

U. S. CDC Zimbabwe

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

CDC established an office in Zimbabwe in 2000. CDC works with Zimbabwe's Ministry of Health and Child Care (MOHCC) and local organizations to build and strengthen the core public health capabilities. These include data and surveillance; laboratory capacity; prevention and response; and policy, communications and diplomacy. Priority program areas address HIV prevention, care, and treatment, tuberculosis (TB), cervical cancer, and extramural management.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Data & Surveillance

- Expanded use of the electronic health record system in health facilities



Laboratory

- Provided technical assistance to 15 public health laboratories, including the national microbiology reference lab and the national TB reference labs, to achieve international standard accreditation



Prevention & Response

- Provided funding for harmonization and strengthening of IPC measures in 105 health care facilities to build sustainable health systems and preparedness for future pandemics



Innovation & Research

- Supported implementation of population based and Biobehavioral Surveys to measure progress towards achieving HIV epidemic control and inform HIV program planning



Policy, Communications & Diplomacy

- Increased local partner funding from 27% in 2019 to 96% in 2024 improving the capacity of local partners to manage cooperative agreements

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

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

Laboratory Systems Strengthening

CDC Zimbabwe has provided support to the MOHCC laboratory services since 2004. CDC has also provided technical assistance to laboratories across the country to attain ISO 15189 accreditation for quality diagnostic services.

Surveillance and Health Information Systems

CDC Zimbabwe supported the MOHCC's strategic information activities. Activities included providing technical leadership and programmatic guidance for:

- Routine program monitoring, implementing, and using case-based and recency surveillance data to inform program planning
- Health management information system support, including supporting the development and implementation of an electronic health record systems and transition of patient registers from paper-based to the electronic health system

Through a partnership with ICAP at Columbia University, CDC conducted the first BBS among men who have sex with men and transgender women/gender queer people in 2019.

Emergency Response

CDC Zimbabwe and partners continue to support the MOHCC to prevent, respond to, and strengthen health systems to address public health threats like COVID-19. Through CARES ACT funding, the U.S. government supported COVID-19 infection prevention and control (IPC) activities. This included harmonization and strengthening of IPC measures in 105 health care facilities to build sustainable health systems and preparedness for any future pandemics. CDC has also provided technical support for other outbreaks such as cholera, polio, and measles. CDC is currently providing technical assistance to strengthen national capacities on quality monitoring for water, sanitation, and hygiene and cholera preparedness and response.

HIV AND TB

With support from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC and the MOHCC work to build a robust national HIV and TB response. CDC Zimbabwe efforts include:

- Addressing acute staff shortage in the public health sector through investments in health workforce support
- Scaling up HIV prevention, including increasing delivery of differentiated HIV diagnostic services, oral pre-exposure prophylaxis and new prevention technologies, and voluntary medical male circumcision
- Focusing outreach on the most at risk and vulnerable groups, including training girls on sexual violence prevention and supporting employment for young women through the Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe program
- Enhancing HIV care and treatment by increasing the number of people living with HIV (PLHIV) on antiretroviral therapy (ART), scaling up comprehensive outreach services, transitioning clients to optimized ART regimens including the dolutegravir-based regimens, and scaling-up targeted interventions for preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV
- Scaling up TB programming to increase the number of PLHIV who have completed TB Preventive Therapy (TPT) and to optimize TB screening and diagnosis using LF-LAM and GENE-Xpert

HIV remains an important risk factor for cervical cancer. Women living with HIV are up to 5 times more likely to develop cervical cancer. Many women are surviving HIV but dying from cervical cancer. CDC Zimbabwe supported the MOHCC with screening women older than 25 years for cervical cancer and treating those with pre-cancerous lesions using LEEP.

EXTRAMURAL MANAGEMENT

CDC Zimbabwe has continued the transition of complex and critical portfolios from international organizations to local organizations. CDC's focus is on continuing to enhance the capacity of local partners to manage cooperative agreements. CDC provides guidance and resources for the implementation, administration, oversight of awards, and managing accountability efforts.

