



**Elizabeth Glaser
Pediatric AIDS
Foundation**

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO PROGRAM

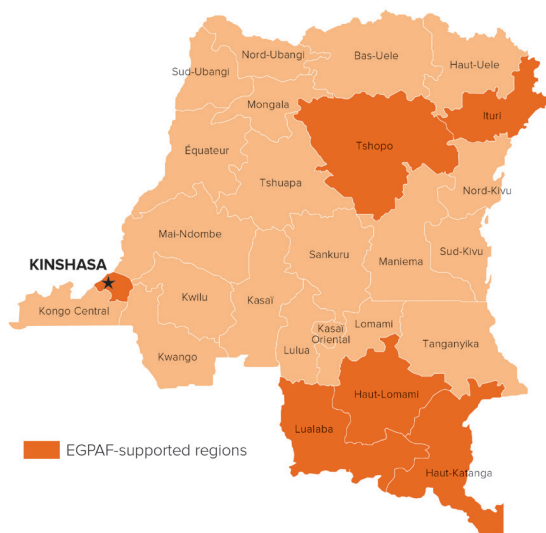
Working with Women, Children, and Families to Eliminate Pediatric AIDS

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), 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.

EGPAF-DRC PROGRAM GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



COUNTRY PROFILE*

Population	67,510,000
Number of people living with HIV	440,000
Adult (15-49) prevalence rate	1.1%
AIDS-related deaths in 2013	30,000
Women 15 years and older living with HIV	220,000
Children (0-14) living with HIV	66,000
Mother-to-child HIV transmission rate	29%
Antiretroviral therapy (ART) coverage for adults 15 years and older	20%
ART coverage for children 14 and younger	9%
Number of people living with TB	370,000
Number of people HIV/TB co-infected	6,984

KEY PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since 2001, EGPAF-DRC has:



Enrolled over 14,000 people in HIV care



Tested more than 409,000 pregnant women for HIV



Provided over 409,000 pregnant women with access to critical PMTCT services



Started more than 7,900 people on ART; 1,983 of which were children under the age of 15



Supported over 390 sites across 26 provinces in the DRC

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

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Integrated HIV/AIDS Project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Projet Intégré de VIH/SIDA au Congo [ProVIC]), 2009-2016:

ProVIC is USAID's most substantial HIV program in DRC. Its mission is to reduce the incidence and prevalence of HIV in Bas Congo, Katanga, Kinshasa, and Orientale, and Sud Kivu provinces, while supporting those living with HIV and their families. By integrating comprehensive HIV and AIDS services into local, general care sites, ProVIC seeks to improve access to care while fostering community ownership of health systems. Under this program, EGPAF is responsible for 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 DNA/PCR 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, ProVIC was extended through January 2016 in six provinces (Haut Katanga, Haut Lomami, Lualaba, Kinshasa, Ituri and Tshopo), with EGPAF as the main PMTCT implementing partner.

Department of Defense HIV/AIDS Prevention Program (Elikya FARDC), 2014-2018:

EGPAF works in collaboration with Population Services International, DRC's Department of Defense, the National AIDS Control Program, and the National Army Program to Fight AIDS (PALS) to support adult and pediatric HIV care and treatment activities across the Kinshasa, Haut Katanga and Tshopo provinces. Through this program, EGPAF supports training and mentorship of health workers based at facilities serving the military and their families. We provide family counseling and patient education on HIV prevention, care and treatment, as well as

psychosocial support programs to children at supported health facilities; supportive supervision to ensure accurate and effective HIV diagnostics at laboratories; coordination of regular partner meetings to ensure routine planning among key stakeholders; and management of program data review, analysis and exchange visits between target provinces for best practice sharing among supported sites. EGPAF currently supports 10 sites across the six provinces under this project.

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

Through this CDC/PEPFAR-funded project, EGPAF provides support to 140 health facilities across Kinshasa and Tshopo provinces. Kimia aims to improve utilization of PMTCT services, strengthen support for victims of sexual and gender-based violence, and increase access to care for TB and HIV co-infection.

Providing a Comprehensive Continuum of Care and Treatment Services in DRC (Project Malamu), 2011-2016:

Project Malamu, a CDC/PEPFAR-funded project, takes a comprehensive approach to improving the continuum of care in HIV services in Kinshasa and Haut Katanga provinces. Malamu has focused on providing comprehensive services in Kinshasa, Lubumbashi and Likasi. These services include PMTCT, pediatric and adult HIV care and treatment, syphilis testing and treatment, counseling among victims of sexual and gender-based violence, TB/HIV co-infection identification and management, and male involvement. Project Malamu aims to increase the quality and coverage of a comprehensive group of health services in facility and community settings, while focusing on local ownership and sustainable approaches.

ADVOCACY

As an implementing partner to DRC's Ministry of Health, EGPAF provides targeted technical assistance to the National AIDS Control Program. In 2013, EGPAF helped update PMTCT guidelines to reflect current World Health Organization recommendations (Option B+) and supported technical

assistance at both province- and site-level to ensure implementation of the revised guidelines. EGPAF has also supported the development of DRC's National Strategic Plan (2013-2017) and the National HIV Treatment Protocol.

RESEARCH

EGPAF-DRC is dedicated to advancing basic and operations research to improve HIV prevention, care, and treatment of HIV and AIDS. EGPAF's ongoing operations research activities in DRC include:

- **The Elombe Study:** With support from the Johnson & Johnson, EGPAF is conducting operational research on the Mentor Mother referral and defaulter tracing network, and subsequent antenatal care attendance following implementation of EGPAF's standard operating procedures (SOP). The EGPAF-DRC team will use findings to promote changes and scale-up use of the SOP.

- **Assessing Early Implementation of Universal Lifelong Treatment to HIV-Positive Pregnant and Postpartum Women (Option B+) in Kinshasa:** Through funding from the Dance Marathon at UCLA, EGPAF will support monitoring and evaluation efforts and operational research of Option B+ . The evaluation will offer an opportunity to inform national scale-up and make course corrections while implementation of Option B+ is in progress.

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>.

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