



Photo: Eric Bond/EGPAF, 2020



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

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation in Tanzania

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

ABOUT EGPAF IN TANZANIA

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) seeks to fight for an AIDS-free generation through research, advocacy, and prevention and treatment program implementation. EGPAF began supporting HIV programs in Tanzania in 2003 and established a country office in 2004.

EGPAF in Tanzania supports the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups; and the President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) at the national, regional, and district levels to implement the highest quality of services within the national HIV and AIDS program. Through its various projects, EGPAF in Tanzania advocates for the development of policies that facilitate greater access to services and support those affected by HIV and AIDS and TB, as well as for services related to family planning (FP) and early childhood development (ECD).

The Program also conducts operations research to inform high-quality pediatric HIV and AIDS programs. Through program implementation, research, and advocacy activities, EGPAF-Tanzania works to eliminate HIV infection in infants and to increase access to comprehensive, high-quality, integrated prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), FP, and HIV and AIDS and TB care and treatment services for HIV-positive pregnant women, infants, adolescents, and adults.

For more information about EGPAF in Tanzania, visit:
<http://pedaids.org/countries/tanzania>



Photo: Eric Bond/EGPAF, 2020

BACKGROUND:

When PEPFAR launched in 2003, an HIV diagnosis was a death sentence in much of the world, with entire families and communities falling ill. Over the past 17 years, death and despair have been overwhelmingly replaced with vibrant lives and hope.

From July 2003 to June 2022, over 4.5 million pregnant Tanzanian women who accessed antenatal care coverage (ANC) services at EGPAF-supported health care facilities were tested for HIV. Over 128,000 of these women were found to be HIV positive and enrolled on antiretroviral therapy (ART). As a result of PMTCT services provided at EGPAF-supported health care facilities, 31,872 HIV infections among children were averted. EGPAF in Tanzania has initiated over 322,000 HIV positive patients on ART at the supported health care facilities, including over 23,500 HIV-positive children since 2004.

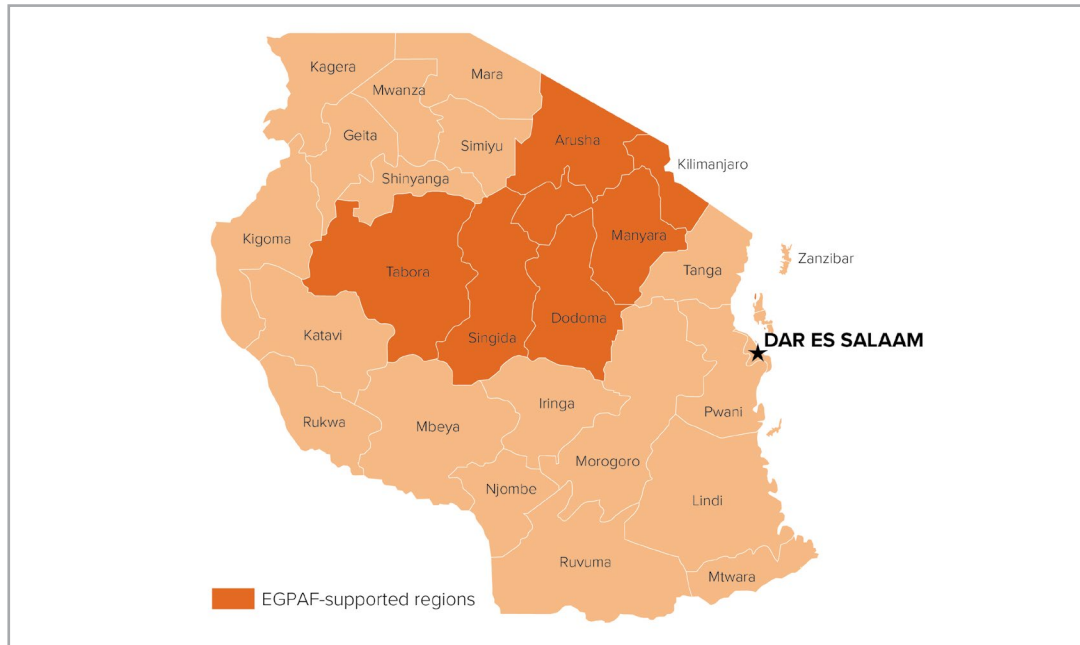
EGPAF in Tanzania has helped prevent HIV infection in children through building on the four prongs of PMTCT, which represent the cornerstones of comprehensive PMTCT service delivery. These include: 1) primary prevention of HIV infection among women of childbearing age; 2) preventing unintended pregnancies among women living with HIV; 3) preventing HIV transmission from a woman living with HIV to her infant; and 4) treatment, care, and support to women living with HIV, their children, and families.



Photos: Eric Bond/EGPAF, 2020

Pregnant and breastfeeding women attending the facility for reproductive and child health (RCH) services are offered timely HIV testing services (HTS) throughout the pregnancy and breastfeeding period for early identification of HIV-positive women, ART initiation for PMTCT, initiation of HIV prophylaxis, and testing of HIV-exposed infants (HEI) and monitoring of viral load.

The figure below displays EGPAF's geographic coverage service area across the country.



CURRENT PEPFAR PROJECTS

USAID Afya Yangu Northern (2021-2026)

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Afya Yangu Northern project is designed around client-centered approaches to address gaps in HIV, TB, and FP service delivery, while continuously building and transferring the capacity of local stakeholders for sustainable and country-led ownership through regional acceleration strategies (RAS+). The project focuses intensely on direct service delivery across all supported regions, ensuring that gaps to epidemic control are identified and tailored solutions are designed to meet the needs of vulnerable populations.

Strategic approaches include:

- Working with regional and council health management teams (R/CHMTs) through the Regional Accelerated Strategy Plus (RAS+) to identify regional priorities and develop specific action plans that focus on case-management approaches at site levels
- Designing and delivering client-centered care to ensure gender-sensitive approaches with a focus on adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), children, and youth
- Collaborating, coordinating, and complementing ongoing efforts
- Driving data to action by using data, evaluation, and analysis for continuous improvement
- Responding to emerging global health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic

PAST PEPFAR PROJECTS

USAID Boresha Afya North-Central Zone (2016-2021)

The goal of Boresha Afya was to improve the health of all Tanzanians and to increase access to high-quality, comprehensive, and integrated health care services in the six supported regions of the North–Central zone. The program was implemented in partnership with EngenderHealth and collaboratively with the Ministry of Health and PO-RALG to support preventive and curative services for HIV and AIDS, FP, and TB, while ensuring equitable access to health care services for women and girls. Differentiated models of care were employed to address the special needs of children, adolescents, and other vulnerable groups.

Milestones:

- Identified more than 93,000 new cases of TB
- Initiated more than 147,000 HIV-positive clients on ART
- Achieved a viral suppression rate of 96%
- Provided 5.7 million people with FP methods

Linking Initiatives for Elimination of Pediatric HIV (LIFE) Program (2012-2016)

With support from USAID, EGPAF implemented a five-year project in 10 regions across Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar. The goal was to contribute to the elimination of pediatric HIV by implementing a comprehensive PMTCT program, applying a model of integrated care, and strengthening local capacity.

The LIFE Program was implemented with consortium partner, Pathfinder International, and local partners, including the Ariel Glaser Pediatric AIDS and Healthcare Initiative (AGPAHI) and the Tanzania Red Cross Society.

Milestones:

- Supported integration of RCH/PMTCT services in over 1,500 facilities across eight regions.
- Offered PMTCT services to three million pregnant women, whereby the overall proportion of known HIV-positive pregnant women doubled over the five-year period, increasing from 18% in 2010 to 35% by 2015. The proportion of HIV-positive women on ART increased from 17% in 2012 to 100% by 2016. Additionally, the proportion of HEI accessing PMTCT services increased from 41% to 79%.
- Provided a comprehensive package of maternal, neonatal, and child health services in 102 sites in Tabora and 46 sites in Lindi, resulting in higher service delivery rates and better use of postnatal care services.
- Increased malaria testing in pregnant women from 41% in 2014 to 91% in June 2016 and increased malaria prevention in pregnant women from 44% to 91% during the same period.
- Increased coverage of FP services among HIV-positive, postpartum, and lactating women from 80% to nearly 100%.
- Supported the setup of cervical cancer screening services in 42 health care facilities.
- Home-based care providers reached more than 94,000 clients, and community health volunteers (CHVs) visited more than 172,000 households, contributing to retention in HIV care and treatment services.

Project HEART (2004-2012) and HIV Care & Treatment Program (2012-2016)

Funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), with support from PEPFAR, EGPAF launched Project HEART (Help Expand Antiretroviral Therapy to Children and Families) in five countries, which was subsequently extended by the bilateral HIV Care and Treatment Program to scale access to HIV prevention, care, and treatment services in Tanzania.

Milestones:

- Conceptualized and implemented a district approach in six supported regions, which was the launching pad for scaling ART services and later replicated in other countries.
- Initiated 148,825 HIV-positive people onto ART, of which 14,710 (10%) were children.
- As part of the transition strategy to local ownership, established AGPAHI as a local affiliate.

Call to Action (2003-2007)

With funding from USAID and PEPFAR, EGPAF implemented the Call to Action program in 12 countries, including in Tanzania from 2003 through 2007. This program sought to improve access and expand care and support for quality delivery of PMTCT services, while enhancing technical leadership and documenting successful program models.

Milestones:

- Supported 428 health care facilities and provided counseling and testing services to nearly 450,000 women.
- Used a district approach to support the rapid scaling of PMTCT services in five regions of the country to address the need for increased access to PMTCT in Tanzania.

- Scaled the number of sites offering PMTCT services and the number of pregnant women served.

Delivering Technical Assistance (DELTA1) Project: Improving Data Systems, Management, and Use in Tanzania (2016-2019)

Funded through CDC, this program facilitated and provided technical support to the Ministry of Health and the National AIDS Control Programme in the implementation of continuous improvement of monitoring and evaluation systems and the use of health management information systems (HMIS) and business processes around PMTCT.

Milestones:

- Integrated an enhanced system for monitoring lifelong ART adherence for pregnant and lactating women (LARS) into the national HMIS and rolled this out across the country.
- Facilitated the development of a LARS tool to enable rapid identification of and response to site-level challenges in three critical programmatic areas: 1) commodity availability; 2) early retention of women initiated on ART; and 3) quality assurance of HIV testing.
- Partnered with the University of Dar es Salaam to develop a road map for data migration and exchange from the national HMIS to PEPFAR's DATIM reporting system.
- Focused on data quality assurance and quality improvement and the development of relevant guidelines and tools, promoting transparency and accessibility of data from the national to the facility level.

NON-PEPFAR PROJECTS

Kizazi Kijacho (2021-2023)

With funding from Swedish Research Council, Norwegian Research Council and European Research Council, Templeton Foundation, FAIR/NHH, and British Academy, Kizazi Kijacho is a research study with four objectives: 1) improve the measurements of child development and its drivers; 2) refine our understanding of the human development process in the early years; 3) refine our understanding of parental investment in child development; and 4) prepare for scale by designing cost-effective, integrated ECD programs. The research has two areas of implementation: the national representative cohort study and the randomized controlled trial. As a sub partner, EGPAF supports the implementation of early childhood development services at community level in Dodoma region by building capacity of community volunteers to use the national care for child development package and introduce an innovative digital health solution with sub partner D-tree International.

Early Childhood Development Planning Grant (2021-2022)

The Planning Grant is an interim, follow-on project after two successful ECD projects (Malezi I and II) funded by Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. It has four objectives: 1) learn how best to integrate nurturing services within health care systems; 2) work on the National Multi-Sectorial Early Childhood Development Programme; 3) explore and test new approaches to integrated nurturing care interventions in health care and other sectors; and 4) identify stakeholders and explore how best to work together to ensure integration of nurturing care in different sectors.

Catalyzing Pediatric TB Innovation (CaP TB) (2018-2021)

Funded by Unitaid, the goal of this project is to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with pediatric TB through reducing the pediatric TB diagnostic and treatment gap. Launched in 2018 in Tanzania, CaP TB seeks to increase coverage of new pediatric fixed-dose combination and scaling treatment of latent TB through implementation of innovative models of care for pediatric TB that focus on integration and decentralization in two regions, Singida and Tabora.

Milestones:

- Screened 827,129 children from all entry points of health care facilities, as this was an essential area to assess any child visiting facilities.
- Improved screening from baseline: 10,504 children were presumptive among those who were screened from all entry points, and 1,852 were diagnosed with TB and initiated treatment. This is 18% of all children presumed.
- Improved diagnosis from baseline: 31 children were diagnosed with TB, but after implementation, 10,351 children were diagnosed (3,532 diagnosed by GeneXpert; 1,925 diagnosed by Smear Microscopy; 492 by CXR; and 4,402 by Score Chart).
- TB preventive treatment (TPT) was offered to 2,348 children under five years of age, who are contacts of bacteriological confirmed TB cases. Compared to baseline, only three children under five started TPT.

Malezi I & II (2016-2021)

Funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the Malezi project aimed to increase the proportion of HIV-positive and HIV-affected children who reach their full cognitive, social, emotional, and physical potential, through the integration of ECD interventions into maternal, neonatal, and child health (MNCH) and PMTCT services.

Milestones:

- Integrated ECD services into community- and facility-based MNCH/PMTCT and HIV services throughout targeted communities in Tabora region.
- Increased knowledge and practices around early stimulation in health care facilities and households.
- Improved the integration of ECD services in health care facilities, as well as the availability of age-appropriate materials in households.
- Informed the Ministry of Health and UNICEF in the adaptation of the national care for child development training package and guidelines.
- Facilitated the sharing of experiences and challenges on the use of the package throughout the adaptation process.

USAID Kizazi Kipya (2016-2020)

Under this USAID award, EGPAF was a sub-grantee of PACT Tanzania and provided technical assistance, enabling more Tanzanian orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) to utilize age-appropriate HIV prevention, care, and treatment; sexual and reproductive health; and ECD services in councils with the highest HIV prevalence. EGPAF served as a technical partner, building the capacity of community case workers in early childhood development, pediatric HIV and adolescent reproductive health, to provide support in households affected by HIV.

Milestones:

- Increased the health and well-being of 1,234,426 Tanzanian OVC and young people affected by HIV, as well as 469,624 caregivers.
- Enabled children and youth in 85 councils across 25 regions to use client-centered services for improved health, nutrition, education, protection, and livelihoods.
- Served 60,871 HIV-positive OVC.
- Outperformed national pediatric viral load suppression (VLS), reaching 91.4% VLS among project clients as compared to 84% nationally.

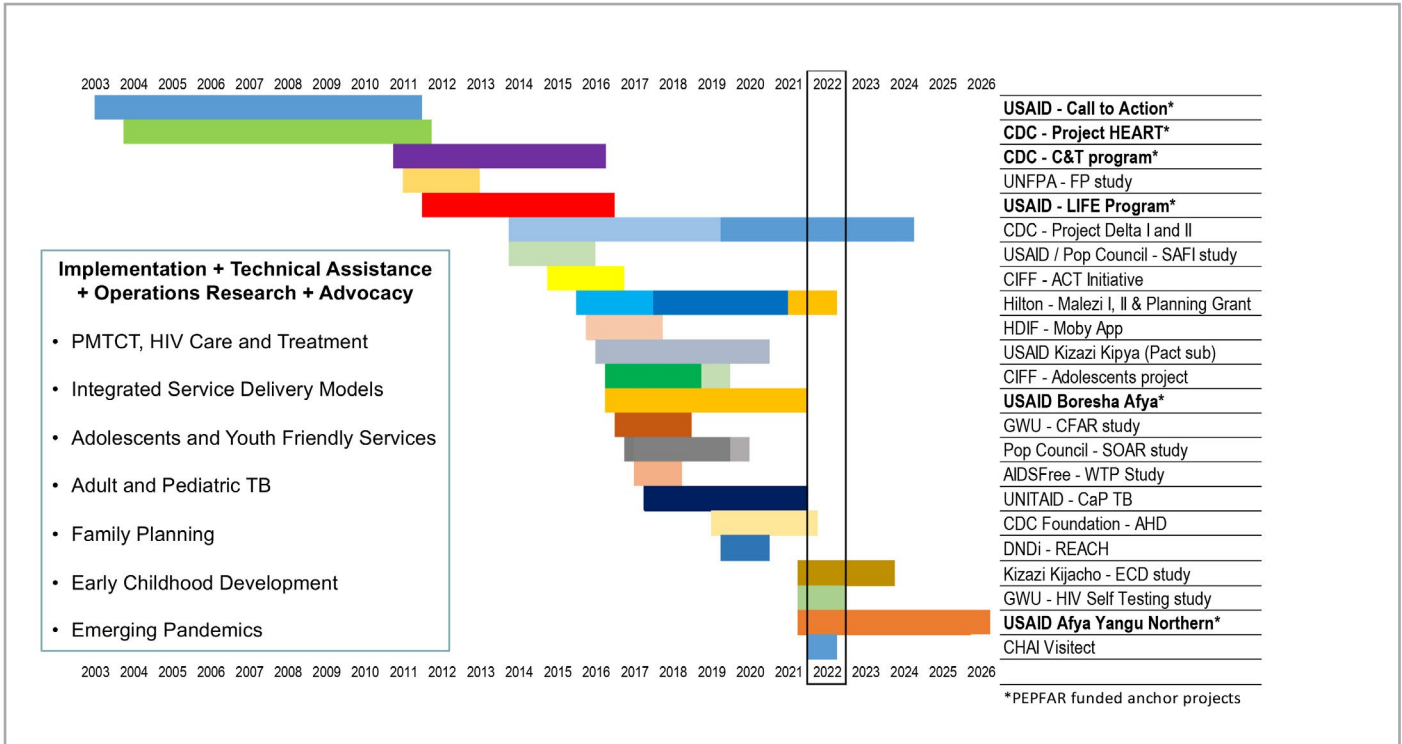
Accelerating Children's HIV/AIDS Treatment (ACT) Adolescent Project (2016-2019)

This Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)-funded project focused on increasing adolescent HIV testing and treatment adherence through the promotion and improvement of youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health care services and the quality of care for adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV). The program provided national-level technical assistance and site-level support to 50 sites in 11 districts within Arusha, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Tabora, and Shinyanga in partnership with EGPAF's affiliate, AGPAHI.

Milestones:

- Provided HIV testing services to 143,439 adolescents, identified 1,702 newly HIV-positive adolescents, and linked 1,600 adolescents to ART services.
- Assisted the Ministry of Health in the development of multiple national-level strategies and tools.
- Innovated the Victory Club intervention to engage adolescents with low VLS along with their treatment supporters.
- Completed a mixed methods study evaluation on the adolescent- and youth-friendly services model for promoting integrated HIV and reproductive health services for ALHIV.

SUMMARY OF EGPAF IN TANZANIA



TRANSITION OF SERVICES

EGPAF has continued to scale and focus on transitioning the programs to national health authorities and civil society through capacity building and system strengthening activities. EGPAF focuses on three capacity areas:

1. Planning capacity based on data-driven decision making and strategic planning of management and program implementation functions, including coordination of donor investments, human resources, and geographical coverage.
2. Implementation capacity based on achieving care and treatment targets and quality in the delivery of services and administrative management.
3. Financial management capacity based on starting with the management of EGPAF subgrants with the end goal of readiness to receive direct donor support and to manage decentralized government budgets and/or direct donor support.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

EGPAF's has disbursed funds for project implementation to local government authorities through comprehensive council health plans.

Below are examples of funds disbursed by the U.S. Government through USAID programs implemented by EGPAF over the last 10 years. EGPAF disbursed TSHS47,548,665,121 in nine regions and PORALG as indicated in the table below.

In addition, with donor support, EGPAF has procured and distributed in-kind donations directly to health care facilities, including medical equipment, medical consumables, and other items related to improvement of health care services.

From 2011-2022, with the financial support from, USAID, EGPAF disbursed over 47 billion TZS to local government through comprehensive council plans in 9 supported regions of; Arusha, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida, Tabora, Mtwara, Shinyanga and Lindi. The funding has strengthened the local capacity for program management and financial managements for USG funded programs. In addition, EGPAF procured and distributed in-kind donations directly to health care facilities including medical equipment, medical consumables, and other items related to improvement of health care services.



Photo: Eric Bond/EGPAF, 2020



From the right is EGPAF Tanzania Country Director, Hon. Minister for Health, Former Country Director for EngenderHealth, Country Director for Amref Health Africa, and Senior Results Manager for Dodoma. Photo: Nuru Ngailo/EGPAF, 2022



Photo of the meeting with the minister and representatives of the President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government with EGPAF's management team. Photo: Nuru Ngailo/EGPAF, 2022



Photo of the round table meeting at Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars on April 22, 2022, in Washington, D.C., with partners and the President of Tanzania. Photo: Public Relations Team for the State House, 2022



Photo of the USAID Afya Yangu Program Launch Event officiated by Hon. Prime Minister for Tanzania and hosted by Hon. Minister for Health. Photo: Magic Box Company Limited, 2022

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