



Photo: Eric Bond/EGPAF, 2019



**Elizabeth Glaser
Pediatric AIDS Foundation**
Fighting for an AIDS-free generation

THE ESWATINI PROGRAM

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

THE ELIZABETH GLASER PEDIATRIC AIDS FOUNDATION IN ESWATINI

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) began supporting the Kingdom of Eswatini in 2003 to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission and to provide HIV and AIDS care and treatment services. EGPAF-Eswatini's work ensures every client has access to comprehensive health care, high-quality counseling, linkage to effective treatment for HIV and opportunistic infections, and psychosocial support within a variety of health settings throughout the country.

EGPAF-Eswatini provides support to improve local infrastructure and health systems through trainings, mentorship, and procurement of essential HIV drugs and commodities. We also work to increase community engagement in, and access to prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT), early infant HIV diagnosis, and voluntary medical male circumcision services. Currently, EGPAF-Eswatini provides comprehensive support to ensure these services are offered in 65 sites in the Hhohho and Shiselweni regions.

KEY PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Currently, EGPAF-Eswatini supports:



The testing of **over 87,425 individuals for HIV**



Over 2,000 HIV-positive infants with their first virologic test within the first 8 weeks of life



The access to treatment and PMTCT services to **over 2,000 pregnant women**

COUNTRY PROFILE*

Population	1,148,130
Number of people living with HIV	200,000
Adult (15-49 years of age) HIV prevalence	27%
Women aged 15 and older living with HIV	120,000
Children (0-14 years of age) living with HIV	10,000
Deaths due to AIDS in 2019	2,300
Coverage of adults and children receiving ART	>95%

EGPAF-ESWATINI PROGRAM GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



* Sources: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), HIV and AIDS Estimates (2019), and World Bank population estimates (2019)

** Data as of March 2020

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

The Ready, Resourceful, Risk-Aware “Insika” Project (2018-2023)

The Ready, Resourceful, Risk-Aware (Triple R) project, locally named Insika ya Kusasa, which means The Pillars of Tomorrow, is a USAID-funded project implemented by Pact, with assistance from EGPAF. Through this project, Pact and EGPAF will support USAID and the Kingdom of Eswatini in accelerating Eswatini’s progress towards the 95-95-95 targets and in achieving sustainable HIV epidemic control. The goal of Insika is to prevent new HIV infections and bolster support and opportunities among orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and adolescent girls and young women (AGYW). Insika aims to increase social and economic resilience to overcome the impact of HIV among OVC and AGYW and to increase service uptake of high-quality HIV, sexual and reproductive health, family planning, and gender-based violence care and treatment services among OVC and AGYW.

The Attain and Sustain 95-95-95, Prevent New Infections and Reach All Populations for Epidemic Control (2021-2026)

The Attain and Sustain 95-95-95, Prevent New Infections and Reach All Populations for Epidemic Control Project (ASPIRE) is a five-year award ending in 2026. This is United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded project is being implemented in two regions: Hhohho and Shiselweni. The ASPIRE Project aims to contribute to the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini’s goal to achieve and sustain epidemic control through increasing access to comprehensive HIV services, increasing access to PrEP and sexual and reproductive health services, and improving evidence generation used for decision-making.

New Horizons: Advancing Pediatric HIV Care Collaborative (2014-present)

In response to limited availability of second- and third-line pediatric and adolescent treatment options, Johnson & Johnson, EGPAF, and the Partnership for Supply Chain Management launched the New Horizons project, which 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 access to third-line pediatric and adult ART for children and adolescents failing second-line treatment.

Project Optimal (2020 - 2022)

The Accelerating Patient Access to Optimal Antiretrovirals and Relevant Health Products via a sub-agreement with CHAI (Project

Optimal) is a follow-up to the Unitaid-funded SPAAN Project (August 2019 – July 2020). SPAAN streamlined and accelerated the introduction of new, child-friendly ARV formulations by focusing on plans for solid formulations of LPV/r and the DTG 50 mg tablet, as well as future plans to introduce DTG dispersible formulations. Building on the success of that project, Project Optimal aims to (1) streamline and accelerate the transition to WHO-recommended optimal pediatric ARV formulations, focusing on DTG 10mg dispersible tablets and LPV/r solid formulation’s, (2) strengthen information, supply chain, service delivery, and pharmacovigilance systems for pediatric ARVs, and (3) strengthen differentiated service delivery models of care for children, focusing on multi-month dispensing (MMD) and facility-based, family-centered models that include children < 5 years of age.

ADVOCACY

EGPAF advocates for revised HIV care and treatment policies, and enables the roll-out of treatment guidelines, such as Test and Start, and cervical cancer prevention and treatment protocols through national working group involvement and implementation of health worker trainings and mentorship. EGPAF-Eswatini works in close collaboration with local community leaders throughout the country to increase demand for these updated PMTCT services.

EGPAF is also advocating for early HIV diagnosis of children at community and national levels. We advocate to national policy makers for easy access to HIV testing through enhanced provision of POC EID technology in community settings.

RESEARCH

- Evaluating the feasibility of point of care birth testing in Eswatini (Unitaid)
- Demographic, clinical, and laboratory outcomes of patients who ever received Etravirine and/or Darunavir- multi-country data abstraction (New Horizons)
- Effect of a family centered model of HIV care on viral suppression and retention in care of HIV positive children in Eswatini (SOAR)
- Enhancing HIV, AIDS, and TB program design, implementation and impact through quality improvement in Hhohho and Shiselweni regions
- Acceptability and experiences of pregnant and lactating women delivered HIV self-testing kits to male partners in selected health facilities in Eswatini
- Program and patient outcomes in Eswatini

The activities described here were made possible by Unitaid, Johnson & Johnson, the ELMA Foundation, 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.

