

U. S. CDC Botswana



Accessible link: <https://www.cdc.gov/global-health/countries/botswana.html>

CDC established an office in Botswana in 1995. CDC Botswana works closely with the Botswana Ministry of Health (MOH) and partner organizations to build and strengthen the country's core public health capabilities. These include data and surveillance; laboratory capacity; workforce and institutions; innovation and research; prevention and response; and policy, communications and diplomacy. Priority program areas address HIV, tuberculosis (TB), emerging public health threats, emergency response, and health systems strengthening.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Data & Surveillance

- Expanded recency testing to over 200 sites to provide essential information on HIV diagnoses, infections, and ongoing transmission



Laboratory

- Facilitated seven public health laboratories in achieving international standard accreditation (ISO:15189) and in obtaining WHO-certification for one laboratory



Workforce & Institutions

- Supported training for 200 public health professionals who graduated from the Field Epidemiology Training Program



Prevention & Response

- Achieved UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets four years before the target date



Innovation & Research

- Introduced new technologies to increase efficiencies in diagnosis of TB and other opportunistic infections



Policy, Communications & Diplomacy

- Supported risk communication activities during the COVID-19 response, and supported the Intra Action Review leading to system improvements across most areas of the response

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

HIV AND TB

As a key implementer of U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC partners with the MOH to build a robust national HIV response. CDC efforts include:

- Targeting HIV testing, treatment, and prevention interventions to populations at highest risk, especially among young adults
- Supporting quality laboratory testing for the diagnosis and treatment of people living with HIV and TB, and population level surveys for HIV
- Linking and retention to HIV antiretroviral treatment services
- Voluntary medical male circumcision programs
- Prevention of mother-to-child transmission
- TB prevention and control programs
- Expanding research capacity through training and technical assistance at the national and districts

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

CDC's global health security work in Botswana focuses on strengthening the country's public health systems across the following core areas:

Surveillance Systems

Botswana has made significant progress adopting the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response guidelines to facilitate surveillance and timely response to disease outbreaks.

Laboratory Systems

CDC works with the MOH to build laboratory capacity to:

- Improve availability and access to laboratory services that testing for advanced diseases and opportunistic infections
- Implement international laboratory standards for continuous quality improvement and establish routine surveillance and response to public health emergencies
- Improve the availability, quality, and use of laboratory data for evidence-based planning and decision making
- Foster collaboration between human, animal, and environmental health laboratories for a One Health approach
- Introduce new diagnostic methods and technologies

Public Health Institutes

CDC is working closely with the MOH and the International Association of Public Health Institutes to establish the Botswana Public Health Institute.

Workforce Development

CDC supports training scientists through the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP). This program strengthens Botswana's workforce capacity to sustain and control the HIV epidemic and identify and stop outbreaks of other diseases before they spread. The program consists of the Frontline level, and a new Intermediate level established in 2023.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

CDC works with the MOH and partners to design and implement the Youth Risk Behavior and Biological Survey, and the Violence Against Children Survey.

