



**Elizabeth Glaser  
Pediatric AIDS  
Foundation**

## THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO PROGRAM

Working with Women, Children, and Families to End Pediatric AIDS

### EGPAF IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) began supporting critical HIV and AIDS services in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2001, providing funding and technical assistance to prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT) programs implemented by the Kinshasa School of Public Health and the University of North Carolina. Since 2001, EGPAF has implemented and scaled up access to HIV testing and counseling, early infant HIV diagnostics (EID), adult and pediatric HIV care and treatment, tuberculosis (TB) and HIV co-infection management, sexually transmitted infection management, and sexual and gender-based violence services.

EGPAF works in close collaboration with DRC's Ministry of Health, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Department of Defense, and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). With our partners, we aim to increase coverage of PMTCT and HIV care and treatment services, strengthen community-health facility linkages, and build local ownership and sustainability of comprehensive HIV and AIDS programs.

### KEY PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS\*

Since 2001, EGPAF-DRC:



Increased the number of health facilities offering ART services from 23 to 299



Tested more than 1.5 million people for HIV



Provided over 900,000 pregnant women with access to critical PMTCT services



Enrolled almost 13,000 people on antiretroviral therapy (ART); including over 1,000 children



Supported over 130 sites across the Kinshasa Province

### COUNTRY PROFILE\*\*

Population	85,000,000
Number of people living with HIV	370,000
Adult (15-49) prevalence rate	1.2%
Deaths due to AIDS	22,000
Women aged 15 and older living with HIV	200,000
Children (0-14) living with HIV	42,000
Mother-to-child HIV transmission rate, at breastfeeding cessation	29%
ART coverage for adults 15 years and older	20%
ART coverage for children 14 and younger	9%
Number of people living with TB	400,000
Number of people HIV/TB co-infected	34,000

### CURRENT EGPAF-DRC PROGRAM GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



\* Accomplishments as of February 2016

\*\* Sources: Estimates from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (2015), Children and AIDS Sixth Stocktaking Report (2013), and the World Health Organization's Global Tuberculosis Report (2014).

## PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Integrated HIV/AIDS Project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Projet Intégré de VIH/ SIDA au Congo [ProVICplus]), 2009-2017

ProVICplus is USAID's most substantial HIV program in DRC. Its mission is to reduce the incidence and prevalence of HIV in Kinshasa, Haut-Lomami, Haut-Katanga, Lualaba, and Tshopo provinces, while supporting those living with HIV and their families. By integrating comprehensive HIV and AIDS services into local, general care sites, ProVICplus seeks to improve access to care while fostering community ownership of health systems. Under this program, EGPAF works in collaboration with PATH and is responsible for HIV care and treatment, PMTCT, and EID activities. In 2010, EGPAF established a network to provide increased access to EID services among HIV-exposed infants in areas surrounding major cities. Since EID testing became available in DRC in mid-2010, EGPAF has led the way in collection, transportation, and swift return of infant HIV diagnostics and linkage to pediatric care and treatment. Originally slated to end in 2014, the former ProVIC was extended through May 2017 through the ProVICplus mechanism with EGPAF as the main clinical implementing partner.

Integrated HIV/AIDS Project-Kinshasa, 2017-2022

The Integrated HIV/AIDS Project (IHAP)-Kinshasa is a major U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded HIV/AIDS program in Kinshasa, DRC. Its mission is to improve service delivery and provide technical assistance to the Government of DRC and specific health zones in Kinshasa. IHAP-Kinshasa will scale-up HIV/AIDS services including comprehensive prevention, HIV testing, antiretroviral therapy (ART) enrolment, ART and retention support service access at high-yield entry points throughout these health zones. EGPAF will focus on community engagement to increase demand for HIV and AIDS services. Through IHAP-Kinshasa, EGPAF will also work to address TB/HIV co-infection through increased access to testing and TB prevention services, and more efficient laboratory functions for more readily accessible diagnostics of HIV/AIDS and TB. This work will be sustained by building and reinforcing the capacity of staff at the health zones, Ministry of Health, and the National AIDS Control Program.

Increasing Access to Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care (Project Kimia), 2013-2019

Through this CDC/PEPFAR-funded project, EGPAF implements the full range of PMTCT, HIV care and treatment, and TB services, as well as services to support clients affected by sexual and gender-based violence within 76 health facilities. The project's goal is to increase access to high quality comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment services across Kinshasa Province. Its key objectives are to: (1) increase access to quality PMTCT services; (2) increase access to quality HIV care and support services; (3) expand coverage of HIV services in TB Screening and Treatment Centers (CSDTs); (4) increase access to quality HIV treatment services; and (5) increase the quality and coverage of comprehensive health services in facility and community settings and build local ownership and sustainability of offered programs.

## ADVOCACY

As an implementing partner to DRC's Ministry of Health, EGPAF provides targeted technical assistance to the National AIDS Control Program. EGPAF is supporting and facilitating discussion and adoption of the new World Health Organization recommendations ("Treatment For All") through its continued support to the pediatric and adult care and treatment technical working groups. As part of community outreach, EGPAF is focused on working with religious leaders and health zones staff to promote the uptake of PMTCT and HIV testing, care, and treatment.

## RESEARCH

**Male Involvement Study in Kinshasa:** Through funding from Dance Marathon at UCLA, EGPAF recently completed a study on male involvement capturing perspectives of men and women enrolled at various study entry points (health facilities, churches, bars, and athletic associations) as well as community leaders and other key informants to evaluate how better to engage men in antenatal and maternity services, including HIV testing. The study offered opportunity to inform national scale-up of best practices. EGPAF is working with the MOH to incorporate lessons learned from the study into policy and practice.

To learn more about EGPAF's work in DRC, and to access program resources and publications developed by the team, please visit

<http://www.pedaids.org/countries/democratic-republic-of-the-congo>

*The activities described here were made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. The content included here is the responsibility of EGPAF and does not necessarily represent the official views of these donors.*

