



KENYA AND EAST AFRICA

CONTROLLING THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC

In Kenya, it is estimated that over 1.5 million people are living with HIV/AIDS and 628,079 children are orphans due to AIDS. Approximately 6 percent of the population is infected with HIV. Certain counties and key populations are more impacted by the epidemic. 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 the most counties. Kenyans have improved access to HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment services from USAID, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Department of Defense (DoD) efforts. 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.

Prevention

USAID supports comprehensive prevention methods for those most vulnerable to HIV. Some support includes intensified demand creation, targeted HIV testing and counseling, voluntary medical male circumcision for traditionally non-circumcising communities, and linkage to treatment and care.

The DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe) initiative aims 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 – 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 11.5 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. 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

USAID helps stabilize vulnerable households and enables them to provide for the needs of their children by 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.

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