



ELIZABETH GLASER  
PEDIATRIC AIDS  
FOUNDATION



# Rwanda

The Foundation's International Programs

# WORKING TO ELIMINATE HIV & AIDS IN CHILDREN, WOMEN, AND FAMILIES

## ABOUT THE RWANDA PROGRAM

The Foundation's program in Rwanda began in 2000, providing technical support for the national prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) program. In 2004, the Foundation's support expanded to include a comprehensive package of HIV clinical services, including PMTCT, HIV-exposed infant and young child feeding, and HIV/AIDS care and treatment (C&T) for children and families living with HIV.

Today, the Foundation is the lead United States Agency for International Development (USAID) clinical services partner in the Eastern Province of Rwanda. In alignment with the Ministry of Health's priorities, the Foundation's program focuses on supporting comprehensive, family-centered HIV prevention, care, and treatment services. As these services are included in primary health care services, the Foundation also supports the implementation of quality maternal and child health, family planning/reproductive health, and nutrition services. The Foundation's technical focus further includes integrated service delivery models, quality improvement, community health, and health systems strengthening approaches. Using the effective continuum-of-care focus, the Foundation links patients from HIV testing to care and treatment services. The Foundation supports innovative, evidence-based, and cost-effective approaches through program assessments and documentation of best practices.

## HIV AND AIDS IN RWANDA

Approximately 170,000 people are living with HIV in Rwanda. Of those, 22,000 are children under the age of 15 (UNAIDS, *Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2010*).



Photos: James Pursey

## KEY PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As of March 31, 2011, Foundation-supported programs in Rwanda had

- provided more than 215,000 women with PMTCT services;
- enrolled nearly 27,000 patients into HIV care and support programs, including nearly 1,700 children under the age of 15;
- started nearly 11,000 individuals on antiretroviral therapy (ART), including nearly 900 children under the age of 15;
- provided nutritional assistance and education to HIV-positive mothers identified in the PMTCT program and their infants at 37 Foundation-supported sites, through counseling and kitchen garden training;
- tested 88 percent of male partners of women in PMTCT programs; and
- provided infant and young child feeding services to nearly 1,200 infants.

## WHERE WE WORK

As of March 31, 2011, the Foundation supported 44 sites across Rwanda. Of these, 37 sites offered PMTCT services, 42 sites provided C&T to children and families living with HIV, and 43 sites were implementing the continuum-of-care model.

These care services include testing to determine treatment needs and to assess overall health status and disease progression, screening for and treatment of opportunistic infections, and referral to treatment sites based upon the patient's needs.



## STORY OF HOPE

### Olivier, age 19

“ I never knew my parents—they died long ago. I live on my own, in the house that belonged to them. A few years ago, my younger sister became very sick and we discovered she was HIV-positive. By the time we learned her status it was too late, and she died in 2006. After my sister died I went to the Masaka Health Center, where I tested positive for HIV. I enrolled in treatment and began medications. I am now healthy and strong. It has been hard to get an education and make a living for myself. I hope to continue school and achieve everything my parents weren't able to before they died. I believe I can do anything that anyone else can do. ”

# WHO WE ARE

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation is a global leader in the fight to eliminate pediatric HIV and AIDS. In 17 countries and at more than 5,500 sites around the world, we work to implement HIV prevention, care, and treatment services; advance innovative research; and advocate for the best public policies for women, children, and families worldwide.

# OUR STORY

In 1981, Elizabeth Glaser contracted HIV through a blood transfusion. Unaware that she was infected, she passed the virus on to her daughter, Ariel, and her son, Jake. After losing Ariel to AIDS-related illness in 1988, Elizabeth and her two best friends, Susie Zeegen and Susan DeLaurentis, created a foundation dedicated to bringing hope to families affected by HIV and AIDS. Elizabeth fought for increased pediatric HIV research and funding until her death in 1994, and today the foundation that bears her name continues her work. Thanks to the movement Elizabeth started, we now have the science and medicines to make the elimination of pediatric AIDS a reality, and Elizabeth's son, Jake, is a healthy young adult.



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# PARTNERS

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