



# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## CDC Division of Global HIV & TB's Strategic Focus



The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established an office in the Dominican Republic in 2009. Through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC aims to prevent the transmission of HIV and reduce illness and death from HIV. CDC works with the Dominican Republic Ministry of Health (MOH) to find people living with HIV (PLHIV), place them on treatment, and support them to stay on treatment. CDC also improves access to HIV services for populations at greater risk of HIV and who may be difficult to reach. CDC also works to enhance the quality of HIV services and strengthen health information and laboratory systems.

## Key Activities and Accomplishments

### Building Public Health Capacity

- Helped the MOH connect HIV health information systems (e.g., laboratory and treatment) to give providers a more comprehensive medical history. This will improve the quality of care and patient outcomes.

### Strengthening Laboratory Systems and Networks

- Supported the National Public Health Reference Laboratory to achieve international accreditation for viral load (VL) testing (ISO 15189) in 2025. This was the first public laboratory in the Dominican Republic to achieve this gold standard of laboratory quality.
- Supported the MOH in increasing the number of laboratories accreditation in 9 laboratories. That conduct VL testing from one laboratory in the capital to five additional laboratories in the provinces. This has reduced the time it takes for patients to receive their VL testing result by 50 percent, from over 14 days to less than seven days.

## **HIV Prevention and Treatment**

- Supported HIV treatment and prevention services at 21 healthcare facilities and two mobile clinics across six provinces
- Improved HIV services that address the needs of migrant populations and increased the number of migrants who receive treatment by six-fold.
- Collaborated with the MOH and partners to conduct an intensive effort to identify PLHIV who had stopped treatment. Staff reviewed over 16,000 HIV health records at seven clinics in just six weeks and, within a month, restarted over 700 PLHIV on treatment.

## **Key Country Leadership**

### **President:**

Luis Abinader

### **Minister of Health:**

Victor Atallah

### **US Ambassador Designate:**

Leah Francis Campos

### **CDC/DGHT Director:**

Rachel Albalak

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## **Country Quick Facts**

**Per Capita GNI:** \$9,710 (2023)

**Population (millions):** 10.82 (2024)

**Under 5 Mortality:** 31.5/1,000 live births (2024)

**Life Expectancy:** 73.87 years (2024)

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## **Global HIV Epidemic**

**Estimated HIV Prevalence (Ages 15-49):**  
1.0% (2023)

**Estimated HIV Deaths**  
(Age ≥15): 1,200 (2023)

**Reported Number Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15):** 51,261 (2023)

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## **Global Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemic**

**Estimated TB Incidence:**  
42/100,000 population (2023)

**Reported Percent of People with TB and HIV:** 23% (2023)

**TB Treatment Success Rate:** 80% (2022)

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**DGHT Country Staff:** 16

**Locally Employed Staff:** 13

**Direct Hires:** 3