

U. S. CDC Namibia

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

CDC established an office in Namibia in 2002. The office collaborates with the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MOHSS) and partners to build and strengthen the country's core public health capabilities. These include data and surveillance; laboratory capacity; workforce and institutions; prevention and response; innovation and research; and policy, communications, and diplomacy. Program areas address global health security, workforce development, clinical and laboratory systems, HIV, and tuberculosis.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Data & Surveillance

- Supported the development and use of an electronic data system, dashboards, and other tools that provide access to critical COVID-19 data



Laboratory

- Supported the Namibia Institute of Pathology and MOHSS to use molecular testing for TB diagnostic testing, and rolled out a new urine test (TB-LAM) for TB diagnosis, which is more effective in diagnosing TB among people with HIV



Workforce & Institutions

- Supported training for more than 220 participants who graduated from the Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) since 2014



Innovation & Research

- Introduced laboratory innovations such as barcode printers and delivery of results via text message to decrease the time it takes to get results back to patients and providers



Policy, Communications & Diplomacy

- Provided risk communication support during Namibia's COVID-19 response.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

CDC strengthens emergency preparedness, provides technical support for infectious disease outbreaks, and supports border health services. CDC is also assisting in the establishment of a national Emergency Operations Center and National Institute of Public Health. CDC and MOHSS strengthen the national health system by increasing workforce capacity to detect and respond to outbreaks.

Workforce Development

CDC supports human resources for health at the facility, district, regional, and national levels. CDC and MOHSS work together to make sure that staff are in the right place to meet local needs. This partnership ensures that mechanisms are in place for rapid recruitment, deployment, and ongoing human resources management systems.

Emergency Response

As a key implementer of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC works with Namibia to develop and implement sustainable, integrated, and high-impact HIV prevention, care, and treatment programs. CDC works with MOHSS to scale up national HIV and TB programs, including:

- HIV testing services such as index testing
- Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT)
- Antiretroviral treatment (ART)— including introduction of the best HIV medicines and multi-month prescriptions— and treatment of opportunistic infections
- Pre-exposure prophylaxis for pregnant and breastfeeding women
- Cervical cancer screening and treatment

Namibia has nearly achieved HIV epidemic control and is focused on ensuring that all people, especially children and adolescents, receive client-centered prevention and care packages. CDC supports MOHSS to offer services in the community, which is more convenient for patients and reduces pressure at facilities. CDC also supports the broader healthcare needs of patients with HIV.

TB

Namibia is estimated to have one of the highest TB burdens in the world. CDC partners with the MOHSS to protect healthcare workers and reduce the spread of TB through trainings and capacity-strengthening, especially related to use of particulate-filtering respirators. CDC supports comprehensive TB and HIV activities in Namibia, including:

- Improving and integrating services for people living with TB and HIV coinfections
- Addressing gaps in TB case-finding through improved screening processes and diagnostics
- Providing TB preventative treatment for all eligible people living with HIV
- Supporting TB infection control in healthcare facilities
- Scaling up contact tracing for all people who are exposed to someone with infectious TB

LABORATORY CAPACITY BUILDING

CDC supports the MOHSS to strengthen the quality of the national laboratory system. CDC provides technical and financial support to the Namibia Institute of Pathology (NIP) to ensure accurate testing services for HIV, TB, and other related conditions. CDC also works with NIP to ensure the quality of all HIV and TB testing across the country. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CDC supported the national COVID-19 testing system to design workflows, conduct trainings, and ensure biosafety in the laboratory at all times. CDC also supports the development of testing protocols and procedures for specific diseases as outbreaks occur.

HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS

CDC assists with a range of innovative and cost-effective strategies that enhance data collection, analysis, and health management and information systems. CDC supports MOHSS to maintain national health information systems that include HIV testing, treatment, PMTCT, TB, and COVID-19 cases and vaccinations. CDC also supports the MOHSS with the national health information management system (District Health Information System or DHIS2). This system collects aggregated data and produces summary reports for key indicators. CDC's support helps ensure that MOHSS staff, from health facilities up to the national programs, have access to the critical information they need to inform decision-making.

COVID-19

Global health security investments and decades of global partnership built a strong foundation in Namibia to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. CDC's history of supporting variety of disease responses, such as HIV, TB, malaria, influenza, and polio were vital to the country's COVID-19 response. CDC's COVID-19 support in Namibia included response and logistics coordination, enhancing diagnostic capacity, disease surveillance and case investigation, infection prevention and control, and activities to promote vaccine uptake.

