



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

## SUCCESS STORY:

# Supporting Global Fund Grant Writing, Guideline Development and National Data Systems



EGPAF's TAs providing support for the C19RM grant writing at Holiday Inn, Bulawayo. Photo: EGPAF, 2023

## Global Cooperative Agreement for the Delivery of Technical Assistance (DELTA2) Assignment #09 COVID-19 Response Mechanism Technical Assistance Implementation Update: Zimbabwe

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) is a recognized leader in the global effort to eliminate pediatric AIDS and one of the most successful international implementation organizations for pediatric, adolescent, youth, and adult HIV prevention, care, and treatment programs. EGPAF currently provides technical assistance (TA) at the national, sub-national, facility, and community levels in 17 countries to effectively support the implementation, scale-up, and evaluation of HIV, TB, and COVID-19 programs.

Through funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), EGPAF is implementing the five-year DELTA2 cooperative agreement for global technical assistance (TA) in HIV and AIDS, providing TA 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 (GFATM) to ultimately help achieve an AIDS-free generation.

Through DELTA2 Assignment #09, EGPAF is providing TA to the COVID-19 pandemic response, and towards mitigating the effects of COVID-19 on existing HIV and TB programs, in Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Haiti, Malawi, Uganda and Zimbabwe, primarily through the identification and secondment of several Technical Advisors to national response efforts. These Technical Advisors are recruited and placed specifically to address identified gaps, needs and challenges in the pandemic response in each country, in close collaboration and coordination with Ministries of Health (MOHs), other relevant government entities, implementing partners (IPs), PEPFAR, USAID and CDC missions.

In Zimbabwe, EGPAF has recruited four Technical Advisors to provide support to the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MOHCC) and prime recipient UNDP in the areas of **National Response Management, Laboratory Systems and Surveillance, Data Management Systems, and Case Management & Tuberculosis/HIV Adaptation**. Since March 2023, these four Technical Advisors have been performing baseline assessments, finalizing workplans, and providing TA in their respective technical areas. In addition to their core technical assistance work, EGPAF's Technical Advisors were requested by MOHCC to provide key support during the grant writing process for the C19RM Portfolio Optimisation Wave 2 grant and the Global Fund Cycle 7.

### Global Fund Grant Writing: Diagnostic Network Optimisation

EGPAF's TAs provided support during the Diagnostic Network Optimisation (DNO) exercise that is being led by the Directorate of Laboratory Services in the MOHCC, to update the DNO report of 2020. The DNO is a geospatial network analytics approach to plan diagnostic networks consistent with national health goals and strategies, including universal health coverage. The updated DNO report was used to inform the Global Fund Grand Writing Cycle 7 budget and narratives to reflect prioritized laboratory network resources.

**EGPAF TA Participation:** National Response Management Advisor, Laboratory Systems and Surveillance Advisor

**Input:** Supported teams to update databases for missing data points, advocated for involvement of more stakeholders in the DNO update process

**Output:** Updated DNO Baseline Report

**Impact:** Informed gap analysis for laboratory commodities in the GC7-RSSH and C19RM grant writing; Improved prioritization of laboratory interventions in the grant writing cycle; Increased drive to convene the Laboratory Technical Working Group

### Global Fund Grant Writing: Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health

The government of Zimbabwe, through the Country Coordination Mechanism for the Global Fund and the MOHCC, convened multi-stakeholders to develop the funding proposal for the Global Fund Cycle 7(GC7) and the COVID-19 Response Mechanism Optimization Wave 2. EGPAF Zimbabwe's DELTA2 Technical Advisors were requested to provide support in this process in April and May 2023. EGPAF's Technical Advisors provided technical support in the grant writing for the C19RM and the Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health (RSSH) component of the GC7. This capacitated them to provide comprehensive and effective technical support in the grant writing process.

**EGPAF TA Participation:** National Response Management, Laboratory Systems and Surveillance, and Case Management & Tuberculosis / HIV Adaptation

**Areas of Technical Support:** Meetings coordination, priority identification and setting, costing, gap analysis, concept note development for new interventions, presentation to GF country team & MOHCC, consolidation of funding proposal

**Output:** Global Fund grant cycle 7 -RSSH Funding Request, C19RM Optimization Wave 2 Funding Request

**Impact:** Timely submission of Global Fund GC7 and C19RM Optimisation Wave 2 Funding Requests

## COVID-19 Self Testing Guidelines

The evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic led to a global introduction of COVID-19 self -testing. Zimbabwe sought to align itself with the WHO recommendations for introduction of self-testing and provide a guide for use of self-tests that were quantified for and procured as part of the C19RM commodities. EGPAF's Laboratory Systems and Surveillance Technical Advisor provided support for the Development and Finalization of the Zimbabwe COVID-19 Self Testing Guidelines that were completed in March 2023. EGPAF plans to provide further technical support to disseminate the guidelines.

**EGPAF TA participation:** Laboratory Systems and Surveillance Advisor

**Areas of Technical Support:** Justification of the need for the self-testing strategy to MOHCC top management, supported content development, engagement of other key stakeholders (UNICEF, PSH) for funding of self-testing implementation (procurement and training of HCWs and community workers, development of the implementation plan for the SARS Cov 2 Self Testing strategy

**Output:** Approved COVID-19 Self-Testing Guidelines for Zimbabwe

**Impact:**

- Improved surveillance of SARS Cov 2 virus
- Improved coverage and access to testing
- Decongestion of health facilities
- Reduced mortality and morbidity due to COVID-19

## National Data Systems

EGPAF's Data Management Systems Advisor has been supporting the MOHCC of Zimbabwe in the digitalisation of the healthcare system through introduction of the Impilo Electronic Health Records (E-HR) system. MOHCC is in the process of rolling out the Impilo E-HR system in health facilities in Zimbabwe in a step wise approach. Periodic reviews of the implementation are conducted through convening of stakeholders to validate outputs from the system and make the necessary modifications. Support was provided through participation in the Impilo EHR Validation Workshop in April 2023.

**EGPAF TA participation:** Data Management Systems Technical Advisor

**Areas of technical support:** Provided support in developing solutions to the challenges experienced in the data sets, recommended changes to be done in the Malaria and Tuberculosis module and was assigned team lead for teams working on the changes

**Output:** Data validation meeting report

**Impact:** Strengthened Impilo E-HR modules

## Conclusion

Through the support of CDC, EGPAF Zimbabwe is providing key technical assistance to the MOHCC and other stakeholders in various aspects of COVID-19 pandemic response. With the COVID-19 pandemic waning, EGPAF's technical assistance will broaden to include aspects of overall pandemic preparedness and health systems strengthening. EGPAF looks forward to continued strong collaboration with CDC towards improving the health of all Zimbabweans.