EGPAF IN CAMEROON

In 2000, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) supported the first five prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) health facilities in Cameroon in partnership with the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS). In 2015, through U.S. Centers for Control and Prevention (CDC) funding, under our Delivering Technical Assistance (DELTA) Project, EGPAF opened its first in-country office in Cameroon. Today, EGPAF supports 190 health facilities in the country to provide high-quality, comprehensive HIV and AIDS services to women, children, and families.

Currently, EGPAF-Cameroon provides technical assistance and support to the government of Cameroon, CBCHS, and other national partners to effectively manage HIV prevention, care, and treatment programs. We work closely with Cameroon’s Ministry of Public Health to scale-up access to pediatric HIV services in-country and we collaborate with CBCHS to implement operations research studies and monitoring and evaluation activities to inform strong, high-quality HIV and AIDS programs.

KEY PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Since 2000, EGPAF-Cameroon has:

- Provided health services, including PMTCT, to nearly 1,300,000 individuals throughout the country
- Started over 70,000 women on antiretroviral treatment to prevent HIV transmission to their babies
- Through supported PMTCT services, averted nearly 30,000 HIV infections
- Trained thousands of health workers on the management of HIV in children throughout the country

COUNTRY PROFILE*

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>22,250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people living with HIV</td>
<td>620,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult (15-49 years of age) HIV prevalence</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women aged 15 and older living with HIV</td>
<td>340,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children (0-14 years of age) living with HIV</td>
<td>39,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths due to AIDS</td>
<td>33,000</td>
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EGPAF-CAMEROON PROGRAM GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE


** Data as of September 2017
PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Optimizing Early Infant Diagnosis and Treatment for HIV-infected Infants (2015-2019)

This UNITAID-funded project aims to increase access to early infant HIV diagnosis (EID) and ART for children exposed to HIV. The project’s two main objectives are to (1) to optimize EID networks through the introduction of point-of-care machines to increase the number of infants tested and initiated on ART and (2) to create a market for affordable, effective, and equitable HIV testing of HIV-exposed infants. The project will be implemented in 39 health districts in four regions (Centre, Littoral, Nord-West, and South-West).

Direct PMTCT and Pediatric HIV Care and Treatment Service Delivery Support Under Project DELTA (2015-2019)

Through Project DELTA, a five-year, global, CDC-funded award, EGPAF provides direct, cost-effective, and comprehensive technical assistance to countries to enhance their PMTCT and pediatric and adult care and treatment programs. In Cameroon, under DELTA, this technical assistance has been focused on strengthening health worker expertise in the management of pediatric HIV and scaling-up implementation of the World Health Organization’s 2015 guidelines, recommending Treatment for All.

Through DELTA, EGPAF developed a nationally-validated, pediatric HIV management training curriculum – the training has been rolled out across all ten regions in Cameroon. EGPAF also provides technical support to four pediatric training “centers of excellence”, created to ensure efficacious training of health workers.

DELTA has scaled up an innovative method of capacity-building under the Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) approach in Cameroon. ECHO uses teleconferencing (via Zoom) to link less experienced health care providers with subject matter experts in other settings to provide quality clinical mentorship focusing on case-based learning and promotion of best practices. EGPAF plans to start preliminary ECHO sessions in October with participants in four sites throughout Yaoundé and Douala, with a formal launch and evaluation to follow.

Collaboration with CBCHS in Cameroon

HIV-Free Littoral and Centre Regions of Cameroon: Expand Coverage and Improve the Quality of Facility and Community-based Support for Rollout of Option B+ Services (2015-2019)

Under this project, our support to CBCHS focuses on reduction of HIV-related maternal and child mortality through the integration of PMTCT services within established reproductive health services and scale-up of HIV care and treatment services in Littoral and Centre regions.

EGPAF also oversees health facility-level implementation of PMTCT activities, leads monitoring and evaluation, and provides technical assistance to maternal and child health, PMTCT, and counseling and testing service delivery.

District Capacity Strengthening for PMTCT Services in the West Region of Cameroon (2018)

EGPAF provides direct financial support for PMTCT services and technical assistance to CBCHS to enhance PMTCT services in the West Region. Services supported under this project include psychosocial support groups for both children and adults, and women’s health programs, which provide cervical cancer screening and treatment, breast cancer screening, and syndromic management of reproductive tract infections. We also support a youth health education network to ensure prevention of HIV among children and adolescents.

ADVOCACY

EGPAF-Cameroon participates in several technical working groups at the national level including those related to PMTCT and pediatric HIV. EGPAF continually advocates for national policies that promote the wellbeing of those living with HIV. Through Project DELTA, EGPAF has contributed to national buy-in around scale-up of globally-recommended PMTCT and pediatric HIV care and treatment guidelines. EGPAF has also supported the revision of the 2013 Task Shifting Policy document, which is currently being developed and prepared for dissemination.

RESEARCH

Through our support to CBCHS, under CDC funding in the Northwest and Southwest regions, EGPAF supported a two-year evaluation of Option B+ guidelines in 22 health facilities. CBCHS and EGPAF assessed uptake, adherence, and retention challenges of Option B+ in these health facilities to inform the Ministry of Public Health’s Option B+ roll out strategy.

A qualitative study has been launched by EGPAF and CBCHS to examine experiences and opinions of women enrolled at CBCHS Option B+ pilot facilities.