



HIV/AIDS

IntraHealth International is committed to the vision of an AIDS-free generation recognized by the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Although many challenges remain before this vision—no new children born with HIV—can become reality, efforts to strengthen the health workforce are one critical piece of the response to HIV/AIDS. Attention to health workforce issues is especially important in sub-Saharan Africa, where the combined impact of health worker shortages and AIDS threatens the ability of national health systems to fully function. IntraHealth's work builds the capacity of health care leaders, health workers, and communities to increase access to quality HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care services and maximize impact.

For more than 30 years, IntraHealth has worked with ministries of health and key stakeholders in countries around the globe to strengthen their health systems, including building their capacity to plan for, develop, and support the health workforces needed to offer quality health services leading to improved client health outcomes. Between October 2011 and September 2012, close to 900,000 people globally received HIV testing and counseling (HTC) services from health workers supported by IntraHealth, including almost half a million prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) clients. Nearly 9,000 HIV-positive individuals received antiretroviral therapy (ART), and almost 4,000 HIV-positive pregnant women received antiretroviral (ARV) prophylaxis.

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KEY APPROACHES

Our key competencies and approaches in HIV/AIDS include the following:

- Scaling up innovative HIV prevention strategies, including increasing access to and uptake of HTC, particularly in rural areas, through the use of community outreach workers and facility-based approaches such as provider-initiated testing and counseling (PITC); increasing the number of men and boys circumcised for HIV prevention; and focusing on women and girls to increase gender equality in HIV services.
- Supporting comprehensive HIV/AIDS clinical services through strategies such as integrating HIV/AIDS services with family planning and maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) services; increasing access to PMTCT services; bringing ART to hard-to-reach populations; offering palliative care; and addressing gender inequalities in health care and stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV (PLHIV).
- Building capacity and facilitating human resources for health (HRH) innovations, including designing national strategies to rapidly recruit and deploy health workers to deliver HIV/AIDS services; strengthening national policies and guidelines that support HIV service delivery; and supplying health sector leaders with information to track, manage, and plan the health workforce using IntraHealth's open-source iHRIS software.
- Optimizing the performance of health workers, organizations, and systems for quality service delivery by applying IntraHealth's highly successful Performance Improvement (PI) and Optimizing Performance and Quality (OPQ) tools.



COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Tanzania:** Over one million people have received HTC services since IntraHealth launched a highly productive PITC approach at hospitals, health centers, and dispensaries beginning in 2007. From late 2010, IntraHealth has reached over 150,000 men and boys with voluntary medical male circumcision services, far exceeding project goals.
- **Ethiopia:** IntraHealth's catalytic role scaling up and building demand for PMTCT services includes supporting PMTCT-MNCH service integration in a third of health facilities and introducing Option B+. IntraHealth provides key assistance for health worker PMTCT training, mentoring, and supportive supervision in five regions. IntraHealth has also established almost 200 peer support groups for HIV-positive mothers based on South Africa's Mothers2Mothers model (www.m2m.org). The successful groups have increased ARV prophylaxis uptake (96%–98% among pregnant mothers and infants).
- **Kenya:** IntraHealth has partnered with government and health sector leaders since 2009 to transform public, private, and faith-based health workforce systems to improve the quality of HIV/AIDS and other key health services. From 2012–2013, IntraHealth continued a rapid hire strategy that deployed and managed almost 1,000 health workers to provide comprehensive HIV/AIDS services, and supported pre-service education and in-service training for over 7,400 health workers.
- **Zambia:** IntraHealth has been strengthening HTC services since 2007, with over 165,000 individuals obtaining HTC and over 7,000 PLHIV receiving positive health, dignity, and prevention packages. To increase access in rural districts where health workers are scarce, one activity trains community-based lay counselors (145 new counselors trained since 2012) who provide door-to-door HTC in remote villages.
- **Namibia:** IntraHealth is building faith-based organizations' capacity to offer quality comprehensive HTC and PMTCT services. Introducing the PI approach improved ARV prophylaxis uptake (from 70% to 100%) and increased demand for male circumcision (from 1–2 to > 20/month in one town). IntraHealth helped develop the government's bidirectional referral system guidelines to ensure appropriate follow-up, orienting seven regions (50%) covering about 70 facilities and documenting significant improvements in client follow-up six months later.
- **South Sudan:** IntraHealth has worked with the government to increase access to HTC and PMTCT services and is enhancing capacity to generate, collect, manage, disseminate, and use high-quality information for data-driven decision-making and effective management of HIV-related resources and programs. IntraHealth assisted with the country's first HIV strategic information and capacity-building plan.
- **Uganda:** IntraHealth is increasing the capacity of ministries, districts, and professional councils to manage human resources for health and HIV/AIDS services. IntraHealth is helping the Ministry of Health and private entities hire over 170 health workers to provide HIV/AIDS services in 13 northern districts.
- **Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Panama:** Using the OPQ tool, IntraHealth has strengthened health worker performance for HIV/AIDS services in 58 hospitals. IntraHealth is also applying OPQ to over 20 multisectoral HIV continuum of care networks and is using the *Learning for Performance* methodology to improve pre-service education and in-service training. In El Salvador and Guatemala, IntraHealth has drawn on innovative mHealth solutions to provide HIV/AIDS training to health workers.

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