



THE CÔTE D'IVOIRE PROGRAM

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

ELIZABETH GLASER PEDIATRIC AIDS FOUNDATION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) began supporting HIV and AIDS care and treatment programs in Côte d'Ivoire in 2004. EGPAF in Côte d'Ivoire is working to end the country's HIV epidemic by increasing access to comprehensive, high-quality, and well-integrated HIV prevention, care, and treatment services among women, children, and families.

As of February 2023, EGPAF is supporting activities in five districts in the region of Abidjan and provides national-level support to the Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene, and Universal Health Coverage (MSHPCMU) with funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) via the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and from the ELMA Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

KEY PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS*

In fiscal year 2022, EGPAF in Côte d'Ivoire:



Tested 321,488 clients for HIV, of whom 6,979 were identified positive (2%)



Enrolled 7,512 new clients on ART, including 2,520 pregnant women



Provided ART to 75,893 clients



Performed 69,284 viral load tests; 94% of EGPAF clients are virally suppressed



Enrolled 2,708 clients on PrEP

COUNTRY PROFILE**

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| Population | 27,478,249 |
| Number of people living with HIV | 380,000 |
| Adults ages 15–49 living with HIV | 360,000 |
| Women 15 years and over living with HIV | 240,000 |
| Children ages 0–14 living with HIV | 18,000 |
| Annual deaths due to AIDS | 8,800 |
| People living with HIV who know their status | 300,000 (80%) |
| People living with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) | 290,000 (76%) |
| People living with HIV with suppressed viral load | 240,000 (64%) |
| Pregnant women receiving ART for prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) | 95% |

EGPAF'S PROGRAM COVERAGE IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE



* EGPAF data as of September 2022

** Sources: World Bank 2021 <https://data.worldbank.org/country/CI>; UNAIDS 2021 <https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/ctedivoire>

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

The Inili Project (2022–2027)

In partnership with the Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene, and Universal Health Coverage (MSHPCMU), EGPAF's Inili Project works to increase the capacity and sustainability of Côte d'Ivoire's HIV/AIDS response. It provides comprehensive HIV prevention, care, and treatment services for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe Women (DREAMS), and key populations (KPs). The Inili Project also offers technical assistance to Ivorian organizations and the MSHPCMU with providing high-quality HIV/AIDS services and sustaining epidemic control. The project is funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention via PEPFAR in 53 sites across five health districts in Abidjan: Abobo-Est, Abobo-Ouest, Anyama, Yopougon-Est, and Yopougon-Ouest-Songon.

Strengthening Pediatric & Adolescent Service Delivery (2019–2023)

In collaboration with the MSHPCMU through the National AIDS Control Program (Programme National de Lutte Contre le SIDA or PNLS), this ELMA Foundation-funded technical assistance project contributes to the achievement of accelerated HIV control objectives for children and adolescents across the country. Key project successes include the launch of an adolescent technical working group, the piloting of a national pediatric and adolescent HIV dashboard, index/family testing support, the launch of an adolescent peer support model, and the convening of a national target setting workshop.

Developing and Scaling Delivery of Advanced HIV Disease Services (2022–2024)

Under this Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-funded award, EGPAF in Côte d'Ivoire is collaborating with the PNLS and implementing partners to introduce a quality improvement model for advanced HIV disease (AHD) services. AHD training materials, a monitoring and evaluation framework, and data collection tools will be shared with the PNLS for adaptation and deployment alongside training and mentorship activities. The project will document the feasibility and acceptability of this AHD model and will contribute to a reduction in mortality among people living with HIV (PLHIV) with AHD. This award is also being implemented in Malawi and Lesotho.

Delivering Technical Assistance Project (2019–2024)

Through its global Delivering Technical Assistance Project (DELTA2), EGPAF in Côte d'Ivoire is providing technical assistance in the form of a Technical Advisor who will work with the Ministry of Health to develop a quality assurance process for the destruction of medical waste to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on programs and service delivery. Additionally, EGPAF is conducting a study to determine the extent to which infection prevention and control limitations or gaps led to health service reductions and to document facility attendance in key service delivery areas in context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ADVOCACY

EGPAF in Côte d'Ivoire advocates at the national level with the MSHPCMU to promote EGPAF's global best practices to inform national implementation, such as differentiated service delivery initiatives; improve integration of regional work plans to ensure better coordination of the in-country response to HIV and AIDS; prioritize data quality management and systems at health care facilities; and strengthen access to functional laboratory equipment. EGPAF has advocated for the transition to the World Health Organization guidelines recommending universal access to ART.

RESEARCH

EGPAF in Côte d'Ivoire implements a robust evaluation portfolio. Ongoing and recent research and evaluation topics include viral load suppression in the context of differentiated service delivery, factors associated with death among patients on ART, the peer-led adolescent HIV group support model, COVID infection prevention and control, and pediatric dolutegravir (pDTG) resistance.

Transition to multi-month ART: What do care and outcomes look like when clients come less often?

Evaluation of Viral Suppression in the Context of Differentiated Service Delivery in Côte d'Ivoire

With support from PEPFAR, EGPAF carried out an evaluation of clinical and care outcomes among clinically stable clients newly transitioning to a multi-month dispensing model who were receiving at least three months of ART treatment at a time. After following participants for up to 24 months, EGPAF found that while most adults (78%) consistently received a multi-month supply of ART at each pickup, only 38% of children did so. While viral load coverage remained high, even among clients returning less often to health centers, 12% of adults and 28% of children had an elevated viral load after starting multi-month dispensing. EGPAF is using this information to ensure that eligible clients—including children and adolescents—have consistent access to the multi-month supply model, and to ensure that even patients seen less frequently at facilities have the support they need to remain adherent and virally suppressed.

What do we know about mortality among people living with HIV? Factors associated with mortality among patients on ART at 27 high-impact facilities in Côte d'Ivoire

In a review of client files at 27 facilities across Côte d'Ivoire, EGPAF found that at least 37% of client deaths occurred less than six months after first starting treatment, and that many of these clients were already in an advanced stage of HIV disease by the time they started treatment. These findings underscore the need for outreach and education to reach people with HIV testing services before they become sick—a key priority for the EGPAF in Côte d'Ivoire program, and to provide a comprehensive package of services for advanced HIV disease such as the one EGPAF is introducing in 2023 with support from the Gates Foundation.

To learn more about EGPAF's work in Côte d'Ivoire, please scan the QR code or visit

<https://www.pedaids.org/country/cote-divoire/>



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