

### STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) works closely with Zimbabwe’s Ministry of Health and Child Care (MOHCC) to expand the robust national HIV response to reach and sustain epidemic control. CDC Zimbabwe provides technical assistance and supports program implementation to build Zimbabwe’s public health capacity and technical expertise while enhancing the infrastructure required for a high-impact and sustainable HIV response.

Current areas of strategic focus include:

- HIV prevention, testing, and antiretroviral therapy (ART)
- HIV and tuberculosis (TB) screening, treatment, and TB infection control program integration
- Laboratory support for quality assured HIV and TB diagnosis and monitoring and strengthening systems for public health laboratories
- Health systems infrastructure strengthening, including health information systems, public health disease surveillance, capacity building, and quality improvement
- Outbreak preparedness and response

### KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**HIV Prevention:** CDC supports HIV prevention interventions to individuals at risk of HIV infection. These include adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) and young men. To address the risks of HIV in AGYW, CDC supports implementing the DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe) program in four districts. DREAMS also promotes access to clinical services and other HIV prevention approaches, such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). In addition, PrEP is provided in all the supported districts around Zimbabwe. Voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) is another intervention CDC that helps to reduce HIV risk in men. As of December 2022, CDC provided technical assistance and support to the MOHCC to successfully conduct 59,546 VMMCs (PEPFAR program data 2022).

**HIV Testing:** CDC and other implementing partners support the MOHCC in providing safe HIV testing services by implementing a status-neutral HIV testing approach to provide a gateway to quality HIV treatment and prevention services. The models include HIV index contact testing, HIV self-testing, HIV testing within prevention programs, and HIV testing in several health service delivery entry platforms and communities. Currently, the program is focused on closing the HIV case finding among children <15 years old through index, diagnostic, and targeted testing.

**HIV Treatment Program:** CDC and other implementing partners collaborate with the MOHCC to expand ART to over 1.23 million Zimbabweans estimated to be living with HIV. Currently, approximately 89 percent of people living with HIV (PLHIV) across the country are receiving ART (PEPFAR program data 2021). In financial year 2022, CDC Zimbabwe, through its partners, initiated 29,808 clients on lifelong antiretroviral therapy. Viral load coverage and suppression among the PLHIV on lifelong ART clients is 75 percent and 97 percent, respectively. The high viral load suppression is attributed to the rollout of optimized ART regimens containing dolutegravir across all age groups. As a result of optimized pediatric regimens, pediatric viral load suppression reached 90 percent. In a bid to improve retention on treatment, 73 percent of clients are now on 3-6 multi-month dispensing of antiretrovirals. Going forward, the program is focused on coordinating with the MOHCC and other stakeholders to achieve HIV epidemic control and sustain gains.

**Surveys, Surveillance, and Program Information:** CDC supports the MOHCC to scale up and roll out HIV case-based surveillance using an electronic health record system. The system uniquely identifies patients and reports data in real time for newly diagnosed and recent infections. By December 2022, 859 facilities could report data for all HIV-infected persons.

**TB/HIV:** To end TB by 2030, CDC supports routine screening of TB among all high-risk groups, optimizing TB diagnosis through the use of molecular, WHO-recommended diagnostic tests, and initiating TB preventive treatment (TPT) among all eligible clients. During financial year 2022, 93 percent of PLHIV were screened for TB, with 1.6 percent screening positive. Of those who screened TB-positive, 96 percent had a sputum sample collected and sent for diagnostic testing. A high proportion of them (89 percent) had a diagnostic test done using GeneXpert. To optimize TB screening and diagnosis and reduce the number of missed cases, highly sensitive TB screening tools, TB LF-LAM, and digital X-rays with computer-aided diagnostics are being rolled out. Since 2019, CDC has funded TPT initiation and completion for 242,095 PLHIV. CDC has also supported the rollout of shorter TPT regimens of three months of isoniazid and rifampentine, with better adherence and completion.

**Laboratory Support:** CDC partners with the MOHCC to strengthen universal access to quality assured viral load/early infant diagnosis testing for all on treatment. According to PEPFAR program data, 886,806 clients accessed a viral load test in 2022. Strategies to increase access to viral load testing include implementing a national integrated sample transportation system, collaborative clinic-community-laboratory interface, establishing a robust, open-source Laboratory Information Management System, and quality management system implementation, including continuous quality improvement at laboratories.

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

### Key Country Leadership

President:  
H.E. Emmerson Mnangagwa

Minister of Health:  
V.P. Constantino Chiwenga

Charge d’Affaires:  
Elaine French

CDC/DGHT Director:  
Michael Melchior

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

Per Capita GNI:  
\$1,500 (2022)

Population (millions):  
16.32 (2022)

Under 5 Mortality:  
49.5/1,000 live births  
(2021)

Life Expectancy:  
59.3 years (2021)

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

Estimated HIV Prevalence  
(Ages 15-49): 11% (2022)

Estimated AIDS Deaths  
(Age ≥15): 18,000 (2022)

Estimated Orphans Due to  
AIDS: 490,000 (2022)

Reported Number  
Receiving Antiretroviral  
Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15):  
1,182,126 (2022)

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

Estimated TB Incidence :  
190/100,000 population  
(2021)

TB patients with known HIV  
status who are HIV-positive:  
50% (2021)

TB Treatment Success Rate:  
88% (2020)

### DGHT Country Staff: 39

Locally Employed Staff: 33  
Direct Hires: 6  
Fellows & Contractors: 0

