

## STRATEGIC FOCUS

South Sudan struggles to implement the 2018 peace deal signed after the 2013 and 2016 internal conflicts devastated a country already plundered by the long struggle for independence in 2011. Floods, drought, and intra and inter-clan fighting have caused displacements and food insecurity. National health outcomes are among the worst in the world, with only 32 percent of people living with HIV (PLHIV) on antiretroviral therapy (ART).

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collaborates closely with the Ministry of Health (MOH), South Sudan AIDS Commission, UN agencies, Global Fund, and other key partners to strengthen the fragile health system by providing resources and technical assistance in HIV/TB prevention and treatment programs, laboratory strengthening, blood safety, strategic information, strengthening the national response to epidemics, and human resources for health development.

**Essential Health Services:** Through the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC supports HIV services in the highest HIV prevalence areas of South Sudan, focusing on increasing access to quality HIV service through direct support to 69 treatment sites out of 179 sites nationally.

**Health Systems Strengthening:** CDC provides extensive assistance to MOH in strengthening the health systems, prioritizing laboratory systems, including the provision of HIV early infant diagnosis, HIV viral load, and quality-assured HIV rapid testing, continuous quality improvement, and promoting accreditation efforts, decentralization of point of care instruments for multi-disease testing, information systems, biosafety and biosecurity, in-service capacity building, and the development of national laboratory policies and guidelines. CDC provides technical assistance (TA) in strengthening the health information management system, supporting national priority HIV surveillance and surveys. CDC supports MOH to establish and strengthen public health emergency preparedness and response systems to viral hemorrhagic fever outbreaks. Over the last five years, CDC provided TA to MOH to establish an Incident Management System, workforce capacity building, a field epidemiology training program, and a National Public Health Institute

## KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Sustained Health Services:** CDC implementing partners provide HIV testing and treatment support across the greater equatorial region and Lakes State. PEPFAR performance data for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 indicates CDC directly supported 35,782 PLHIV on ART, accounting for more than two-thirds (68 percent) of PLHIV on ART nationally. CDC partners initiated 8,447 new PLHIV on ART, which is more than half (54 percent) of the 15,437 new ART initiations in the same period nationally. CDC provides the MOH with critical support to expand in-country viral load (VL) testing for those on ART. In FY 2022, 70 percent of PLHIV eligible for VL testing were tested (30,586) in PEPFAR supported facilities; CDC results contributed to 72 percent of national VL tests. In FY22 35,3945 HIV tests were conducted through CDC support, with 7,729 HIV-positive individuals identified (yield 2.2 percent) and linkage to ART of 109 percent (8,447) .

**TB/HIV:** TB continues to be the leading cause of mortality for PLHIV. CDC works with the national TB program and other stakeholders to improve collaboration between TB and HIV programs. In FY2022, all PLHIV on ART in CDC supported facilities were screened for TB, with 98 percent of the 212 TB-positive cases identified receiving TB treatment.

**HIV Surveys:** CDC supported six rounds of antenatal clinic (ANC) sentinel surveys (2007, 2009, 2012, 2017, 2020,2021, and 2022) which provided important data for HIV estimates using the UNAIDS Spectrum Model. CDC also supported bio-behavioral surveys of female sex workers in Juba (2016), Nimule (2017), Wau (2019), and Yambio (2019). These data are used in service delivery policy and funding decisions.

**PEPFAR Five-Year Strategy:** CDC support to MOH is aligned with PEPFAR’s new strategy focusing on priority populations and the need to saturate high disease burden regions with HIV services. Through stronger partnerships, CDC will support MOH in building sustainable laboratory and health information systems and establishing a functional National Public Health Institute. CDC will also focus on building local capacity to deliver quality HIV services.

### Key Country Leadership

President:  
Salva Kiir Mayardit

Minister of Health:  
Hon. Yolanda Awel Juach

U.S. Ambassador:  
Michael J. Adler

CDC/DGHT Director:  
Sudhir Bunga

[Country Quick Facts](https://worldbank.org/en/where-we-work)  
([worldbank.org/en/where-we-work](https://worldbank.org/en/where-we-work))

Per Capita GNI:  
N/A

Population (million):  
10.9 (2022)

Under 5 Mortality:  
98.7/1,000 live births (2021)

Life Expectancy:  
55 years (2021)

[Global HIV Epidemic](https://aidsinfo.unaids.org)  
([aidsinfo.unaids.org](https://aidsinfo.unaids.org))

Estimated HIV Prevalence  
(Ages 15-49): 1.9% (2022)

Estimated AIDS Deaths  
(Age ≥15): 6,100 (2022)

Estimated Orphans Due to  
AIDS: 140,000 (2022)

Reported Number  
Receiving Antiretroviral  
Therapy (ART) (Age: ≥15)  
49,985 (2022)

[Global Tuberculosis  
\(TB\) Epidemic](https://who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en)  
([who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en](https://who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en))

Estimated TB Incidence:  
227/100,000 population  
(2021)

TB patients with known  
HIV status who are  
HIV positive:  
13% (2021)

TB Treatment Success Rate:  
82% (2020)

### DGHT Country Staff: 10

Locally Employed Staff: 8  
Direct Hires: 2  
Fellows & Contractors: 0

Our success is built on the backbone of science and strong partnerships.

September 2023 | The CDC Division of Global HIV & TB activities are implemented as part of the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); non-HIV related TB activities are supported by non-PEPFAR funding

