

U. S. CDC Cameroon

Accessible link: www.cdc.gov/global-health/countries/cameroon

CDC has provided support to Cameroon since 1998 and established an office in Cameroon in 2004. CDC Cameroon works closely with the Government of Cameroon and partner organizations 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 communication, policy, and diplomacy. Priority program areas include global health security, COVID-19, HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Data & Surveillance

- Electronic data systems inform clinical decisions and monitor patient outcomes in more than 340 health facilities across all ten regions



Laboratory

- Supported the establishment of the National Public Health Laboratory, five International Organization for Standardization (ISO)-15189 accredited laboratories, and the first internationally certified blood bank in Central Africa



Workforce & Institutions

- Supported training over 1,700 disease detectives through the Cameroon Field Epidemiology Training Program (CAFETP)



Prevention & Response

- Supported over 100 outbreak investigations in Cameroon since 2017, including COVID-19, mpox, cholera, measles, polio, and other threats



Innovation & Research

- Supported introduction of malaria vaccines in the national routine immunization system, becoming the first country to take this action following pilot projects elsewhere in Africa



Policy, Communications & Diplomacy

- Supported the development and implementation of the national COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement plan

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

CDC builds on previous Global Health Security Agenda (GHS) efforts in Cameroon, in alignment with the Global Health Security and Diplomacy framework. CDC collaborates with Cameroon's Ministry of Public Health (MOH) to build and maintain core public health capabilities. Key capabilities include disease surveillance, laboratory systems, emergency management, and workforce development. Strengthening the national health data infrastructure is an overarching component of all activities. CDC's efforts have strengthened health security in Cameroon, in the Central African region, and globally.

Workforce development

CDC supports training disease detectives through the Cameroon Field Epidemiology Training Program (CAFETP), established in 2010. The program consists of the two-year advanced FETP, nine-month intermediate FETP, and three-month frontline FETP. CAFETP has trained over 1,700 graduates from various sectors. CAFETP is the first fully accredited FETP program in Africa, accredited by TEPHINET in 2017. CAFETP is now training public health professionals from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Central African Republic, and Chad.

Emergency response

CDC and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency supported the inauguration of Cameroon's Public Health Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in 2018. Its inauguration has led to more robust responses by improving multisectoral collaboration, data sharing, and decision-making. The EOC can be activated within 24 hours to coordinate emergency response activities for human and animal health threats. MOH has undertaken at least 75 public health investigations with U.S. government support.

CDC's Public Health Emergency Management Program has trained and certified MOH staff in emergency management. Certified staff have worked with regional districts to establish a similar program at the subnational level in Cameroon. The goal is to create a pool of well-trained EOC managers for human and animal sectors.

The global health security portfolio also includes efforts on:

- Childhood immunization.
- Influenza sentinel surveillance.
- Capacity strengthening for anthrax and brucellosis surveillance and diagnostics.
- Border health measures.
- Maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response.
- Expanding community event-based surveillance to fine-tune outbreak detection and response.
- Emergency risk communication.

CDC also works with national partners to increase capacity for mpox laboratory diagnostics, viral genome sequencing, and ecological investigations.

HIV AND TB

Through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC has helped transform the HIV epidemic response in Cameroon. CDC has worked with partners to expand access to HIV prevention, care, and treatment services to all 10 regions of the country. The progress made has positioned the country to be at the cusp of controlling the HIV epidemic. CDC partners with diverse stakeholders in Cameroon and uses data-driven approaches to:

- Identify people living with HIV (PLHIV).
- Link people diagnosed with HIV to life-saving treatment.
- Ensure continuity of treatment to suppress HIV.

CDC also supports integrating HIV and TB services, screening for TB among PLHIV, and preventing TB transmission in healthcare settings. In 2024, CDC supported the launch of the National Pediatric Surge, which aims to identify thousands of children living with HIV in Cameroon and link them to life-saving treatment.

MALARIA

As a co-implementer of the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) with USAID, CDC has supported malaria prevention and control in Cameroon since 2017. This technical assistance includes:

- Improved entomological monitoring and insecticide- and drug-resistance management.
- Improved case management in health facilities and at the community level.
- Strengthening programs to prevent malaria in pregnancy.
- Providing seasonal medication to prevent malaria during peak transmission seasons.
- Training disease detectives focused on malaria.

