

# CDC *in* TANZANIA



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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established an office in Tanzania in 2001 to support HIV/AIDS prevention. The CDC office expanded through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in 2003. CDC works with the Government of Tanzania to strengthen tuberculosis prevention efforts for people living with HIV; enhance laboratory, surveillance, and workforce capacity to respond to disease outbreaks through the Global Health Security Agenda; prevent and control malaria under the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI); and respond to COVID-19.



CDC helped establish one national and five regional Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) to coordinate and respond to national public health emergencies



Since 2008, more than 860 residents have graduated from the advanced, intermediate, and frontline Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programs (FELTP)



FELTP residents conducted an in-depth data review and reconstructed the COVID-19 epi-curve data. These efforts filled in data gaps from 2020-2021



More than 1,680 community health care workers and 750 health care workers trained on event-based disease surveillance, including COVID-19 alert detection and reporting since 2020



In 2021, nearly 115,000 adults and children initiated antiretroviral therapy (ART) for HIV



In 2021, over 70,000 people with HIV were identified through index testing – the process of offering HIV tests to contacts of people living with HIV



In 2021, over 800,000 adults and children received ART through CDC support



As of 2021, 44 laboratories received international-standards accreditation



With CDC and WHO support, 74 laboratories in Tanzania have enrolled in the Strengthening Laboratory Management Towards Accreditation program since 2008



CDC helped train more than 356 laboratory scientists and technologists in microbiology and quality management systems since 2008



Malaria prevalence among children under age 5 decreased from 18% to 7% over 10 years



More than 271 health facilities and eight large hospitals across 31 regions in Tanzania and Zanzibar use Project Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (Project ECHO) teleconferencing for knowledge sharing

## Global Health Security

In today's globally connected world, disease threats like COVID-19 spread faster and more unpredictably than ever before. Tanzania's borders span eight countries, including the African Great Lakes region, which increases the country's risk for cross-border disease outbreaks and epidemics. CDC and partners are well-placed to leverage past successful initiatives and rapidly respond to emerging and existing public health challenges.

CDC supports Tanzania to strengthen International Health Regulations core capacities to comprehensively prevent, rapidly detect, and effectively respond to public health threats. CDC also supports strengthened disease surveillance activities including:

- Expansion of the community and facility-based surveillance for detection of early warning alerts
- Training the global public health workforce, including district-level epidemiologists
- Strengthened border health capabilities
- Enhanced laboratory testing for pathogens like Ebola and COVID-19
- Establishment of national and subnational EOCs

## COVID-19

The first case of COVID-19 in Tanzania was confirmed in March 2020. Since the pandemic was declared, CDC has supported Tanzania with surveillance, infection prevention and control, border health efforts, and activation of rapid response teams and FELTP graduates and trainees. As of December 2022, CDC supported the Government of Tanzania to distribute more than 11 million vaccinations.

## HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis (TB)

HIV is a leading cause of death and a health threat to millions worldwide. As a key implementer of PEPFAR, CDC works with Tanzania to build a sustainable, high-impact national HIV response program to accelerate progress toward the UNAIDS global goals to control the HIV epidemic. CDC adapts and adopts new technology and evidence-based approaches to enhance service delivery, improve patient outcomes, achieve HIV epidemic control, and end TB.

CDC works with the Ministry of Health (MOH) in Tanzania and the MOH on the island of Zanzibar to support:

- HIV testing, prevention, and treatment services
- HIV rapid testing quality assurance
- Early infant HIV diagnosis
- Viral load testing
- Strengthening health information systems
- Using data to inform decision-making
- Health worker training, retention, and participation in outbreak response



A healthcare worker takes blood from an infant's foot in Mwanza to test the infant for HIV. Photo by Ariel Glaser/Pediatric AIDS Healthcare Initiative.

CDC supports Tanzania's lab systems to strengthen laboratory detection capacities for HIV and TB. CDC also supports TB prevention efforts for people living with HIV. This work includes supporting the roll-out of laboratory initiatives for TB diagnostics, points of care, and surveillance for TB drug resistance.

## Malaria

Malaria is a leading cause of death and disease in many countries, and young children and pregnant women are most affected. CDC and partners in Tanzania have engaged in malaria projects since the late 1990s. Under PMI, CDC assigned a resident advisor to malaria-endemic Tanzania to support the implementation of malaria prevention and control activities, including:

- Long-lasting insecticide-treated nets and indoor residual spraying
- Preventing malaria in pregnancy
- Improving diagnostics and case management

## Project ECHO

CDC launched Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) in Tanzania in 2016. The project uses teleconferencing to facilitate case-based learning and knowledge sharing between participants and subject matter experts. ECHO virtual sessions cover various topics, including HIV and TB clinical care and COVID-19 case management. CDC manages the Project ECHO sites with support from implementing partners.

In 2022, CDC supported the establishment of a virtual community of practice that supports clinicians and other responders with emergency response to pandemic diseases. This community of practice operates through Project Echo at Muhimbi National Hospital and reaches over 300 sites throughout the country.



### CDC STAFF

16 U.S. Assignees  
60 Locally Employed



### AT A GLANCE

Population: > 65.5 million  
Per capita income: \$2,920  
Life expectancy: F 68/M 64 years  
Infant mortality rate: 34/1,000 live births

Sources:  
Population Reference Bureau 2022, Tanzania



### TOP 10 CAUSES OF DEATH

1. Neonatal disorders
2. Lower respiratory infections
3. HIV/AIDS
4. Stroke
5. Tuberculosis
6. Ischemic heart disease
7. Malaria
8. Diarrheal diseases
9. Congenital birth defects
10. Cirrhosis and other chronic liver diseases

Source:  
GBD Compare 2019, Tanzania



For more country information  
[www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/tanzania](http://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/tanzania)