



Photo: James Pursey/EGPAF



**Elizabeth Glaser
Pediatric AIDS
Foundation**

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO PROGRAM

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

ELIZABETH GLASER PEDIATRIC AIDS FOUNDATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) began supporting critical HIV and AIDS services in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2001, providing funding and technical assistance to prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT) programs implemented by the Kinshasa School of Public Health and the University of North Carolina. Since, EGPAF has implemented and scaled up access to HIV testing and counseling, early infant HIV diagnostics (EID), adult and pediatric HIV care and treatment, TB prevention and treatment, sexually transmitted infection management, and sexual and gender-based violence services.

EGPAF has worked in close collaboration with DRC's Ministry of Health, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and Unitaid. With our partners, we aim to increase coverage of PMTCT, TB and HIV care and treatment services, while strengthening community-health facility linkages, and building local ownership and

COUNTRY PROFILE**

Population	81,400,000
Number of people living with HIV	390,000
Adult (15-49 years of age) prevalence rate	1.2%
Deaths due to AIDS	17,000
Women aged 15 and older living with HIV	250,000
Children (0-14 years of age) living with HIV	51,000
ART coverage for adults 15 years and older	58%
ART coverage for children 14 and younger	34%
Co-management of TB/HIV infection	40%
Estimated TB-related deaths among people living with HIV	7,500
Orphans due to AIDS aged 0 to 17	320,000

KEY PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS*

Since 2001, EGPAF-DRC has:



Averted over 2,500 HIV infections in children



Provided over 1,000,000 pregnant women with access to critical PMTCT services



Enrolled almost 25,000 people, including 1,600 children on ART



Screened over 23,000 individuals for TB



Supported over 106 sites across the Kinshasa Province

CURRENT EGPAF-DRC PROGRAM GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



* Accomplishments as of September 2018

** Sources: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (2017), DRC's DHS (2013-2014); World Bank, Democratic Republic of the Congo, population estimates (2017)

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Integrated HIV/AIDS Project-Kinshasa (2017-2022)

The Integrated HIV/AIDS Project (IHAP)-Kinshasa is a major USAID-funded HIV/AIDS program in Kinshasa. Its mission is to improve service delivery and provide technical assistance to the Government of DRC and specific health zones in Kinshasa. IHAP-Kinshasa will scale up HIV/AIDS services, including comprehensive prevention, HIV testing, ART enrollment, and treatment retention support services at high-yield entry points throughout these health zones. EGPAF will focus on community engagement to increase demand for HIV and AIDS services. Through IHAP-Kinshasa, EGPAF will also work to address TB/HIV co-infection through increased access to TB testing and prevention services, and more efficient laboratory functions for more readily accessible diagnostics of HIV/AIDS and TB. This work will be sustained by building and reinforcing the capacity of staff at the health zones, Ministry of Health, and the National AIDS Control Program.

Increasing Access to Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care (Project Kimia) (2013-2019)

Through this CDC/PEPFAR-funded project, EGPAF implements a full range of PMTCT, HIV care and treatment, and TB services, as well as services to support clients affected by sexual and gender-based violence within 63 health facilities. Its key objectives are to: increase access to quality PMTCT services; increase access to quality HIV care and support services; expand coverage of HIV services in TB screening and treatment centers; increase access to quality HIV treatment services; and increase the quality and coverage of comprehensive health services in facility and community settings and build local ownership and sustainability of offered programs.

Catalyzing Pediatric Tuberculosis Innovations (CaP TB) Project (2017-2021)

This project, funded and sponsored by Unitaid, aims to improve TB screening in children and accelerate access to TB diagnosis and new child-friendly treatments for both active and latent TB cases - a disease which affects one million children worldwide. This project, launched in 2017, will bring new child-friendly TB drug formulations and improved diagnostic technology to ten countries, including DRC.

ADVOCACY

As an implementing partner to DRC's Ministry of Health, EGPAF provides targeted technical assistance to the National AIDS Control Program and the National TB Control Program. EGPAF is supporting and facilitating discussion and adoption of the new World Health Organization treatment recommendations through its continued support to the pediatric and adult care and treatment technical working groups. EGPAF is also focused on supporting the roll-out of new pediatric TB detection technologies and child friendly treatments

As part of its community outreach, EGPAF is focused on working with religious leaders and health zone staff to promote the uptake of PMTCT and HIV testing, care, and treatment. Our work in this area also enables orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) to attend school and receive vocational training in addition to HIV testing and treatment services, while furthering policy development for OVC care.

RESEARCH

Male Involvement Study in Kinshasa: Through funding from Dance Marathon at UCLA, EGPAF recently completed a study on male involvement capturing perspectives of men and women enrolled at various study entry points (health facilities, churches, bars, and athletic associations) as well as community leaders and other key informants to evaluate how better to engage men in antenatal and maternity services, including HIV testing. The study offered an opportunity to inform national scale-up of best practices. EGPAF is working with the Ministry of Health to incorporate lessons learned from the study into policy and practice.

To learn more about EGPAF's work in DRC, and to access program resources and publications developed by the team, please visit

<http://www.pedaids.org/country/democratic-republic-of-the-congo>

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