

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) office opened in the Royal Kingdom of Lesotho in 2007. CDC supports an integrated continuum of HIV and tuberculosis (TB) services, including improvements in treatment, prevention, laboratory capacity, health management information systems, and public health policies. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and implementing partners, CDC provides technical assistance (TA) and administrative leadership in these program areas.

Comprehensive HIV Treatment and Prevention Services

CDC works closely with the MOH and other in-country partners to scale-up HIV prevention and treatment services, including preventing mother-to-child HIV transmission, HIV testing, antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation services, integrated TB/HIV service delivery, and program activities using a targeted, district-based approach. CDC provides technical leadership in building human capacity for HIV/TB treatment programs through direct service delivery, TA, and mentoring health workers. In line with sustainable and equitable programming, CDC also supports comprehensive adolescent and young people HIV prevention services in selected districts strengthening bidirectional referrals between community and facility services for young people.

Strengthening Laboratory Systems

CDC provides TA to implement quality laboratory systems for diagnosis, clinical monitoring, and evaluation of new test technologies. CDC, in partnership with its implementing partners, provides the necessary technical expertise in developing local capacity for effective coordination of laboratory programs, diagnostic services, information systems, and clinical services to improve national, regional, and clinical facility level public health service quality.

Strengthening Strategic Information

CDC and its implementing partners support Lesotho's efforts to implement population-based surveys and public health surveillance, monitoring and evaluation, and development of health information systems needed to advance the national HIV response, guide public health programming, and use data to inform decision-making and public health policies and associated implementation.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HIV Treatment Services: CDC supports the national implementation of the World Health Organization's Consolidated Guidelines on the Use of Antiretroviral Drugs for Treating and Preventing HIV Infection. CDC's treatment support is focused on attaining and sustaining the UNAIDS' 95-95-95 HIV goals across all age groups and sex in the four CDC supported districts (Berea, Leribe, Qacha's Nek, and Quthing). Ninety-nine percent of adults and children have transitioned to optimized ART regimens in 2021 and 2022, respectively.

TB/HIV: CDC works closely with the MOH to improve ART uptake among people living with HIV (PLHIV) who have TB infection. Approximately 59 percent of persons with TB in Lesotho are co-infected with HIV. CDC-funded HIV clinical services integrate TB activities to identify and treat TB/HIV co-infection, increase uptake of TB preventive therapy, and enhance effective TB case finding and treatment using the WHO-approved, molecular diagnostics, chest x-rays, computer-aided diagnostics, and shortened TB treatment regimens. Over 85 percent of PLHIV on ART completed TB preventive therapy.

HIV Testing Services: CDC provides TA to improve the diagnostics, treatment quality, cost-effectiveness, and expand HIV testing services, including HIV self-testing, index testing and partner notification, recency testing, and use of HIV risk screening tools. CDC played a critical role in Lesotho's achievement of 90 percent of PLHIV knowing their HIV status, including increasing coverage of comprehensive family planning services for Adolescent Girls and Young Women aged 15-24 through the DREAMS initiative in four districts: Berea, Maseru, Mafeteng, Mhale's Hoek.

Laboratory Systems: CDC provides TA to Lesotho's laboratory professionals, increasing their skills. CDC supported the expansion of laboratory facilities, quality improvement in HIV viral load (VL) testing, and improvement in the procurement of VL tests, early infant diagnosis laboratory test reagents, and TB test supplies.

Strategic Information: CDC supported two Lesotho Population-based HIV Impact Assessments (LePHIA), a national survey conducted in 2016 and 2020 respectively that included HIV risk factors, incidence, and biomarkers. Results from the second LePHIA demonstrated 90 percent of persons ≥ 15 years of age living with HIV had been diagnosed, 97 percent of those diagnosed were on ART, and 92 percent were virally suppressed. These results indicate that Lesotho reached the UNAIDS 90-90-90 goals by 2020 and is well positioned to meet the 95-95-95 goals by 2025. CDC also supported implementation of the eRegister in 186 of 207 PEPFAR supported facilities to ensure data quality and informed decision making.

Key Country Leadership

Prime Minister:
Samuel Matekane

Minister of Health:
Selibe Mochoboroane

U.S. Ambassador:
Maria Brewer

CDC/DGHT Director:
Kassim Sidibe

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

Per Capita GNI:
\$1,260 (2022)

Population (millions):
2.3 (2022)

Under 5 Mortality:
72.9/1,000 live births
(2021)

Life Expectancy:
53 years (2021).

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

Estimated HIV Prevalence
(Ages 15-49): 19.3% (2022)

Estimated AIDS Deaths
(Age ≥ 15): 3,700 (2022)

Estimated Orphans Due to
AIDS: 93,000 (2022)

Reported Number
Receiving Antiretroviral
Therapy (ART) (Age ≥ 15):
229,715 (2022)

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

Estimated TB Incidence:
614/100,000 population
(2021)

TB Patients with Known HIV
Status who are HIV-Positive:
55% (2021)

TB Treatment Success Rate:
76% (2020)

DGHT Country Staff: 11
Locally Employed Staff: 8
Direct Hires: 3
Contractors: 0

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

September 2023 | 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

