

INDIA

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established an office in India in 2001 to assist the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) in addressing a concentrated HIV epidemic affecting key populations (KP) and ending HIV as a public health threat by 2030. As a key implementer of the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC focuses on evidence-based, data-driven, high-impact, sustainable, person-centric interventions in prevention, testing, linkage to treatment, retention, and lab system strengthening to provide equitable access to HIV prevention, testing and treatment services for people at risk of HIV and people living with HIV (PLHIV), including children, adolescents, KPs. CDC works closely with the National Tuberculosis (TB) Elimination Program (NTEP) to prevent, detect, treat and build systems towards a TB-free India.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HIV Treatment: CDC partners with NACO to increase access to lifesaving antiretroviral therapy (ART), treatment continuity, and viral load (VL) testing for all PLHIV, including key and priority populations. In collaboration with NACO, State AIDS Control Societies, and community-based organizations, CDC successfully demonstrates strategies to improve decentralized service delivery and person-centered treatment options. Key areas of partnership include the roll-out of dolutegravir-based regimens, expanded patient-centric differentiated package of care, advanced disease management, rapid ART initiation, HIV-TB coinfection management, community ART refill groups, and multi-month dispensation. NACO has adopted these strategies across 740 ART centers across India. CDC was proud to partner with the Government of India (GOI) on the release of the National Guidelines for HIV Care and Treatment (2021) and is working to disseminate quality care strategies through Distance Learning Seminars. CDC supports the dissemination of Undetectable=Untransmissible (U=U) messaging among PLHIV.

Strengthening Laboratories CDC is a key technical partner and works to strengthen lab systems and HIV and sexually transmitted infection networks. Our partnership improves health equity through quality services and access for PLHIV, including key and priority populations, through an expanded, quality laboratory. To reach remote communities, CDC has demonstrated innovative service hub and spoke delivery models and expanded community led testing. In partnership with the GOI, CDC is working to achieve 100 percent ISO accreditation for all participating laboratories by 2024. With the growth of integrated health programs, CDC is also working with the GOI to implement integrated laboratory solutions for early detection, clinical management, and follow-up of cervical cancer in women living with HIV.

HIV Prevention Among KP: CDC partners with NACO to demonstrate and scale strategies for comprehensive HIV prevention, low threshold harm reduction, and expanded evidence-based testing strategies. Key areas of support include technical assistance for index testing services and social network testing. Working in the highest-burden states districts and states of Mumbai, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, and Andhra Pradesh, CDC integrates HIV testing across diverse clinical entry points in the health system, with innovations for key and priority populations, for people who migrate and for communities in remote regions of India. Through the integrated service delivery clinics, CDC has worked with the GOI to expand ‘know-your-status’ campaigns, virtual outreach interventions, and U=U messaging toward national scale-up.

Strengthening National Surveillance Systems: CDC partners with NACO in the strategic information space, including the HIV annual sentinel surveillance, the nationwide integrated biological and behavioral surveillance of KP, size estimations, use of data for impact, and community-led mapping. CDC partners with NACO in expanding data management dashboards and reporting frameworks known as SOCH (Strengthening Overall Care for PLHIV), which provides national and facility-level data for impact. This work and district epidemiologic profiles further supported targeted programming under PEPFAR.

TB: CDC partners with India to meet the 2025 End TB goals through four program strengthening strategies: find, treat, prevent, and build. Key areas of support include strengthening NTEP laboratory capacity through external quality assessment of rapid molecular based TB tests. In Treatment, CDC partnered with the ‘End DR-TB Dharavi slum’ project to improve drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) treatment outcomes and prevent further transmission. To prevent TB among household contacts in Maharashtra, CDC led two projects to successfully test/treat for 1,500 household contacts for latent TB infection using the weekly 12-dose regimen. The ‘Prevention of TB among health care workers at Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Sevagram’ screens, diagnoses, and treats TB disease and infection among healthcare workers. In Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), the ‘Germ-Free TB Mukht Bharat’ mentors state and facility staff to implement IPC activities across ten states, and the Expand ELEVATE project builds capacity for local staff to improve data quality and use towards TB elimination and End TB goals.

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

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Key Country Leadership

- Prime Minister: Narendra Modi
- Minister of Health: Mansukh Mandaviya
- U.S. Ambassador: Eric Garcetti
- CDC/DGHT Director: Melissa Nyendak

Country Quick Facts
worldbank.org/en/where-we-work

- Per Capita GNI: \$2,380 (2022)
- Population (millions): 1,417.1 (2022)
- Under 5 Mortality: 30.6/1,000 live births (2021)
- Life Expectancy: 67.2 years (2021)

Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic
aidsinfo.unaids.org

- Estimated HIV Prevalence (Ages 15-49): 0.2% (2022)
- Estimated AIDS Deaths (Age ≥15): 37,000 (2022)
- Estimated Orphans Due to AIDS: N/A

Reported Number Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15): 1,605,381 (2022)

Global Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemic
who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en

- Estimated TB Incidence : 210/100,000 population (2021)
- TB Patients with Known HIV Status who are HIV-Positive: 1.8% (2021)
- TB Treatment Success Rate: 85% (2020)

DGHT Country Staff: 16
 Locally Employed Staff: 13
 Direct Hires: 3
 Fellows & Contractors: 00

