



## CONTROLLING THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC

### Overview

In Kenya, it is estimated that there are over 1.5 million people living with HIV/AIDS and 1.1 million children who are orphans due to AIDS. At a national level, approximately six percent of the population is infected with HIV, but the epidemic has impacted certain counties and key populations much more seriously.

USAID/Kenya and East Africa works through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic in close partnership with the Government of Kenya. PEPFAR, launched in 2003, represents the largest U.S. Government investment in public health globally.

USAID's HIV/AIDS program supports a wide variety of activities for prevention, care, and treatment in virtually every county. As a result of the efforts of USAID and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Department of Defense (DoD), Kenyans have improved access to HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment services.

Country ownership serves as a core principle of the work in Kenya, and the U.S. Government is redoubling efforts to build country systems for sustainable impact.



Photo: Siegfried Modolla/USAID Kenya

USAID invests in population and health programs that aim to improve the survival, well-being and productivity of the Kenyan population – especially for poor, marginalized and underserved communities.

### Prevention

USAID supports comprehensive prevention activities informed by rigorous analysis of Kenya's HIV/AIDS epidemic. HIV prevention activities for those most vulnerable to HIV support intensified demand creation; targeted HIV testing and counseling; voluntary medical male circumcision for traditionally non-circumcising communities; and linkage to treatment and care. Activities aligned with the DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe) initiative aim to reduce new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women by addressing HIV risk behaviors, HIV transmission, and gender-based violence. Prevention is closely coordinated with counseling and testing activities – encouraging those at risk to know their HIV status. Both voluntary and healthcare worker-initiated counseling and testing programs are supported.

The Government of Kenya has expanded services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS as part of comprehensive antenatal care services at most public health facilities. Combined with greater treatment coverage overall, mother-to-child transmission rates have dropped significantly, from a high of 28.3 percent in 2005 to 11 percent in 2018. USAID supports prevention of mother-to-child transmission in public and private health facilities in informal settlements not covered by the Kenyan government.

### Care and Treatment

PEPFAR's goal is to make life-prolonging treatment available to as many people as possible as soon as they needed it. Moreover, effective medicines are now more affordable. Such efforts have resulted in an exponential increase in the number of people accessing treatment from 36,000 in 2005 to more than 1 million today. Improved access to treatment has also reduced mortality and morbidity from HIV.

USAID's care and support program focuses on combined tuberculosis/HIV services, nutrition, and support for treatment initiation and follow-up to ensure the continuum of care for HIV affected individuals. Enrolling and improving retention in care remains a high priority.

## Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Photo: Derek Brown/USAID Kenya



USAID advances a family-centered approach for supporting orphans and vulnerable children affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. USAID supports capacity building for local Kenyan organizations to directly implement programs targeting these children. Several activities work towards stabilizing vulnerable households and enabling them to provide for the needs of their children, linking families to essential services that include health, nutrition, psychosocial care, educational support and household economic strengthening. In addition, USAID is building the capacity of government and civil society to ensure a systems-based approach to improve the welfare and protection of children. All USAID partners support local institutions and networks to identify children's needs, provide services, monitor the status of these children and advocate for their interests.

### For more information:

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