



Photo: James Pursey/EGPAF, 2011



**Elizabeth Glaser
Pediatric AIDS
Foundation**

THE UGANDA PROGRAM

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

EGPAF 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 tuberculosis (TB) services for women, children, and families living with and affected by HIV and AIDS. EGPAF-Uganda currently supports services at 234 health facilities in 13 districts of the Southwest Region.

KEY PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since 2000, EGPAF-Uganda has:



Enrolled more than 61,100 individuals in HIV care and treatment programs, including 3,200 children



Tested more than 2.2 million pregnant women for HIV



Provided more than 2.7 million pregnant women with PMTCT services



Initiated more than 64,979 individuals on ART, including 4,225 children



Provided more than 10,000 individuals with TB identification and care and treatment services

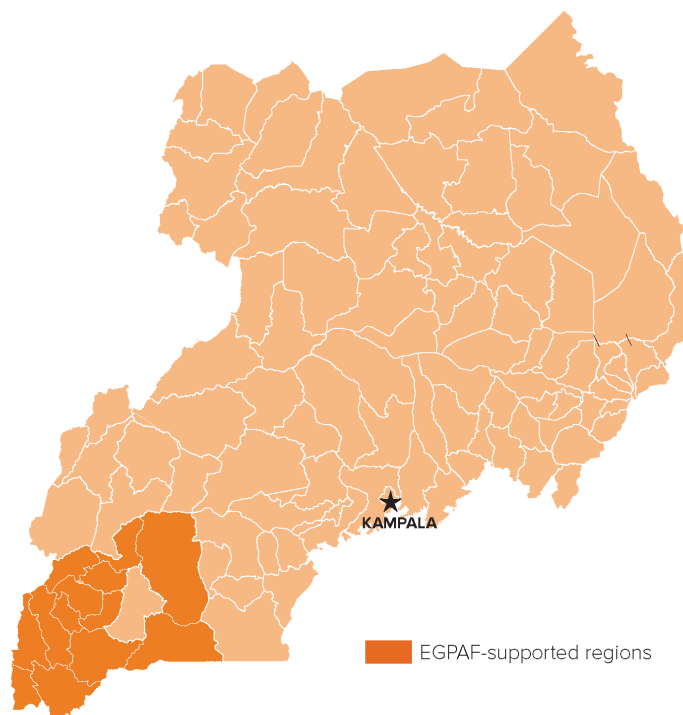


Provided more than 176,000 men with safe male circumcision services to prevent the spread of HIV

COUNTRY PROFILE*

Population	35,621,000
Number of people living with HIV	1,500,000
Adult (15-49) HIV prevalence	7.3%
Women (15+) living with HIV	770,000
Children (0-14) living with HIV	150,000
AIDS-related deaths in 2014	33,000
HIV-positive pregnant women receiving antiretroviral prophylaxis	75%
Children living with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART)	22%
Total TB cases notified in 2013 (per 100,000)	47,650
Previously treated TB cases, excluding relapse in 2012	66%
HIV/TB co-infected patients on ART	65%

EGPAF-UGANDA PROGRAM GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



* Sources: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS, Uganda HIV and AIDS estimates (2014); U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Uganda population estimates (2014); and the World Health Organization TB Country profile Uganda (2013).

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Strengthening the TB and HIV/AIDS Response in the Southwest Region of Uganda (STAR-SW) Project (2010-2015)

This five-year project aims to increase utilization of, access to, and coverage of quality comprehensive HIV/AIDS and TB services in Southwest Uganda. EGPAF works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health to integrate cost-effective, family-focused services for HIV and AIDS care and treatment, PMTCT, and TB into EGPAF-supported health care facilities across the region. The project applies a multidisciplinary approach to train health facility staff and provide infrastructure development support. Through collaboration with facilities and districts, EGPAF works to improve the quality of services provided by using patient HIV and TB service utilization data to inform HIV/AIDS and TB programs. STAR-SW is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Advancing Community-Level Action for Improving Maternal and Child Health & Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (ACCLAIM) Project (2012-2015)

Project ACCLAIM implements and assesses the effect of three community-based interventions in Uganda, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. Through ACCLAIM, EGPAF aims to increase community demand for, uptake of, and retention in maternal, neonatal, and child health and PMTCT services. The project utilizes three interventions including community leader engagement, community health days, and peer support groups. In Uganda, ACCLAIM also implements maternal, neonatal, and child health classes for pregnant women, mentorship support for community-based peer facilitators, and mobile male circumcision services at community health days. ACCLAIM is made possible through a four-year grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, administered through the Department of Foreign Affairs,

Trade, and Development Canada.

Delivering Technical Assistance (DELTA) Project (2014-2016)

Under the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-funded Project DELTA, EGPAF has completed two assignments in Uganda, and is currently working on a third. Under the first assignment, the Ministry of Health sought technical support from EGPAF to improve utilization of Option B+ program data to strengthen patient treatment retention. Under the second assignment, PEPFAR-Uganda and the Ministry of Health requested technical assistance from EGPAF through DELTA to improve pediatric HIV testing, linkage to care and treatment services. Low uptake of pediatric HIV testing and counseling has been a challenge in many facilities throughout Uganda. Linkage to care and treatment services is also poor among HIV-positive children. This assignment focuses on improving identification of HIV-positive children through high-quality pediatric HIV testing and counseling services, and the successful linkage of those children to care and treatment.

Under its third assignment, EGPAF is providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Health to improve the quality of PMTCT services in the country, focusing on retention of mother-baby pairs using real time data to enhance program monitoring.

Optimizing HIV Treatment Access for Pregnant Women (OHTA) Project (2013-2015)

In August 2013, EGPAF-Uganda partnered with the United Nations Children's Fund and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency to implement OHTA, which aims to accelerate national adoption of the 2013 World Health Organization guidelines, recommending lifelong ART for all HIV-positive pregnant or breastfeeding women (Option B+). This project supports eight high-HIV-prevalence districts in the implementation of these new guidelines.

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 HIV-related technical working groups and advisory committees including: the Pediatric HIV Working Group; the TB/HIV Subcommittee; the TB Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization Committee; the National Advisory Committee on HIV; and

the PMTCT Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee. EGPAF plays a central role in the revision and adaptation of the national PMTCT and ART guidelines. This includes 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 ART among women in need.

RESEARCH

Current Research Activities

EGPAF-Uganda is dedicated to advancing basic and operations research to strengthen the effectiveness of the global HIV and AIDS response. EGPAF's ongoing research activities include:

- An assessment of the effect of a set of community-based interventions on demand for, access to, and retention in maternal, neonatal, and child health and PMTCT services at the community level (through Project ACCLAIM).

Prior Research Conducted

- Promoting Constructive Male Engagement to Increase Use of Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV Services in Kabale District, Uganda (FHI360, 2012-2014)
- Introduction of rapid syphilis testing within prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV programs in Uganda and Zambia: a field acceptability and feasibility study (JAIDS, 2012).

The activities described here were made possible by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development Canada, and the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. The content included here is the responsibility of EGPAF and does not necessarily represent the official views of these donors.



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