



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 2001, 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, sexually transmitted infection management, and sexual and gender-based violence services.

EGPAF works 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 and HIV care and treatment services, strengthen community-health facility linkages, and build local ownership and sustainability of comprehensive HIV and AIDS programs.

### KEY PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS\*

Since 2001, EGPAF-DRC has:



Increased the number of health facilities offering antiretroviral treatment (ART) services from 23 to 121



Provided over 983,000 pregnant women with access to critical PMTCT services



Enrolled almost 13,000 people, including 1,000 children on ART



Averted nearly 2,500 HIV infections



Supported over 130 sites across the Kinshasa Province

### COUNTRY PROFILE\*\*

Population	78,736,000
Number of people living with HIV	370,000
Adult (15-49 years of age) prevalence rate	0.7%
Deaths due to AIDS	19,000
Women aged 15 and older living with HIV	210,000
Children (0-14 years of age) living with HIV	48,000
ART coverage for adults 15 years and older	44%
ART coverage for children 14 and younger	30%
Co-management of TB/HIV infection	31%
Estimated TB-related deaths among people living with HIV	8,500
Orphans due to AIDS aged 0 to 17	520,000

### CURRENT EGPAF-DRC PROGRAM GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



\* Accomplishments as of May 2018

\*\* Sources: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (2016), World Bank, Democratic Republic of the Congo, population estimates (2016)

## 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 testing and TB 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 76 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. EGPAF is supporting and facilitating discussion and adoption of the new World Health Organization recommendations ("Treatment For All") through its continued support to the pediatric and adult care and treatment technical working groups. As part of its community outreach, EGPAF is focused on working with religious leaders and health zones staff to promote the uptake of PMTCT and HIV testing, care, and treatment.

## 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/countries/democratic-republic-of-the-congo>

*The activities described here were made possible by 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 and with funding from Unitaid. The content included here is the responsibility of EGPAF and does not necessarily represent the official views of these donors.*

