



Photo by: Eric Bond/EGPAF, 2016



**Elizabeth Glaser
Pediatric AIDS
Foundation**

ADOLESCENTS AND HIV:

Prevention, Care and Treatment through the Transition to Adulthood

THE ELIZABETH GLASER PEDIATRIC AIDS FOUNDATION IN KENYA

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) began working in Kenya in 2000. The program started as a small, privately funded prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT) initiative and has since grown into one of the largest HIV prevention, care and treatment programs in the country. EGPAF-Kenya aims to implement sustainable programs that support Kenya's government toward its mission to end pediatric AIDS. To succeed in this, EGPAF collaborates with multiple partners, including Kenya's Ministry of Health, supporting implementation of PMTCT and HIV care and treatment services. EGPAF-Kenya also provides essential technical and organizational capacity-building assistance to community-based organizations throughout our supported regions.

THE ADOLESCENT HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC IN KENYA

AIDS is the leading cause of death and morbidity among adolescents and young people in Kenya.¹ Approximately 51% of all new HIV infections in Kenya are among adolescents and youth. The Kenya AIDS Strategic Framework, 2014/15 – 2018/19 identifies adolescents and young people as a priority population for the HIV response.²

It is estimated that there are 133,455 adolescents living with HIV in Kenya. There are also 18,004 new infections and 2,797 deaths among adolescents 10-19 years annually. Access to and uptake of HIV testing and counselling (HTS) by adolescents is significantly lower than by adults, and antiretroviral therapy (ART) coverage rates are lower for adolescents than for any other age group of persons living with HIV, signalling a need for targeted adolescent programs.

EGPAF-KENYA'S WORK WITH ADOLESCENTS

Through diverse focused programming, EGPAF currently provides comprehensive HIV services for adolescents from prevention, to testing, to care and treatment.

Between October and March 2017, a total 186,800 of adolescents were provided with HIV testing services, 1,440 tested positive and 1,152 started on ART representing 80% linkage into ART. Currently EGPAF supports 12,338 adolescents to access care and treatment services.

Some key interventions implemented by EGPAF in recent years to address the epidemic in this vulnerable population, include:

- Creation of adolescent-specific services, adolescent-friendly clinic days and adolescent corners at health facilities

- Training health providers in providing adolescent-friendly services
- Engagement of adolescents in their own care including identification of peer champions
- Providing behavioural interventions, including focused school-based education and sensitization activities.
- Support for disclosure of HIV status to HIV-positive children and adolescents and support for HIV-positive adolescents to disclose to family, friends, partners, and peers. The support includes trainings for parents/caregivers and psychosocial support for adolescents.
- Provision of differentiated model of care for retention and viral load monitoring

KENYA ADOLESCENT PORTFOLIO

Improving the Health and Well-being of Adolescents Project

With funding from the Elton John AIDS Foundation, EGPAF launched the Improving the Health and Well-being of Adolescents Project in 2015, which seeks to expand access to quality HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment, and support services through intensive case-finding among adolescents aged 15-19 in Kisumu, Kenya and Lusaka, Zambia. Critical activities include: engaging adolescent leaders as Peer Ambassadors; using social media and mHealth to generate awareness about HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) among adolescents; conducting adolescent HIV testing campaigns at schools, adolescent events, and in communities; piloting HIV self-testing among adolescents; and training health care workers and counsellors in adolescent-friendly HIV and SRH services.

The Red Carpet Program

Funded by ViiV Healthcare Positive Action for Adolescents Fund, this project aims to improve the long-term health outcomes of adolescents (ages 15-19) and young adults (ages 20-24) living with HIV in Homabay and Turkana Counties, Kenya. The project implements adolescent- and youth-specific comprehensive HIV care and early retention programs with core elements which include adolescent informed and responsive services with interlinked facility and community-level components. The program intends to strengthen meaningful involvement of adolescents and young people in their HIV prevention, care and treatment programs, while increasing the capacity of health care workers in the provision of these services.

¹ National AIDS Control Council, Kenya's fast track plan to end HIV and AIDS among adolescents and young people 2015 (<https://www.iavi.org/media-center/publications/category/26-research-publications?download=118:kenya-s-fast-track-plan-to-end-hiv-and-aids-among-adolescents-and-young-people>)

² National AIDS and STI Control Program, Kenya HIV County Profiles 2016 (<http://nacc.or.ke/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Kenya-HIV-County-Profiles-2016.pdf>)

**The Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)
Adolescent Project: Improving Health Outcomes and Wellness
of Adolescents Living with HIV in Kenya**

This project seeks to increase identification of adolescents living with HIV, and improve HIV care and treatment and retention for adolescents living with HIV in Kenya. Through improved health and community systems the project will:

- Improve the quality of HIV services provided to adolescents along the testing and treatment cascade;
- Reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination through engaging and educating communities in partnership with the network of PLHIV in Kenya;
- Operationalize existing national- and county-level coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the adolescent HIV interventions;
- Scale-up adolescent-friendly HIV services at 20 high-volume facilities in Homa Bay County; and
- Promote use of strategic information to improve adolescent HIV programming.

Johnson & Johnson

With Johnson & Johnson funding, EGPAF implements a package of services which target pregnant adolescents and young women in order to reduce new HIV infections and mortality for both the mother and the child. Specifically, EGPAF provides HIV and PMTCT services to both HIV-infected and uninfected pregnant adolescent girls and young pregnant and lactating women 15-24 years of age in Kakamega County, where EGPAF provides ongoing HIV and PMTCT service delivery. The project objectives include:

- Intensified case finding of adolescent and young women living with HIV in Kakamega County;
- Strengthening immediate linkage and ART initiation within one month for adolescents and young women living with HIV;
- Providing a complete package of interventions to reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV for adolescent and young mothers and their infants;
- Increasing the proportion of infants born to HIV-positive adolescents and young women who have a virologic HIV test done within 12 months of birth;
- Building capacity of health workers to provide friendly and

comprehensive HIV and SRH services for pregnant adolescent and young women living with HIV; and

- Reduce new infections among adolescents and young women and resilience to cope with HIV by providing targeted pre-exposure prophylaxis to prevent HIV infection and linkage to income generating activities, micro credit, and conditional cash transfer programs.

Timiza90

With funding from the U.S Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC), Timiza90 project supports the implementation and expansion of high quality, sustainable and comprehensive HIV prevention, and care and treatment services for various populations. The project has identified adolescent as a priority population and provides them with targeted HIV testing services, linkage, initiation to ART, retention in care and treatment services and psychosocial support.

Zuia Ukimwi Imarisha Afisa (ZUIA) or Prevent HIV, Strengthen the Officer Project

Under this CDC funded project, EGPAF supports provision of sustainable evidence-based HIV prevention, care and treatment services to members of the disciplined services (Kenya Police Service, Administration Police Service, Kenya Wildlife Services, National Youth Service and Kenya Forestry Services) and their families. In addition to the provision of HIV testing and linkage services, the adolescents are reached with Evidenced Informed Behavioural Interventions (EBIs) aimed at HIV risk reduction. E.g. MTV's SHUGA, are tailored for older adolescent and young adults (15-24 years); Healthy Choices I (12-14 years), Healthy Choices II (13-17 years) and FMP (10-12 years).The EBIs also aims at empowering the adolescents in making safer and healthier reproductive health choices.

Support for Enhanced Identification, Linkage and Retention to Care and Treatment for Pediatrics and Adolescents (>18 months - 19 years of age)

Through funding from The ELMA Foundation, this project seeks to expand access to HIV testing in children and adolescents, older than 18 months and linking and retaining HIV-infected children to HIV treatment in Kenya. The goal of the project is strengthening the implementation of hybrid model of intensified case finding & universal offer of HIV testing services in Epidemic hotspots; to identify HIV-positive children that have fallen out the PMTCT cascade as a way to support the³ 90.90.90 pediatrics and adolescents HIV targets.

³ UNAIDS 90-90-90 An ambitious treatment target to help end the AIDS epidemic (http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/90-90-90_en.pdf)

ADOLESCENTS IN KENYA 10-19 YEARS

(*KENYA FAST TRACK PLAN TO END HIV AND AIDS AMONG ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2015)

