

Accessible link: www.cdc.gov/global-health/countries/uganda

CDC began working in Uganda in 1991 and established a country office in 2000. CDC works with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and other partners to build and strengthen the country's core public health capabilities. These include data and surveillance; laboratory capacity; workforce and institutions; prevention and response; innovation and research; and policy, communications and diplomacy. Priority program areas address HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria control efforts, maternal and child health services, including vaccination, and other public health threats such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Data & Surveillance

- Supported disease and case-based surveillance to generate up-to-date data to drive evidence-based HIV, TB, and other global health programs and policies



Laboratory

- Facilitated over 40 laboratories in achieving international standard accreditation in 2023



Workforce & Institutions

- Supported training of 745 fellows who graduated from the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)



Prevention & Response

- Responded to more than 430 events, including outbreaks of COVID-19, yellow fever, Ebola, Marburg, Rift Valley fever, Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever, influenza, measles, cholera, typhoid, meningitis, and anthrax through the public health emergency operations center



Innovation & Research

- Trained FETP fellows who have supported quality improvement projects and published 107 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals



Policy, Communications & Diplomacy

- Supported development of Uganda's first national health laboratory services policy in 2009 and national strategic plans for 2010-2015 and 2016-2022

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

CDC works with the MOH and local partners to support activities across the 11 technical areas outlined in the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA). CDC in Uganda focuses on strengthening the country's public health systems across the following core areas:

Laboratory systems strengthening

CDC began supporting the MOH in 2003 to build a robust laboratory network with greater diagnostic capacity. This network aims to provide efficient and effective diagnostic and surveillance services for prompt and accurate results. These results help to inform clinical decisions, outbreak response, policies, and programs. Ugandan laboratories experience fewer adverse safety incidents and higher confidence in laboratory services due to increased quality, lower wait times for patients, and enhanced interactions with clinicians.

Workforce development

CDC partnered with the MOH and Makerere University School of Public Health to establish a Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) in 2015. Participants strengthen their skills in data collection and translation of data into evidence-based action. The program consists of three levels of training: frontline, intermediate, and advanced. Uganda's FETP-Advanced, also known as the Public Health Fellowship Program, is the only field epidemiology training program in Africa that enrolls post-master's degree fellows.

Emergency response

Uganda's Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) was established in 2014 with support from CDC. The PHEOC serves as a hub for coordinating preparedness, response, and recovery from public health emergencies. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, CDC worked with local partners to prevent the spread of disease across borders and within health facilities, support emergency operations, and promote COVID-19 vaccines, laboratory efforts, disease surveillance, and workforce capacities.

HIV and TB

Through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC partners with Uganda to build a robust national HIV and TB response. CDC efforts include:

- Finding more people living with HIV (PLHIV)
- Linking and maintaining PLHIV to antiretroviral therapy (ART)
- Scaling up viral load testing to monitor for viral suppression
- Supporting TB diagnosis, preventive therapy, and treatment among PLHIV
- Reducing new HIV infections through disease surveillance
- Preventing mother-to-child transmission
- Supporting efforts to reduce HIV through voluntary medical male circumcision
- Peer-based programs for key populations
- DREAMS program
- Preventing gender-based violence
- Increasing access and uptake of PrEP

MALARIA

Under the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), CDC assigned a resident advisor to support malaria prevention and control activities in Uganda. Through PMI, CDC helps to:

- Provide long-lasting insecticide-treated nets and indoor residual spray (IRS)
- Prevent malaria during pregnancy
- Strengthen diagnostics and case management
- Conduct operational research, surveillance, monitoring, and evaluation

