



# Project Brief

## Regional HIV AIDS

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### Contact Information

Health and Education Office  
Km. 6.5 Final Boulevard Los Próceres Santa  
Catarina Pinula, Guatemala  
Tel: (502) 2422-4230



### Situation Analysis

The Central America region is characterized by a concentrated HIV/AIDS epidemic with low prevalence among the general population. However, prevalence among key populations (such as men who have sex with men, transgender persons, male and female sex workers, clients of sex workers and their partners, ethnic groups such as the Garífuna and Kuna and mobile populations) is very high. For example, the prevalence rate among transgender populations throughout the region is higher than 24%. In addition to the increased risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, these populations also experience disproportionate levels of stigma and discrimination, which negatively impact their ability to access needed HIV prevention and treatment services. The limited available data suggest that intravenous drug use is not a major source of HIV transmission in the region.

### USAID Response

Under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and in coordination with other U.S. Government agencies, USAID supports Central American governments to more effectively and efficiently lead national and regional responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. This important multilateral partnership allows USAID to pool resources and coordinate initiatives across various actors and enables a more robust and effective response to the region's epidemic. USAID's Central America Regional HIV/AIDS Program is managed out of USAID/Guatemala, but includes activities in five Central American countries (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama) and regionally through the Regional Council of the Ministries of Health (COMISCA Spanish acronym).

USAID's work to combat HIV/AIDS is characterized by a highly integrated, multi-sector portfolio that works in an integrated continuum of care approach that include activities in prevention, strengthening health systems, use of strategic information and policy changes throughout Central America.

- USAID supports prevention interventions that focus on key populations and individuals engaged in high-risk sexual activities to control the spread of HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the region. Prevention efforts focus on a combined approach to increase condom use, improve social environment for vulnerable populations accessing HIV services, reduce the number of sexual partners, and increase access to high-quality, voluntary HIV and STI counseling, testing and treatment.
- USAID works in the region to build national capacity in service delivery, improving the knowledge and skills of health human resource workers, enhance the quality of care and treatment in HIV clinics, and increase the



linkage of people diagnosed HIV positive to care clinics and early initiation of treatment. Also working in effective use of strategic information at the local level regarding HIV/AIDS care, and timely and adequate provision of essential medical products.

- Given the importance of reliable information for tracking and monitoring HIV/AIDS rates in the Central America region, USAID supports national governments in improving data collection, data analysis and use of strategic information. USAID also strengthens the capacity of human resources in conducting monitoring and evaluation.
- In the area of policy change, USAID's activities focus on the implementation of country strategic plans and monitoring and evaluation, strengthening civil society organizations, implementing policy human rights advocacy agendas and improving implementation of the Global Fund projects.

### Principal Results and Accomplishments

- **Positive impacts on behavior change** – More than 25,000 members of key populations were reached with combination HIV prevention services in 2015, achieving 115% of the target. Safe sexual behaviors such as condom use and HIV testing are adopted at a significantly higher rate by people who have been exposed to USAID's HIV combination prevention programs. The social media strategy to find positive HIV people has found an unexpected number of hidden positive men who have sex with men with a prevalence of 9%.
- **Improved health services** – USAID's activities have improved the quality of services for people with HIV in 30 hospitals in five countries. USAID's activities trained more than 6,000 health personnel in HIV-related topics such as: quality of care, stigma and discrimination, monitoring and evaluation, biosecurity, and performance improvement.
- **Strengthened health systems** – The national supply chain of the Ministries of Health of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Panama have been strengthened to improve HIV programs. USAID also supported improved quality of HIV strategic information used for decision making.
- **Policy Environment** – USAID's efforts resulted in more than 130 positive HIV policy changes that include laws, rules and protocols updated, country and regional strategic plans adapted to the most recent UNAIDS and WHO guidance, and a basic packet of indicators to monitor the progress and results of the response to the epidemic.

### Principal Current Implementing Partners

Project Name	Implementing Partner	Duration
Comprehensive Care in Central America (CAPACITY Plus)	IntraHealth	April 26, 2011 – September 30, 2017
HIV/AIDS Combination Prevention Program for Central America	Population Services International (PSI)/ Pan American Social Marketing Organization (PASMO)	September 30, 2010 – September 29, 2017
Supply Chain Management	Partnership for Supply Chain Management	June 1, 2009 – September 30, 2017
Key Populations Knowledge Management on HIV/AIDS	University Research Corp.	May 2016 – Sept, 2017
PREVENSIDA	University Research Corp.	Sept.2010 – Sept.2017
LINKAGES	Family Health International	June 2015 – Dec.2016

