



Photo: Eric Bond/EGPAF, 2018



**Elizabeth Glaser  
Pediatric AIDS Foundation**  
Fighting for an AIDS-free generation

## THE UGANDA PROGRAM

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

### THE ELIZABETH GLASER PEDIATRIC AIDS FOUNDATION IN UGANDA

Since 2000, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) has been supporting prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and HIV/AIDS care and treatment services in Uganda.

EGPAF-Uganda is a leading provider of technical assistance to Uganda's Ministry of Health, and provides clinical service delivery support at the facility, district, regional, and national levels. We work closely with Uganda's Ministry of Health and other partners to increase access to comprehensive, high-quality HIV prevention, care and treatment, and TB services for women, children, and families living with and affected by HIV and AIDS. EGPAF supports implementation of family health programs in the 18 districts of South Western Uganda. These include maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH), family planning and nutrition. We also currently providing technical support to PEPFAR supported partners, including JCRC (LPHS-Kigezi), TASO (LPHS-Ankole), G2G- MRRH and UPMB (LSDA).

### KEY PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS\*\*

Currently, EGPAF-Uganda is supporting



**Over 800 health facilities** across 18 districts in the region



Nearly **159,000 women and almost 7,000 children** with access to lifesaving antiretroviral therapy



PMTCT services to **over 18,000 pregnant women**



Access to early infant diagnostics to **over 16,000 HIV-exposed babies**

Sources: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), HIV and AIDS Estimates (2020); World Bank population estimates (2018); and Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Population Based HIV Impact Assessment 2016–2017 and 2021 Factsheet - Facts on HIV and AIDS in Uganda 2021

\*Based on Data ending September 31, 2021

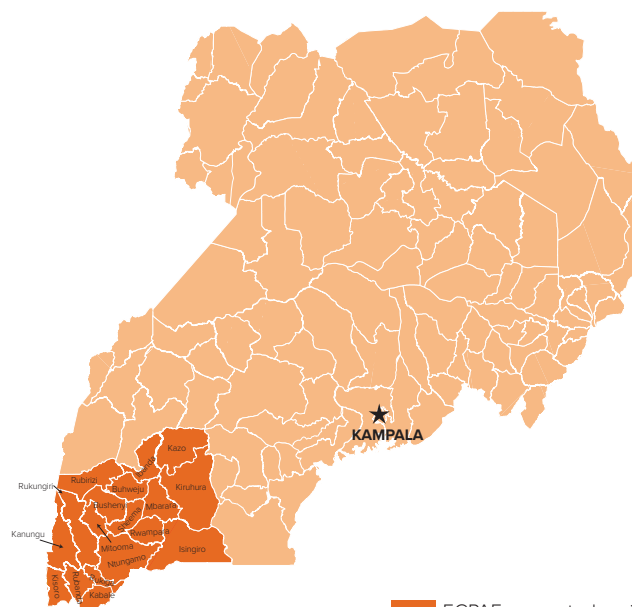
\*\*Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2021 midyear population projection. Available on <https://www.ubos.org/explore-statistics/20/>

\*\*\* National policy guidelines for TB/HIV collaborative activities in Uganda. Available on <https://www.who.int/hiv/pub/guidelines/uganda.pdf>

### COUNTRY PROFILE\*

Population	43,885,900
Number of people living with HIV	1,400,000
Adult (15-49 years of age) HIV prevalence	5.4%
Women aged 15 and older living with HIV	820,000
Children (0-14 years of age) living with HIV	98,000
Deaths due to AIDS in 2020	20,000
HIV-positive pregnant women receiving antiretroviral treatment (ART)	91,000
Children living with HIV receiving ART	65%
Estimated TB-related deaths among people living with HIV	14,000
Co-management of TB and HIV treatment	50%

### EGPAF-UGANDA PROGRAM GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



EGPAF-supported regions

## PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

### USAID Regional Health Integration to Enhance Services in Southwest Uganda (RHITES-SW) Project (2015-2023)

RHITES-SW is a cooperative agreement led by EGPAF that supports Ministry of Health to provide a comprehensive service package of HIV counseling and testing (HCT), prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), HIV/AIDS care services and treatment, HIV/TB collaborative services, MNCH, family planning, nutrition, early childhood development and malaria.

This project aims to increase utilization of health services through the following key result areas: a) Increased availability of, and accessibility to, health services; b) Improved quality of health services; c) Increased availability of resources for public sector health services; d) Improved organization and management of service delivery; and e) Increased adoption of healthy behaviors and positive child development practices by communities in focus areas and target population groups.

The RHITES-SW project is in its seventh year of operation. EGPAF will continue to focus efforts on transition to local partner organizations. We used a phased approach to transition programmatic support from the RHITES-SW project to Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, LSDA and to TASO and JCRC. The transition will focus on the HIV program, while technical support to the districts and implementing sites will continue for the entire family health program.

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

EGPAF scaled access and coverage of TB diagnosis and new child-friendly treatments for both active and latent TB under the Unitaids-funded CaP TB Project. This project enhanced TB identification, care, and treatment in children, and assessed successful practices for enhanced identification.

### Catalyzing Pediatric ARV Treatment Formulation Optimization (2019-2021)

This DNDI-supported project accelerated use of new, child-friendly ART formulations. EGPAF focused on development of new tools for improved control of pediatric HIV and increased uptake of solid lopinavir/ritonavir, while preparing for introduction of dispersible DTG formulations in Uganda.

### Closing the Adult-Pediatric HIV Treatment Gap in Uganda (2018-2021)

With funding from the ELMA Foundation, EGPAF-Uganda worked to improve pediatric and adolescent HIV identification, linkage, and retention into care and treatment in eight districts of Southwest Uganda. The program implemented key strategies including strengthened HIV testing services among children and adolescents at all service points; increased access to early infant HIV diagnosis; stronger linkage to care and treatment; and increased retention efforts through client tracing.

### New Horizons Advancing Pediatric HIV Care Collaborative (2016-present)

With funding from Johnson & Johnson, and in partnership with the Uganda MOH, EGPAF provides technical assistance on pediatric second- and third-line ART access. This project improved sustainable ART service delivery for children, and confronted challenges faced by adolescents around disclosure, adherence, and psychosocial support. The heart of the Collaborative is a darunavir/etravirine donation program, which increased availability of second- and third-line pediatric ART.

### The Delivering Technical Assistance (DELTA2) Project (2019-2024)

DELTA2 is a five-year, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-funded cooperative agreement implemented by EGPAF. Building on EGPAF's successful Project DELTA (2013–2019), DELTA2 provides cost-effective technical assistance (TA), capacity building and program implementation services to optimize the impact of programs supported by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GF) to ultimately help achieve an

AIDS-free generation. In the initial project year of DELTA2, EGPAF supported a variety of activities under PEPFAR's Faith and Community Initiative as well as COVID-19 infection prevention and control activities. To date, DELTA2 has supported work in Cameroon, Botswana, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

### The ViiV Breakthrough Partnership (2020-2023)

The Pediatric HIV Breakthrough Partnership aims to end pediatric AIDS in priority locations through developing a sustainable and replicable quality package of interventions that is informed by the pediatric HIV service delivery tool, "Improving HIV Service Delivery for Infants, Children and Adolescents."

## ADVOCACY

EGPAF works hand-in-hand with Uganda's Ministry of Health to formulate evidence-based policies supporting all persons affected by HIV. We actively participate in national working groups and advisory committees including: the Pediatric HIV Working Group; the TB/HIV Subcommittee; the MNCH Technical Working Group; the Adolescent Health Technical Working Group; the National TB Technical Working Group; the National Advisory Committee on PMTCT; the TB Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization Committee; and the PMTCT Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee.

EGPAF played a central role in the revision and adaptation of the Consolidated HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment Guidelines in 2016 and 2020, recommending treatment initiation among all HIV-positive persons. This included advocating for the adoption of globally recommended PMTCT and HIV care and treatment guidelines at all levels of the country's health system.

## RESEARCH

EGPAF-Uganda is dedicated to advancing basic and operations research to strengthen the effectiveness of the global HIV and AIDS response.

### Approved Protocols

- Active case finding of pediatric HIV in Uganda
- Effectiveness of a model for national scale-up of the Pratt Pouch to expand infant ARV prophylaxis in Uganda; and a formative study of PMTCT services to implement the Pratt Pouch
- Assessing the feasibility and acceptability of daily oral PrEP among a cohort of women and men from key populations who were screened and eligible for PrEP, as well as among the providers
- Description of demographic, clinical, and laboratory characteristics and outcomes of children and adolescents who ever received donated treatment that contained darunavir (DRV) and etravirine (ETR)
- Developing and validating a pediatric and adolescent HIV testing eligibility screening tool for health care providers in multiple health settings in Uganda
- Evaluating the effectiveness of CaP TB on service delivery and clinical outcomes
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of selected community-based interventions to improve maternal and child health (MCH) and PMTCT outcomes in Uganda
- Effect of family support groups on retention in HIV care among HIV-positive women initiated on ART through PMTCT programs (Option B+) in selected EGPAF-supported health facilities in Uganda
- Through the CRS FASTER award, EGPAF-Uganda will perform analyses to advance the science and policy recommendations of HIV risk screening tools for children and adolescents.

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