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**Elizabeth Glaser
Pediatric AIDS
Foundation**

THE SWAZILAND PROGRAM

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

EGPAF IN SWAZILAND

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

EGPAF supports the Kingdom of Swaziland's Ministry of Health to plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate programs according to epidemiologic patterns of the disease across the country. We are currently scaling up PMTCT services to ensure effective national implementation of the 2013 World Health Organization (WHO) PMTCT guidelines, which recommend initiation of lifelong antiretroviral therapy (ART) among all HIV-positive pregnant and lactating women (LLAPLa), also known as Option B+. EGPAF-Swaziland provides support to improve local infrastructure for service delivery, and works to strengthen health systems through trainings, mentorship, and procurement of essential HIV drugs and commodities. We also work to increase community engagement in PMTCT, early infant HIV diagnosis, and male circumcision. Currently, EGPAF-Swaziland supports 66 health facilities in Hhohho and Shiselweni with PMTCT, HIV testing and counseling, ART and tuberculosis services.

EGPAF-SWAZILAND PROGRAM GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



COUNTRY PROFILE*

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| Population | 1,109,000 |
| Number of people living with HIV | 210,000 |
| Adult (15-49) HIV prevalence | 27.7% |
| Women ages 15 and older living with HIV | 120,000 |
| Children living with HIV (0-14) | 19,000 |
| HIV-related deaths in 2014 | 3,500 |
| Mother-to-child HIV transmission rate, at breastfeeding cessation | 10% |

KEY PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since 2003, EGPAF-Swaziland has:



Provided 163,533 women with HIV testing and counseling services



Ensured more than 80,100 HIV-positive pregnant women received antiretroviral prophylaxis



Provided access to PMTCT services for more than 222,500 women



Tested over 196,400 pregnant women for HIV



Provided HIV care and treatment services to 9,322 individuals



Enrolled 799 HIV-positive children in psychosocial support services

* Sources: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), HIV and AIDS Estimates (2014), and UNAIDS, Global Plan Report (2014).

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Strengthening High Impact Interventions for an AIDS-Free Generation (AIDSFree) Project: 2015-2020

The goal of AIDSFree is to improve HIV and tuberculosis (TB)/HIV co-infection outcomes in the Hhohho and Shiselweni regions and provide support to the Kingdom of Swaziland's national PMTCT and pediatric HIV care and treatment programs. The project aims to: expand coverage of high quality integrated, decentralized, and comprehensive HIV and TB services and HIV prevention, care and treatment; build the capacity of rural health teams; and provide technical assistance in maternal, neonatal, and child health (MNCH) to Swaziland's Sexual Reproductive Health Unit and National AIDS Program. The project also provides HIV testing and counseling mentorship to health care workers and lay counselors.

Strengthening Facility-Based HIV Testing and Counseling Services in Swaziland: 2012-2015

The goal of this five-year project funded by PEPFAR through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is to strengthen and further scale-up HIV testing and counseling services in all four regions of Swaziland. Through this project, EGPAF promotes universal access to HIV testing and counseling within all health facilities, strengthens linkages and referrals between health facilities and treatment centers, and builds capacity of health facility staff and management.

Investing in Pediatric HIV Diagnostics to Save the Lives of HIV-Infected Infants: 2015-2019

This four-year project, supported by UNITAID, aims to increase pediatric HIV diagnosis and early initiation of HIV-positive infants on ART. The project will introduce point-of-care technology for early infant diagnosis of HIV in

a range of new MNCH settings. In Swaziland, the project seeks to increase the number of HIV-exposed infants tested before the 12th week of life, while also generating a 40% cost savings for HIV diagnostics. The project lays the foundation for universal access to pediatric HIV care and treatment in EGPAF-supported health facilities.

Advancing Community-Level Action for Improving Maternal and Child Health and Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (ACCLAIM): 2012-2016

Project ACCLAIM seeks to increase community demand for, uptake of, and retention in MNCH and PMTCT services. The project is supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada and is being implemented over the course of four years in three EGPAF-supported countries. ACCLAIM aims to change HIV and MNCH health behaviors through community-based interventions. The project seeks to shift community norms and attitudes toward healthy behaviors, to increase the number of pregnant women who access and complete PMTCT services.

Improving Access to Essential Pain Medicines in Swaziland: 2014-2016

We are currently partnering with the American Cancer Society on a two-year grant, through the Treat the Pain program. The project aims to improve clinician knowledge and skills to assess and manage pain. EGPAF will support a physician to join the palliative care team within the Swaziland National AIDS Program and connect the physician to counterparts for training and mentorship on palliative care in selected facilities. The program aims to improve clinical training by integrating pain relief into in-service and continuing medical education. The project reflects EGPAF's commitment to a holistic approach to improve the lives of those in our care.

ADVOCACY

EGPAF has been leading the roll-out of the 2013 WHO revised PMTCT guidelines in all facilities throughout the Kingdom of Swaziland. EGPAF advocates for revised care and treatment policies, ensures adaptation of the new guidelines, and enables the roll-out of the revised guidelines through

health worker trainings and mentorship. We also work in close collaboration with local community leaders throughout Swaziland to advocate for improved demand for these updated PMTCT services.

RESEARCH

- **Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission Study:** evaluates the effectiveness of the Swaziland Ministry of Health program for PMTCT in all four regions of the country, and aims to determine the HIV-free survival, HIV infection, and mortality rates among 18-24 month-old, HIV-exposed children in Swaziland.
- **Quality of Counseling Evaluation:** evaluates the quality of counseling provided to pregnant and lactating women in preparation for life-long ART. Findings will inform methods to strengthen counseling skills of health care providers to improve ART uptake and retention in care for pregnant and lactating women.

- **Health Facility-Community Committees Assessment:** examines the committees' functionality, identifies capacity deficiencies that exist within health committees which impede the effective execution of expected duties, and develops strategies to address identified deficiencies.
- **HIV Testing and Counseling Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Survey:** examines the knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to HIV testing and counseling among health care workers and clients receiving services at selected health centers in Swaziland.

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Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada

Affaires étrangères, Commerce et Développement Canada



A program of the American Cancer Society to improve access to essential pain medicines