



SOUTH SUDAN

Compared to other parts of sub-Saharan Africa, HIV prevalence is relatively low in South Sudan at 2.6% (although it is much higher in some border areas). After a historic referendum for independence, this region became the world's youngest nation in 2011, opening it to steady commercial traffic, migration, and displaced people returning home. But peace and stability remain elusive. An outbreak of internal conflict that began in December 2013 created new waves of displacement and migration.

In collaboration with governmental and nongovernmental agencies, IntraHealth International is working to prevent a potential spike in new HIV infections by improving access to HIV prevention information services and high-quality medical care to people living with HIV.

Preventing and Reducing the Impact of HIV

In 2005, after being granted autonomy through a peace agreement, South Sudan commissioned its military force, the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), to manage work on HIV prevention, testing, and treatment for the army and local communities. IntraHealth worked with the SPLA HIV/AIDS Secretariat, the Ministry of Health (MOH), International Medical Corps, Merlin (now Save the Children), and the St. Bakhita Health Centre to prevent the epidemic's spread by making high-quality HIV services more widely available in the states of Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, and Lakes states. Currently, IntraHealth works under the Preventing and Reducing the Impact of HIV in South Sudan project, funded by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to:

- Integrate HIV prevention and treatment services with existing health care facility services for women and children to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission
- Increase early detection of HIV in positive individuals through provider initiated testing and counseling (PITC) services
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Health to develop better policies, guidelines, and training materials that support health workers to provide HIV counseling, testing, and treatment.



132,000 people counseled and tested for HIV at 31 health facilities



1,000 women received antiretroviral therapy to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission



275,000 people educated about HIV



The project also trains health workers to offer HIV counseling, testing, and education. After the training, the project monitors the trainees through follow-up supportive supervision visits and assessments to ensure that they are providing high-quality services. Additionally, the project helps health care administrators effectively monitor and evaluate their programs.

Between 2009 and 2014, IntraHealth, working with government and NGO partners on this project, has:

- Provided HIV testing and counseling services to 132,000 people at 31 health facilities
- Trained 152 new HIV counseling and testing providers, including 106 individuals who were trained as PITC providers
- Conducted refresher training for 10 PMTCT providers on new Option B+ guidelines
- Trained 17 health workers as site supervisors
- Counseled and tested more than 28,800 pregnant women for HIV and provided nearly 1,000 women with antiretroviral therapy to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission
- Enrolled over 13,300 people living with HIV in programs where they receive counseling and care to prevent the spread of the virus
- Educated more than 270,000 people about HIV
- Distributed more than 6.8 million male and female condoms.

Strengthening System Capacity and Data Collection with a Focus on Strategic Information in South Sudan

IntraHealth is working in partnership with South Sudan's Ministry of Health and the South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics to strengthen the government's capacity to

regularly generate, collect, manage, and analyze high-quality data about HIV and other health issues to inform policies and decisions. Since 2012, this project has:

- Made more strategic information on HIV in the country available by reviewing all national HIV data collection and reporting tools, conducting surveillance and evaluation surveys and a baseline assessment on strategic information gaps related to HIV/AIDS, and preparing high quality technical publications and epidemiological profiles
- Developed a Strategic Information Capacity Strengthening plan and a national health systems strengthening/health management information system strategic plan
- Trained monitoring and evaluation officers and MOH staff on HIV data collection, analysis, interpretation, and use.

These two projects are under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and funded by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and build upon IntraHealth's earlier successes and collaborations with the South Sudan AIDS Commission and the Ministry of Health.

Past Projects

- Department of Defense HIV/AIDS Prevention Program (DHAPP), 2012-2013
- The Capacity Project (funded by USAID, led by IntraHealth), 2004-2009
- The Provision of Prevention and Awareness Services among Uniformed Cadres in the Fight against HIV/AIDS in Southern Sudan (funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, led by IntraHealth), 2008-2009

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