

STRATEGIC FOCUS

In April 2022, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) officially opened its new country office in Manila, Philippines, as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) entered into a bilateral agreement with the Philippine Department of Health (DOH) through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to enhance and expand cooperative efforts in health and medical sciences. The agreement aims to develop joint research, training, and collaboration activities addressing shared priorities that include HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment, tuberculosis (TB), vaccine preventable and other infectious diseases, epidemic investigation and surveillance, public health emergency preparedness and response, laboratory detection of biological threats, global health security, and other health and medical priorities.

The Philippines is experiencing the fastest growing HIV epidemic in the region, with a sevenfold increase in newly diagnosed cases from 2010 to 2018. Through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the CDC's Division of Global HIV & TB (DGHT), CDC-Philippines will focus on key HIV prevention and treatment service delivery gaps in public and community sites as well as on policies to strengthen public health surveillance and laboratory systems in high-burden regions of the Philippines, including Manila (above-site work only), Region VI (Western Visayas), and Region VII (Central Visayas). CDC will collaborate closely with the DOH and other key government agencies to ensure its PEPFAR program activities are aligned with the Philippines' national strategies, priorities, and needs. It will also collaborate with other partners and stakeholders such as the Global Fund and civil society non-governmental organizations.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CDC-Philippines' planned activities include the following:

- Implement comprehensive, evidence-based prevention services and targeted HIV testing interventions tailored to Key Populations (KPs).
- Scale-up comprehensive HIV care and treatment services to increase coverage of antiretroviral therapy (ART) and treatment literacy among people living with HIV (PLHIV).
- Strengthen ART monitoring, retention on treatment, and viral suppression for PLHIV, focusing on re-engaging those with an interruption in treatment and community engagement.
- Implement strategic information and quality improvement/quality assurance activities to strengthen performance management, improve data quality, and use for program development.
- Support laboratory services to ensure timely and routine viral load monitoring.
- Stand up HIV-1 recent infection surveillance in routine HIV testing services to inform program improvement and public health response.
- Support surveillance activities among KPs, including bio-behavioral survey and population size estimation activities.
- Support community-based index testing and self-testing with local civil society organizations (CSOs).
- Use peer navigation for linkage to care from CSO community-based testing sites.
- Develop community messaging for U=U (Undetectable=Untransmittable) and stigma reduction for KP.
- Promote pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) demand creation.
- Support efforts to strengthen and expand implementation of national guidelines, policies, and practices (e.g., Tenofovir, Lamivudine, and Dolutegravir [TLD] transition, multi-month dispensing, recency, index, and HIV-self testing), including an advance disease package of care.
- Advocate for adopting key harm reduction strategies for people who inject drugs, including medication-assisted treatment (including buprenorphine), viral hepatitis prevention, diagnosis and treatment, PrEP, and syringe/needle exchange, as part of a comprehensive package of HIV interventions.
- Support Diagnostic Network Optimization activities for viral load, TB, and other co-infections.

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

Key Country Leadership

President:  
Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.

Secretary of Health:  
*TBD as of July 4, 2022*

U.S. Ambassador:  
MaryKay Carlson

CDC/DGHT Director:  
Romel Lacson

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

Per Capita GNI:  
\$3,640 (2021)

Population (millions):  
111.05 (2021)

Under 5 Mortality:  
26.4/1,000 live births (2020)

Life Expectancy:  
71.4 years (2020)

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

Estimated HIV Prevalence  
(Ages 15-49): 0.2% (2021)

Estimated AIDS Deaths  
(Age ≥15): 1,100 (2021)

Estimated Orphans Due to  
AIDS: 11,000 (2021)

Reported Number Receiving  
Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)  
(Age ≥15): 56,241 (2021)

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

Estimated TB Incidence:  
539/100,000 population  
(2020)

TB Patients with Known HIV-  
Status who are HIV-Positive:  
1% (2020)

TB Treatment Success Rate:  
86% (2019)

DGHT Country Staff: 5

Locally Employed Staff: 3  
Direct Hires: 2  
Fellows & Contractors: 00

