



Photo: Heather Mason/EGPAF



**Elizabeth Glaser
Pediatric AIDS
Foundation**

THE ZAMBIA PROGRAM

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

EGPAF IN ZAMBIA

In 2001, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) began working in Zambia to enhance access to HIV care and treatment services for both adults and children. To achieve this, EGPAF has partnered with several organizations including the Zambian Ministry of Health, the Center for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ), the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In June 2011, the Zambian government made the elimination of pediatric HIV and AIDS a national goal, pledged to decrease the incidence of HIV infected infants to less than 5% by 2015, and began rolling out lifelong antiretroviral treatment for all HIV-positive pregnant and breastfeeding women (Option B+) in collaboration with the Zambian Ministry of Health and Ministry of Community Development Mother and Child Health (MCDMCH). Today, EGPAF-Zambia uses its expertise to build the capacity of Zambia's health program at the national, provincial, and district levels. EGPAF's efforts contribute to the expansion and strengthening of strong, effective, and sustainable prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT) and adult and pediatric HIV care and treatment programs, and health management information systems in Zambia.

KEY PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since 2001, EGPAF-Zambia has:



Pioneered the development and use of the electronic health record system, known as SmartCare, and deployed this system to 840 sites, nationally



Established SmartCare in 44 model sites designated as "centers of excellence"



Registered 660,000 adults and children into SmartCare

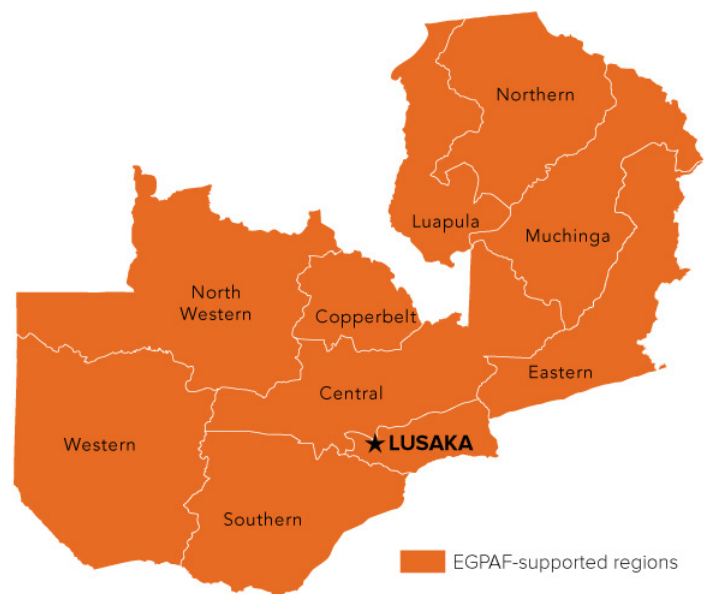


Trained 25 adolescents in peer support and counseling at 14 health facilities providing psychosocial support services under the Tisamala program

COUNTRY PROFILE*

Population	13,711,000
People living with HIV	1,200,000
Adult (15-49) HIV prevalence	12.4%
Women (15 and older) living with HIV	540,000
Children (0-14) living with HIV	100,000
Adolescent (15-24) HIV prevalence in 2012	4.1%
HIV prevalence among pregnant women	16%
Mother-to-child transmission of HIV rate at breastfeeding cessation	13%
AIDS related deaths in 2014	19,000

EGPAF-ZAMBIA PROGRAM GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



* Sources: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS, Zambia HIV and AIDS estimates (2014) and CDC, Zambia population estimates (2014).

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

The LiveFree Project (2011-2016)

This five-year CDC/PEPFAR funded project supports Zambia's health system in the expansion and optimization of HIV and AIDS prevention, care and treatment programs. Under this project, EGPAF-Zambia works closely with the Ministry of Health to provide technical assistance and build capacity in strategic information and evaluation. We also support all aspects of the electronic health record system, SmartCare including: development, implementation, training, and management; strategic and programmatic input; and procurement of computer equipment, software, and hardware to ensure high functioning capacity. This system has improved patient follow-up, tracing, and data analysis and has informed many national HIV/AIDS program improvements. The end-goal of this project is to increase treatment adherence and retention in care.

Through LiveFree, EGPAF also supports the Tisamala teen mentorship project - an adaptation of a South African peer education project - which offers psychosocial support and life skills development to HIV-positive adolescents. The project aims to improve knowledge of HIV among adolescents, and increase access to psychological support, enabling them to better cope with the process of disclosure and stigma. The mentorship program is currently implemented in the Lusaka, Kafue,

Chongwe, and Nyimba districts.

Survive and Thrive Project (2012-2015)

With funding from Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the Survive and Thrive Project allows EGPAF to provide developmental support to children under five years of age. The goal of this project is to ensure children in Zambia are achieving appropriate cognitive, social, emotional and physical development, enabling them to reach their full potential. Under this project, EGPAF-Zambia aims to enhance the HIV knowledge of parents and caregivers, support community-based HIV services, and expand clinic-based HIV services.

A key component of the project is the Survive and Thrive rooms, which are located within clinics in the capital of Lusaka to assess childhood development. The project also works to scale-up services within existing PMTCT and maternal and child health (MCH) settings to ensure a continuum of care for mothers and children. In addition, MCH and PMTCT sites supported under Survive and Thrive serve as platforms to provide social and emotional support for mothers showing signs of depression or stress, and to assess children showing signs of developmental delays.

ADVOCACY

At the national level, EGPAF-Zambia participates in several technical working groups at both the Ministry of Health and MCDMCH including those focused on PMTCT, pediatric and adult ART, quality improvement (QI), and family planning. EGPAF also supports the national pediatric HIV and the national QI conferences, and provides support to the Ministry of

Health and MCDMCH in the development of a national monitoring and evaluation framework for PMTCT (Option B+), family planning, and HIV integration programs. We have also developed national- and site-level data collection tools and recommended indicator updates to national registers.

RESEARCH

National Roll-out of Integrated Rapid Syphilis Testing: EGPAF's implementation research program supports the evaluation of new methods to improve service delivery for the national integrated rapid syphilis testing program. EGPAF worked with Ministry of Health and partners to implement a World Health Organization-funded study on acceptability and feasibility of introducing rapid syphilis testing into prenatal care services. EGPAF spearheaded the adoption of rapid syphilis testing by the Ministry of Health and MCDMCH, which is currently in use in health facilities throughout Zambia.

Identifying and Understanding Effective Interventions for orphaned and vulnerable children (OVCs) affected by HIV: In collaboration with Johns Hopkins University, EGPAF is conducting a National Institutes of Health-funded randomized controlled trial on the impact of pediatric counseling and trauma focused cognitive behaviors therapy for OVCs. This study evaluates the effectiveness of a novel cognitive-behavioral intervention compared to an existing intervention in improving a wide range of OVC

outcomes including: a reduction in HIV risk behaviors; improved well-being, mental health, and education; and caregiver health and support.

National ART program Outcome and Impact Evaluation: EGPAF is supporting the Zambian Ministry of Health to lead a consortium of partners in Zambia's first evaluation of the national ART program. The evaluation measures the programmatic, immunological, and clinical outcomes of the national ART program.

PMTCT Impact Evaluation: EGPAF is coordinating an impact evaluation study on PMTCT services. This study evaluates PMTCT service utilization among HIV-positive pregnant women attending antenatal care facilities and measures subsequent rates of mother-to-child HIV transmission using a prospective follow-up cohort. In addition, the study assesses the feasibility of infant testing within existing immunization services as a method for estimating PMTCT program coverage.

To learn more about EGPAF's work in Zambia, and to access program resources and publications developed by the team, please visit <http://www.pedaids.org/countries/zambia>.

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