

EL SALVADOR

CDC Division of Global HIV & TB's Strategic Focus



Since 2003, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has collaborated with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to respond to the HIV epidemic in El Salvador. CDC supports countries in Central America in achieving the UNAIDS 95-95-95 HIV testing, treatment, and viral load suppression targets.

Through partnership with governments, civil society, and partners, CDC prioritizes interventions directly impacting services for PLHIV and people at greater risk of HIV. CDC supports the expansion of evidence-based programs to bridge the gaps around HIV prevention, case finding, early ART initiation, treatment, and viral load suppression to strengthen systems essential for a sustainable HIV response.

Key Activities and Accomplishments

Building Public Health Capacity

- Advanced treatment and introduced differentiated service delivery models, such as pharmacy fast-track refill, multi-month prescriptions, high viral load tracking, management, counseling, and follow-up.
- Improved access to HIV testing for undiagnosed PLHIV. Improvements included active case-finding strategies such as testing people at greater risk of HIV through outreach, testing partners and household members of PLHIV, quality testing offered by providers, community testing, and a new self-testing strategy specifically targeting men.
- Introduced the Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (Project ECHO) model, an innovative tele-mentoring initiative. The model uses virtual trainings led by experts to support healthcare providers in delivering best-in-practice care to underserved communities in the region. Through Project ECHO, CDC created virtual communities of practice in HIV prevention, laboratory testing, treatment, and strategic information.

CDC DIVISION OF GLOBAL HIV & TB COUNTRY PROFILE

- Launched the Continuous Quality Improvement Training Initiative, where participants learned how to apply concepts in the clinical setting to improve HIV services.
- Established the HIV Rapid Test Continuous Quality Improvement Initiative and conducted evaluations to ensure optimal program use.

Strengthening Laboratory Systems

- Evaluated and improved the specimen referral, equipment, quality management systems, technology, information, and coverage of viral load networks.

HIV Prevention and Treatment

- Supported a comprehensive treatment package that included Track and Trace Pre-ART to connect newly diagnosed PLHIV to care. This ensured access to ART clinics, rapid ART initiation, diagnosis, and management of HIV advanced disease and opportunistic infections, counseling, and appropriate follow-up.
- Supported the retention and re-engagement of PLHIV who are not in care or not virally suppressed.

DGHT Program Director:

Benjamin Ryan Phelps (Guatemala based)

Global HIV Epidemic

Estimated HIV Prevalence (Ages 15-49):
0.5% (2023)

Estimated HIV Deaths
(Age ≥15): <500 (2023)

Reported Number Receiving Antiretroviral
Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15): 15,533 (2023)

Global Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemic

Estimated TB Incidence:
84/100,000 population (2023)

Reported Percent of People with TB and
HIV: 6.1% (2023)

TB Treatment Success Rate: 86% (2022)