THE ELIZABETH GLASER PEDIATRIC AIDS FOUNDATION IN TANZANIA

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) seeks to end pediatric HIV/AIDS through research, advocacy, and prevention and treatment program implementation. EGPAF began supporting HIV programs in Tanzania in 2003 and established a country office in 2004. EGPAF-Tanzania supports the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC) at national, regional, and district levels to implement the highest quality services within the national HIV and AIDS program. EGPAF-Tanzania advocates for the development of policies that facilitate greater access to services and support those affected by HIV and AIDS in Tanzania. We also carry out operations research to inform high-quality HIV and AIDS programs. Through EGPAF's program implementation, research, and advocacy activities, EGPAF-Tanzania is working to eliminate HIV infection in infants and to increase access to comprehensive, high-quality, and well-integrated prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT), family planning, and HIV/AIDS and TB care and treatment services among HIV-positive pregnant women, infants, adolescents, and adults.

COUNTRY PROFILE*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>56.32 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people living with HIV</td>
<td>1,700,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>New HIV infections</td>
<td>77,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>New HIV infections in children (0-14 years of age)</td>
<td>9,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deaths due to AIDS</td>
<td>33,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMTCT coverage</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric antiretroviral treatment (ART) coverage</td>
<td>66%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult ART coverage</td>
<td>75%</td>
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EGPAF’S CURRENT WORK IN TANZANIA

In the last year, EGPAF-Tanzania:

- Has tested nearly half a million individuals for HIV and identified over 22,000 new HIV-positive cases
- Is currently providing over 120,000 HIV-positive adults, and over 6,500 children access to ART
- Has reached over 5,000 pregnant women with services to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission
- Identified over 22,000 TB cases and supported with treatment
- Supported provision of over 1.5 million FP methods, including long-acting contraceptives to 44% of the clients

* Sources: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), HIV and AIDS Estimates (2020), and World Bank population estimates (2018)
** Data as of May 2020
The goal of Boresha Afya is to improve the health of all Tanzanians and increase access to high-quality, comprehensive, and integrated health services. The project is implemented in partnership with EngenderHealth and collaboratively with the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC) and the President’s Office – Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) to support preventive and curative services for HIV/AIDS, family planning, and TB, while ensuring equitable access to health services for women and girls. Differentiated models of care are being employed to address the special needs of children, adolescents, and other vulnerable groups. The project is implemented in six regions of Arusha, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora, and as of October 2020 directly supports over 450 sites with HIV services that are integrated with TB, family planning, and reproductive health services.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Boresha Afya (2016-2021)

The effect of multi-media, community, and facility-based interventions on caregiver and community health outcomes of those with AHD are bettered is not known. In fact, data regarding even the number of patients presenting with AHD are unreliable, if they are available.

With this project, EGPAF will seek to strengthen the implementation of key interventions, such as screening for clients with AHD criteria, then screening for Cryptococcus, provision of cryptococcal infection pre-emptive treatment and meningitis treatments, and to improve the cascade of care for PLHIV with AHD aligned with the WHO Guidelines for managing advanced HIV disease and rapid initiation of antiretroviral therapy for adults, adolescents, and children.

Advocacy

EGPAF works closely with regional health management teams to help translate national policies into implementation plans and increase awareness of HIV and integrated HIV services in Tanzania among parliamentarians and other decision-makers. EGPAF also works closely with communities to increase awareness of HIV risks to children, pregnant women, and adolescents and reduce stigma around HIV.

Research

EGPAF-Tanzania conducts operational research to improve service delivery. EGPAF’s recently completed and ongoing research include:

- The effects of multi-media, community, and facility-based interventions to improve child development outcomes are explored through a quasi-experimental program evaluation under Malezi II.
- A validation of an HIV risk screening tool has recently been completed, providing in-country evidence supporting optimized pediatric and adolescent case-finding using the tool, through USAID funding.
- The Namweza service delivery model engaging adolescent peers to support adolescent-focused quality improvement initiatives and transition to adult HIV care is currently being evaluated under a grant from the University of California, Los Angeles, Dance Marathon Fund.
- Evaluation of the Catalyzing Pediatric TB Innovation Project: A Pre- and Post-Implementation Assessment (TIPPi).
- Evaluation of the effects of targeting adolescents not virally suppressed and their caregivers: Timiza Ndoto (“Achieving Dreams”) aims to promote secondary viral suppression through tailored treatment support from the family and facility.
- Two projects are underway to support the clinical management of advanced HIV disease (AHD) in the general population (CDC Foundation) and in children specifically, through mentored morbidity and mortality reviews.
- Two prospective studies to evaluate patient experiences with HIV care in relation to retention and viral suppression are ongoing.
- The Reaching 90-90-90: Evaluation of Patient and Program Characteristics Associated with Increased Identification of Adults and Children Living with HIV, ART Initiation and Retention in Tanzania protocol supports secondary data analysis of patient outcomes over time and in relation to program interventions for PMTCT services and HIV self-test kits, supported by the USAID-funded AIDSfree Project (Strengthening High Impact Interventions for an AIDSFree Generation).
- A validation study of an HIV risk screening tool useful within an OVC project is being conducted under the USAID-funded SOAR Project (Supporting Operational AIDS Research).
- The effect of multi-media interventions on caregiver and community health worker knowledge and behaviors in early stimulation and responsive care for child development will be assessed in a quasi-experimental study under Malezi II Project, funded by the Hilton Foundation.

Program Implementation

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Boresha Afya (2016-2021)

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