

## STRATEGIC FOCUS

The CDC-Lesotho office opened in 2007. CDC supports an integrated continuum of services that includes improvement in public health policies, prevention interventions, TB/HIV, care and treatment, health management information systems, and improved laboratory capacity. This support is provided in close partnership with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and implementing partners. CDC plays an integral role in providing the MOH with technical and administrative leadership in its program areas.

### Comprehensive HIV Care, Treatment and Prevention Services

CDC works closely with the MOH and other in-country partners to scale-up HIV prevention, care and treatment services, including preventing mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT), counseling and testing services, and integrated TB/HIV service delivery using a district-based approach. CDC works with Lesotho's MOH to support HIV and TB program activities. CDC provides technical leadership in building human capacity for HIV/TB treatment programs by supporting training and mentoring for health workers.

### Strengthening Laboratory Systems

CDC provides technical assistance to implement quality laboratory systems, laboratory diagnosis and monitoring tests, and new diagnostic technologies. CDC, in partnership with its implementing partners, provides the necessary technical expertise in developing local capacity for effective coordination of laboratory programs to improve service quality.

## KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**HIV/TB Care and Treatment Services:** CDC has provided assistance in the national implementation of Option B+ for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, supported the adaptation of the 2016 WHO Consolidated Guidelines on the Use of Antiviral Drugs for Treating and Preventing HIV Infection, and worked closely with the MOH to improve ART uptake among TB/HIV co-infected people. Approximately 70% of TB patients in Lesotho are co-infected with HIV.

TB activities are integrated into all HIV clinical services funded by CDC. Recent CDC support for TB control efforts include an evaluation of the national TB/HIV program, a research project involving TB services for miners, and a survey of drug resistance.

**Early Infant Diagnosis:** CDC provided leadership and assistance to establish HIV deoxyribonucleic acid polymerase chain reaction-based early infant diagnosis tools.

**Operational Research:** CDC has worked closely with the MOH and the World Health Organization in piloting the use of new technologies for the diagnosis and treatment of TB and multiple drug resistant TB.

**Strategic Information:** CDC is supporting the Population HIV Impact Assessment (PHIA), a national survey that will include HIV risk factors and biomarkers.

### Key Country Leadership

Chief of State:  
King Letsie III

Prime Minister:  
Pakalitha Mosisili

Minister of Health:  
Molotsi Monyamane

U.S. Ambassador:  
Matthew Harrington

PEPFAR Coordinator:  
Reuben Haylett

CDC/DGHT Director:  
Andrew Pelletier

### Country Quick Facts

Per Capita GNI:  
\$1,280 (2015)

Population:  
2.135 million (2015)

Under 5 Mortality:  
90 / 1,000 live births  
(2015)

Life Expectancy:  
50 years (2014)

### Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic

Estimated HIV Prevalence  
(Ages 15-49): 22.2% (2015)

Estimated AIDS Deaths  
(Age ≥15): 9,200 (2015)

Estimated Orphans Due to  
AIDS: 73,000 (2015)

Reported Number  
Receiving Antiretroviral  
Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15):  
129,127 (2015)

### Global Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemic

TB Treatment Success Rate:  
70% (2015)

Estimated TB Incidence:  
788 / 100,000 (2015)

Estimated Who are HIV  
Positive: 72% (2015)

### Country Staff: 10

Locally Employed Staff: 5  
Direct Hires: 4  
Fellows & Contactors: 1

