



Photo: Heather Mason/EGPAF, 2016



**Elizabeth Glaser
Pediatric AIDS
Foundation**

THE ZAMBIA PROGRAM

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

ELIZABETH GLASER PEDIATRIC AIDS FOUNDATION IN ZAMBIA

In 2001, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) began working in Zambia to enhance access to HIV care and treatment services for both adults and children. To achieve this, EGPAF has partnered with several organizations including the Zambian Ministry of Health (MOH), the Center for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ), the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In 2016, the government of Zambia officially adopted the World Health Organization's (WHO) Treatment for All guidelines, an approach which will put all HIV-positive people on treatment in the country. This approach will bring Zambia closer to achievement of 90-90-90 goals i.e., 90 percent of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status; 90 percent of all people diagnosed with HIV will receive life-long antiretroviral therapy (ART); and 90 percent of all people receiving ART will have viral suppression. These targets aim to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. EGPAF integrates the Treatment for All approach, in line with the government of Zambia and international guidelines, across its current projects.

EGPAF-ZAMBIA PROGRAM GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



COUNTRY PROFILE*

Population	16,591,000
People living with HIV	1,200,000
Adult (15-49 years of age) HIV prevalence	12.4%
Women (15 and older) living with HIV	640,000
Children (0-14 years of age) living with HIV	94,000
Women receiving ART	72%
Children receiving ART	52%
Coverage of pregnant women receiving ART for prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT)	83%
Deaths due to AIDS in 2016	21,000

KEY PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Since 2001, EGPAF-Zambia has:



Provided PMTCT services to over 1,084,000 pregnant women



Prevented the transmission of HIV to over 32,300 babies



Initiated more than 180,000 women on ART

* Sources: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), HIV and AIDS Estimates (2016), and World Bank population estimates (2016)

** Data as of May 2018

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Supporting Test-and-Start and Community-based ART Activities (2016-2018)

The purpose of this assignment is to support national implementation of WHO's guidelines recommending Treatment for All. Through EGPAF's CDC-funded DELTA Project, EGPAF will support Zambia's MOH in adapting and implementing these guidelines by developing and rolling out a Treatment for All Site Readiness Assessment Tool. This initiative will also support the MOH in the evaluation of community-based ART activities in Zambia to inform scale-up of best practices in accessing treatment.

Catalyzing Expanded Access to Early Testing, Care, and Treatment Among HIV-Exposed Infants (2015-2019)

The goal of this Unitaid-funded project is to increase the number of HIV-exposed infants whose HIV status is known and to facilitate earlier initiation of ART through implementation of innovative point-of-care (POC) early infant HIV testing mechanisms. The project also aims to create a market for affordable, effective and equitable HIV testing for HIV-exposed infants.

This goal will be accomplished through the introduction, and scale-up, of new POC early infant diagnosis (EID) platforms, which provide access to diagnostic results at the time of testing, enabling same-day initiation of ART for children identified as HIV-positive. POC technology allows for testing to be performed outside the clinical laboratory and in close proximity to where a patient may receive care. EGPAF is currently working closely with CIDRZ to provide technical assistance on a research project that can serve as both a lab and field evaluation, which has achieved the goal of registering the POC EID machines with the Government of Zambia. This will accommodate Zambian regulations and allow the project to pilot new technology while identifying factors that will enable nation-wide scale-up of EID.

Expanding Access to Pediatric HIV Testing and Treatment Through Intensified Case Finding (2015-2018)

In November 2015, the ELMA Foundation and EGPAF partnered to implement a project responding to challenges in increasing access to care and treatment among HIV-exposed and -positive children. The project successfully created a model for intensified case-finding of HIV-positive children and a treatment network, wherein tracking the pediatric population on treatment was facilitated, in Zambia. The project was implemented at 30 sites in four provinces in Zambia (Southern, Lusaka, Central, and Copperbelt). An index case testing strategy was

implemented and combined with community testing, which offered HIV testing in remote areas in all four regions, expanding access to these services in hard-to-reach communities. This project managed to test over 30,000 children from ages 18 months and 19 years and reached the project targets for linking and initiating those who tested HIV-positive to the treatment network.

New Horizons Advancing Pediatric HIV Care Collaborative (2014-present)

In response to limited availability of second- and third-line pediatric and adolescent treatment options, Johnson & Johnson, EGPAF, and the Partnership for Supply Chain Management launched the New Horizons project, which aims to improve sustainable ART service delivery for children, and confront challenges faced by adolescents around disclosure, adherence, and psychosocial support. The heart of the Collaborative is a darunavir/etravirine donation program, which increases access to third-line pediatric and adult ART for children and adolescents failing second-line treatment.

ADVOCACY

EGPAF-Zambia participates in several technical working groups at the MOH including the PMTCT, Pediatric and Adult ART, Laboratory, Adolescent HIV, Quality Improvement, and Family Planning Working Groups. EGPAF also supports the national Pediatric and Adult HIV and the National Quality Improvement conferences.

EGPAF has supported to the MOH to develop a national monitoring and evaluation framework for Treatment for All, family planning, and HIV integration programs. We have also developed national and site-level data collection tools and recommended indicator updates to national registers.

RESEARCH

National ART Program Outcome and Impact Evaluation: EGPAF supported the Zambian MOH to lead a consortium of partners in Zambia's first evaluation of the national ART program in 2015. This study managed to evaluate patient retention and immunologic and clinical outcomes of pediatric and adult patients on ART from January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2014. The results of this evaluation have been disseminated and are being used to identify and rectify gaps in areas of HIV care that require program improvement.

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

<http://www.pedaids.org/countries/zambia>.

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