



Photo: James Pursey/EGPAF, 2011



**Elizabeth Glaser  
Pediatric AIDS  
Foundation**

# THE UGANDA PROGRAM

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

## THE ELIZABETH GLASER PEDIATRIC AIDS FOUNDATION IN UGANDA

Since 2000, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) has been supporting prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and HIV/AIDS care and treatment services in Uganda.

EGPAF-Uganda is a leading provider of technical assistance to Uganda's Ministry of Health, and provides clinical service delivery support at the facility, district, regional, and national levels. We work closely with Uganda's Ministry of Health and other partners to increase access to comprehensive, high-quality HIV prevention, care and treatment, and TB services for women, children, and families living with and affected by HIV and AIDS. EGPAF-Uganda currently supports services at 808 health facilities in 18 districts in the Southwest Region.

## KEY PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS\*\*

Since 2000, EGPAF-Uganda has:



Provided PMTCT services to over 3,173,000 pregnant women



Supported over 808 health facilities



Prevented the transmission of HIV to over 32,400 babies

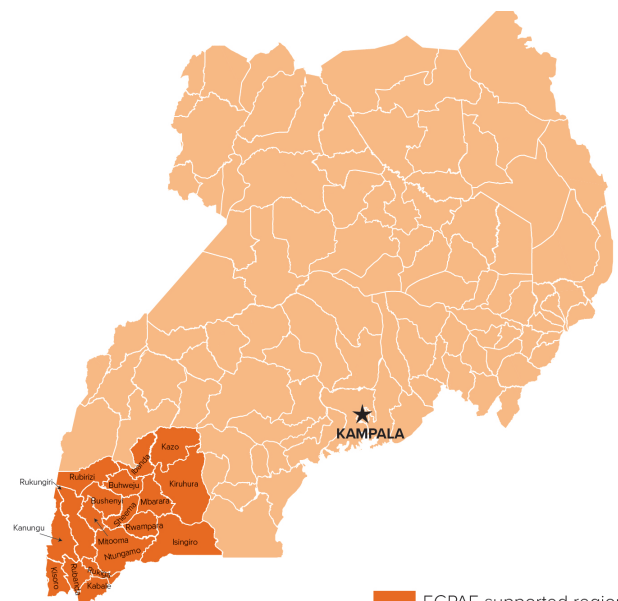


Initiated more than 180,900 women on ART

## COUNTRY PROFILE\*

Population	40,007,000
Number of people living with HIV	1,340,000
Adult (15-49 years of age) HIV prevalence	5.9%
Women aged 15 and older living with HIV	750,000
Children (0-14 years of age) living with HIV	95,000
Deaths due to AIDS in 2016	28,498
HIV-positive pregnant women receiving antiretroviral treatment (ART)	95%
Children living with HIV receiving ART	67%
Estimated TB-related deaths among people living with HIV in 2016	14,000
Co-management of TB and HIV treatment	49%

## EGPAF-UGANDA PROGRAM GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



EGPAF-supported regions

\* Sources: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), HIV and AIDS Estimates (2018); World Bank population estimates (2018); and Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Population Based HIV Impact Assessment 2016–2017

\*\* Data as of May 2018

## PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

### United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Regional Health Integration to Enhance Services in Southwest Uganda (RHITES-SW ) Project (2015-2020)

The RHITES-SW project supports 771 health facilities in the Southwest Region of Uganda. Its aim is to increase the availability, accessibility, and quality of integrated health services including HIV and TB prevention, care and treatment; maternal, neonatal, and child health (MNCH); nutrition counseling; malaria treatment; and other primary care services. To enhance the sustainability of services, EGPAF promotes district ownership of all activities, including all work planning and roll-out of new services, through provision of mentorship and supervision to district health offices, health centers, and facilities.

### Development of a Model for National Scale-up of the Pratt Pouch to Expand Infant Nevirapine Prophylaxis in Uganda, PMTCT and Save Infant Lives (2016-2020)

Through the Saving Lives at Birth Initiative, EGPAF, the Ugandan Ministry of Health, and Pratt Pouch Consulting will introduce and scale-up the Pratt Pouch in antenatal care, delivery, and post-natal care facilities throughout the country. The Pratt Pouch is an improved infant antiretroviral prophylaxis delivery mechanism, which enables better dosing accuracy and expanded use of nevirapine. This project aims to reach 40,000 HIV-exposed infants in up to 23 districts to decrease the HIV infection rates among infants at six to eight weeks of age.

### Pediatric Active Case Finding of HIV through Facility and Community-based Testing Strategies in Uganda (PedAC) Study (2017-2019)

This study examines different service delivery strategies for actively finding HIV-positive children to determine levels of success with diagnosis, linkage to care, and treatment initiation in Uganda. This study will also aim to identify steps in the PMTCT cascade at the individual, facility, and community levels in which HIV prevention, diagnosis, and care and treatment services were missed.

### Delivering Technical Assistance (DELTA) Projects

**Refining and Validating a Pediatric & Adolescent HIV Eligibility Screening Tool for Primary Health Care Providers in Uganda (2016-2019):** Under the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-funded Project DELTA, EGPAF is currently implementing three assignments in Uganda. One assignment will develop and validate an HIV eligibility screening tool for use by primary health care providers in Uganda. This screening tool will be used to identify children and adolescents who are eligible for HIV testing and counseling and also to identify those who come to the health facility with known HIV-positive status.

**Validating a Pediatric and Adolescent HIV Eligibility Screening Tool Among the Orphan and Vulnerable Children Population in Uganda (2017-2019):** This DELTA assignment will utilize the HIV eligibility screening tool which will be validated for use in the orphan and vulnerable children population by front-line health workers and counselors.

**Rolling Out the Differentiated Service Delivery (DSD) Model of Care in Uganda (2017-2018):** Through this assignment, EGPAF will provide technical assistance to the Uganda Ministry of Health and implementing partners to successfully implement DSD in Uganda.

### Closing the Adult-Pediatric HIV Treatment Gap in Uganda (2018-2021)

With funding from the ELMA Foundation, EGPAF-Uganda is working to improve pediatric and adolescent HIV identification, linkage, and retention into care and treatment in eight districts of Southwest Uganda. The program supports health facilities to implement key strategic interventions, which include: strengthening provision of HIV testing services among children and adolescents at all service points; increase access to early infant HIV diagnosis; create stronger linkage to care and treatment; and strengthen retention efforts through client tracing. EGPAF-Uganda works with the District Health Offices to provide support supervision to facilities which ensures ownership and sustainability of the interventions.

### New Horizons Advancing Pediatric HIV Care Collaborative (2016-present)

With funding from Johnson & Johnson and in partnership with the Uganda MOH, EGPAF provides technical assistance on pediatric second- and third-line ART access. This project, which will run in Uganda from 2018 to 2020, 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 availability of third-line pediatric and adult ART for children and adolescents failing second-line treatment.

### Catalyzing Pediatric Tuberculosis Innovations (CaP TB) Project (2017-2021)

This Unitaid-funded project aims to improve TB screening in children - a disease which affects one million children worldwide. The project will accelerate access to TB diagnosis and new child-friendly treatments for both active and latent TB. Launched in 2017, CaP TB will bring new child-friendly TB drug formulations and improved diagnostic technology to ten countries, including Uganda.

## ADVOCACY

EGPAF works hand-in-hand with Uganda's Ministry of Health to formulate evidence-based policies supporting all persons affected by HIV. EGPAF actively participates in national technical working groups and advisory committees including: the Pediatric HIV Working Group; the TB/HIV Subcommittee; the MNCH Technical Working Group; the Adolescent Health Technical Working Group; the National TB Technical Working Group; the National Advisory Committee on PMTCT; the TB Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization Committee; and the PMTCT Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee.

EGPAF played a central role in the revision and adaptation of the Consolidated HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment Guidelines in 2016, recommending treatment initiation among all HIV-positive persons. This included advocating for the adoption of globally recommended PMTCT and HIV care and treatment guidelines at all levels of the country's health system to improve access to lifelong treatment.

## RESEARCH

EGPAF-Uganda is dedicated to advancing basic and operations research to strengthen the effectiveness of the global HIV and AIDS response.

### Approved Protocols

- Active case finding of pediatric HIV in Uganda
- Effectiveness of a model for national scale-up of the Pratt Pouch to expand infant ARV prophylaxis in Uganda; and a formative study of PMTCT services to implement the Pratt Pouch
- Assessing the feasibility and acceptability of daily oral PrEP among a cohort of women and men from key populations who were screened and eligible for PrEP, as well as among the providers
- Description of demographic, clinical, and laboratory characteristics and outcomes of children and adolescents who ever received donated treatment that contained darunavir (DRV) and etravirine (ETR)
- Developing and validating a pediatric and adolescent HIV testing eligibility screening tool for health care providers in multiple health settings in Uganda
- Evaluating the effectiveness of CaP TB on service delivery and clinical outcomes
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of selected community-based interventions to improve maternal and child health (MCH) and PMTCT outcomes in Uganda
- Effect of family support groups on retention in HIV care among HIV-positive women initiated on ART through PMTCT programs (Option B+) in selected EGPAF-supported health facilities in Uganda

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