CDC supports the scale-up of laboratory infrastructure to meet the increasing needs for viral load (VL) monitoring and early infant diagnosis (EID). Moreover, CDC implemented an in-country development program for laboratory accreditation. During Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, 10 additional laboratories (including the national TB molecular lab) will enroll in the laboratory accreditation program, bringing the total number to 16 laboratories. In FY 2018, CDC-supported laboratories processed 24,777 samples (61.8% coverage) for HIV viral load.

### Strengthening Surveillance and Health Information Systems

CDC supports the expanded use of electronic medical records and provides technical support to increase capacity in the health management information system.

**ART Services:** CDC has helped strengthen the scope and quality of antiretroviral treatment (ART) services for adults and children. As of FY 2018, CDC supported 46,107 PLHIV on treatment, and CDC has championed the effective roll out of the Test and Start approach to expand coverage of ART (2018 PEPFAR program data).

**Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT):** CDC public health experts contributed to the National HIV plan to eliminate mother-to-child transmission resulting in increased availability of option B+ services. In FY 2018, program data shows CDC supported ART for 1,642 women to interrupt transmission of HIV to their infant during pregnancy.

**Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC):** CDC aims to keep children safe, healthy, stable, and in school. Through CDC support in FY 2018, 26,191 OVC received services to improve their well-being (2018 PEPFAR program data).

**TB/HIV Integration:** CDC assisted in the development of a TB infection control national plan, promoted TB Preventive Treatment (TPT), and supported TB case identification. CDC DRC supported 1,241 TB/HIV co-infected patients to receive ART (2018 PEPFAR program data).

**Key populations (KP):** In 2018, program data indicated CDC DRC's KP program resulted in over 16,351 female sex workers (FSW) and men who have sex with men (MSM) were tested for HIV, resulting in identification of 547 HIV-infected individuals. Of these HIV-positives, all 547 were initiated on ART, and the HIV-negative clients were supported to remain HIV-negative.

## Key Country Leadership

President:  
Felix Antoine Tshisekedi

Minister of Health:  
Oly Ilunga

U.S. Ambassador:  
Michael Hammer

CDC/DGHT Director:  
Pratima Raghunathan

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

Per Capita GNI:  
\$490 (2018)

Population (million):  
84.07 (2018)

Under 5 Mortality:  
91/1,000 live births (2017)

Life Expectancy:  
60 years (2017)

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

Estimated HIV Prevalence  
(Ages 15-49): 0.8% (2018)

Estimated AIDS Deaths  
(Age ≥15): 9,300 (2018)

Estimated Orphans Due to  
AIDS: 410,000 (2018)

Reported Number  
Receiving Antiretroviral  
Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15):  
240,516 (2018)

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

Estimated TB Incidence:  
322/100,000 population  
(2017)

TB patients with known HIV  
status who are HIV positive:  
10% (2017)

TB Treatment Success Rate:  
89% (2016)

TB Mortality:  
60/100,000 population  
(2017)

**DGHT Country Staff: 24.7**  
Locally Employed Staff: 19.7  
Direct Hires: 5  
Fellows & Contactors: 0

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

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