



IntraHealth
INTERNATIONAL
Because Health Workers Save Lives.



NAMIBIA

Since its independence from South Africa in 1990, Namibia has developed into an upper middle-income country. But most of its people continue to live in poverty. HIV prevalence—much improved from its peak of 22% in 2002—is still 17.2% among pregnant women and 13% among the general population.

Now Namibia faces a new challenge: as foreign aid to the country decreases, the government must allocate more resources to sustain HIV programs and its health workforce. Namibia's government is committed to its national HIV/AIDS response and is increasing domestic funding, even in the midst of its economic crisis. But the health system has too few adequately trained health workers, especially in hard-to-reach areas.

Since 2006, IntraHealth International has worked with the Namibian government and local partners to make HIV counseling, testing, prevention, care, and treatment services more widely available. IntraHealth provides training, mentoring, and supportive supervision to help health workers deliver high-quality, comprehensive health services. By collaborating with Namibian partners, IntraHealth also strengthens local institutions' financial, human resources, and management systems.

IntraHealth Namibia, established in 2014, is a local entity (section 21 company) that supports and assists the government of Namibia and local institutions as they build the capacity of Namibia's human resources for health and client-level data systems.

USAID HIV Clinical Services Technical Assistance Project (UTAP) (2015–2019)

Funded by the US Agency for International Development, UTAP expands HIV prevention, care, and treatment services to areas of high HIV burden (designated as PEPFAR priority regions and hotspot sites). UTAP is helping achieve HIV epidemic control in Namibia by carrying out the following initiatives in seven geographic regions:



139,000+ individuals received HIV test results



36,600+ adults and children enrolled in antiretroviral therapy



10,600+ HIV-positive pregnant women on antiretroviral therapy

- Expanding services to address unmet need for antiretroviral therapy (ART) by targeting facility-based HIV prevention/testing services and linkages to care
- Improving early initiation of ART, adherence, and retention among persons living with HIV to achieve viral load suppression
- Improving the quality of clinical care using standardized tools
- Generating real-time, high-quality data at health facilities for decision-making
- Providing clinical training and mentorship for health workers
- Applying differentiated care and treatment models based on client needs and preferences
- Decentralizing HIV services to primary health care facilities
- Developing and implementing community-based ART models

To raise public awareness and understanding of health issues in Namibia, IntraHealth is collaborating with the Ministry of Health and Social Services and faith-based organizations to produce radio and television segments offered in several vernacular languages. These campaigns empower local Namibian communities with information on HIV, including why it is important to know one's status, how to prevent HIV transmission, how to access and adhere to HIV treatment, and healthful behaviors for adolescents and young adults.

To improve the collection, analysis, and use of data for decision-making and advocacy in Namibia, IntraHealth Namibia is redesigning the electronic patient management systems used to track client outcomes in Namibia. The redesigned system will also enable data exchange with other health information systems.

Workload Indicators of Staffing Need in Namibia

In 2013, IntraHealth worked with the Ministry of Health and Social Services to help Namibia become the first country to conduct a national assessment using the World Health Organization tool, Workload Indicators of Staffing Needs.

After piloting the methodology in one region, IntraHealth helped update staffing norms for health

facilities nationwide in public and faith-based facilities. The ministry has found WISN observations to be invaluable to their understanding of health workforce needs, and are using the results in policy decisions and to advocate for financial resources.

The ministry will use WISN data to revise staffing norms, improve staffing equity across regions and facility types, ensure an appropriate skill mix at each service level, and estimate workforce requirements for new cadres.

4Children Project & the Global Health Supply Chain – Procurement and Supply Management

In Namibia, IntraHealth is partnering with other international NGOs to implement global USAID projects, including the Coordinating Comprehensive Care for Children (4Children) project, which improves health and well-being for orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV.

IntraHealth is also partnering with Chemonics to implement the Procurement and Supply (PSM) project in Namibia. PSM works with the ministry to improve national supply chains for essential health commodities.

Past projects and funders

- CapacityPlus, 2012–2015 (USAID)
- Capacity Building for Country-Owned HIV/AIDS Services, 2008–2014 (USAID)
- The Capacity Project, 2006–2008 (USAID)
- The Southern Africa Human Capacity Development Coalition, 2006–2009 (USAID)

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