In recent years, Zambia has made significant progress in moving towards HIV epidemic control; however, additional actions are needed to prevent new HIV infections, especially among key and underserved populations. USAID Controlling HIV Epidemic for Key and Underserved Populations (CHEKUP I) is a five-year project designed to improve the health outcomes of Zambians by preventing new HIV infections among populations most at risk of acquiring HIV.

One of three USAID CHEKUP projects concurrently managed by the USAID/Zambia Health office, CHEKUP I is implemented in Zambia’s Copperbelt, Lusaka, North Western and Southern provinces. Collectively, the USAID CHEKUP projects seek to address the challenge of continued new HIV infections among priority and key populations in Zambia by providing evidence-based prevention initiatives in communities while working closely with health facilities.

- **Life of Project:** October 2021 – October 2026
- **Geographic Focus:** Copperbelt, Lusaka, North Western, and Southern provinces
- **Partner:** Centre for Disease Control and Research in Zambia (CIDRZ)
- **Chief of Party:** Maurice Musheke
- **Total USAID and PEPFAR Funding:** $45 million
- **USAID Contact:** Arlene Phiri - aphiri@usaid.gov
USAID CHEKUP I implements targeted HIV case-finding for individuals who are unknowingly living with HIV and links them to treatment. Priority populations served by the project include adolescent girls and young women (ages 9 to 24), adolescent boys and young men (ages 9 to 24), men (ages 25 to 34), people living with HIV, discordant couples, and mobile populations. The key populations served by this project are men who have sex with men, female sex workers, transgender people, and prisoners.

To reach these priority and key populations, the project employs high-impact strategies including targeted testing and linkage to treatment, condom promotion and distribution, initiatives for increased knowledge and risk perception, provision of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), scaled up combined approaches to HIV prevention, layered programming through Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-Free, Mentoried, and Safe (DREAMS) including social asset building (through the Stepping Stones curriculum which teaches AGYW about HIV, gender-based violence prevention, assertiveness, confidence building, etc.), family planning, PrEP, economic strengthening, etc., and increased partnerships with clinical partners to scale up recency testing (testing how recently someone was infected with HIV).

USAID CHEKUP I is guided by the following four objectives:

1. Identify and reach individuals at high risk of HIV infection in communities with high-impact HIV prevention services.
2. Utilize targeted testing strategies to find and link newly identified beneficiaries to HIV treatment and support services.
3. Build the capacity of communities and leverage community structures to implement evidence-based, high-impact strategies.
4. Build the capacity of local implementing partners to provide targeted, evidence-based HIV prevention services in line with USAID’s local ownership and sustainability plans.

**Expected Results**

- 662,000 members of priority populations reached with standardized, evidence-based outreach to promote the adoption of HIV prevention behaviors and use of services.
- 136,000 members of key populations reached with individual and/or small group-level HIV prevention interventions.
- 2.5 million male and female condoms distributed to end users.
- Over 43,000 key populations and 57,000 priority populations receive HIV testing services and test results.
- 500,000 beneficiaries served by the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) programs targeting orphans, vulnerable children, and families affected by HIV enrolled into the Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-Free, Mentoried, and SAFE (DREAMS) program.
- 490,000 adolescent girls and young women enrolled in DREAMS and graduated from a full, safe spaces program.