

PHILIPPINES

CDC Division of Global HIV & TB's Strategic Focus



The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) office in the Philippines was established in 2022. CDC began partnering with the Government of the Philippines under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in 2023. CDC addresses the HIV and TB epidemics by focusing on treatment and prevention service delivery gaps in public and community health facilities.

The Philippines is experiencing the fastest-growing HIV epidemic in the Western Pacific Region and is one of the countries with the highest rate of tuberculosis (TB), which is the leading cause of death among people living with HIV (PLHIV). CDC strengthens public health surveillance and laboratory systems in high-burden regions in the Philippines. CDC and partners collaborate with the Philippines Department of Health (DOH) and other country government agencies. CDC also works closely with multilateral organizations, non-governmental organizations, stakeholders, civil society, and other partners to ensure CDC and PEPFAR program activities are aligned with national strategies and priorities for sustainable HIV and TB responses.

Key Activities and Accomplishments

Building Public Health Capacity

- Provided support to 24 health facilities to implement strategic information and quality improvement activities. This aimed to strengthen performance management, improve data quality, and facilitate program improvements by training health facilities on how to utilize online data dashboards to improve HIV treatment and outcomes.
- Co-led a data workshop with the DOH to analyze results from recent infection surveillance (RIS). This resulted in a planned response from the DOH to five geographic areas of concern. The approach included increasing access to testing and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in the regions that showed more recent HIV transmission.

Strengthening Laboratory Systems and Networks

- Collaborated with the DOH to scale up the number of rapid HIV diagnostic certified testing sites to 137 sites across the country.
- Trained over 1,300 health workers on rapid testing for recent HIV infection. 36 facilities are now using RIS to improve understanding of HIV transmission over time and target testing and prevention strategies.

HIV Prevention and Treatment

- Supported PrEP demand creation and used peer navigators for linkage to treatment from community service organizations to community-based testing sites.
- Implemented comprehensive, evidence-based prevention services and targeted HIV testing interventions tailored to people at greater risk for HIV, including a social network strategy and opt-out testing at healthcare facilities.
- Strengthened the management capacity of community-based organizations for PLHIV and people at greater risk for HIV to enable them to receive local government funding.

Key Country Leadership

President:
Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.

Secretary of Health:
Teodoro Herbosa

U.S. Ambassador:
MaryKay Carlson

CDC/DGHT Director:
Romel Lacson

Country Quick Facts

Per Capita GNI: \$4,320 (2023)

Population (millions):
118.28 (2024)

Under 5 Mortality:
26.5/1,000 live births (2024)

Life Expectancy:
69.95 years (2024)

Global HIV Epidemic

Estimated HIV Prevalence (Ages 15-49):
0.3% (2023)

Estimated HIV Deaths (Age ≥15):
1,800 (2023)

Reported Number Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15):
81,088 (2023)

Global Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemic

Estimated TB Incidence:
643/100,000 population (2023)

Reported Percent of People with TB and HIV: 0.7% (2023)

TB Treatment Success Rate:
78% (2022)

DGHT Country Staff

Locally Employed Staff: 3
Direct Hires: 2
Fellows & Contractors: 0