HIV/AIDS

IntraHealth International is committed to achieving an AIDS-free generation by 2030—and we believe health workers are the key to making this vision a reality. That’s why we focus on health workers and the systems that support them as we tackle each hurdle that remains between us and the end of the epidemic. In 2017 alone, more than 1,375,000 people received HIV testing and counseling services from health workers supported by IntraHealth; nearly 140,000 HIV-positive individuals were provided with antiretroviral therapy (ART); and almost 240,000 men and boys were voluntarily circumcised to reduce their risk of contracting HIV.

KEY APPROACHES

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

• Scaling up HIV prevention strategies, including provider-initiated testing and counseling, voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC), index case testing, pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis, and gender equality in HIV services

• Supporting comprehensive HIV/AIDS care through service integration; prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT); ART, including bringing ART to hard-to-reach and key populations (e.g., female sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender individuals, inmates); and addressing stigma and discrimination

• Facilitating human resources for health (HRH) innovations, including helping to design 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 critical health workforce data using our iHRIS software and other tools

• Maximizing the performance of health workers, organizations, and systems for quality service delivery by applying our Optimizing Performance and Quality (OPQ) approach

• Developing and adapting digital health solutions to enable informed health workforce decision-making, enhanced client support (e.g., for ART adherence and feedback on service quality), and easier access to learning resources for health workers

• Strengthening the social service workforce to support resilient families and care for orphans and vulnerable children in the context of HIV and AIDS.
**HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT WORK**

- **Tanzania:** IntraHealth is assisting the government to scale up a comprehensive package of VMMC services among adolescents and adult men. Over 800,000 men and boys have opted for the procedure at static and mobile sites, with HIV testing offered to all clients. GIS mapping and input from community experts are used to identify geographies with large numbers of uncircumcised men for targeted service delivery.

- **Namibia:** In support of the country's progress toward HIV epidemic control, IntraHealth is improving the quality and sustainability of integrated HIV care and treatment services. Technical assistance to make services more efficient has included helping Namibia become the first country to conduct a national assessment using the World Health Organization’s Workload Indicators of Staffing Need tool, expanding nurse-initiated management of ART, and introducing differentiated care models for stable ART clients to reduce congestion at primary care facilities and hospitals. Through our work, over 36,600 clients have enrolled in ART.

- **Uganda:** IntraHealth is working with the government nationally to address health workforce challenges and strengthen health systems and regionally in Eastern Uganda to expand access to high-quality integrated health services, including HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment. We’ve worked to increase filled positions in the health sector (from 53% in 2009 to 73% in 2017), reduce unapproved health worker absenteeism (from 50% in 2015 to 12% in 2017), and recruit workers to fill gaps in HIV high-volume facilities.

- **Zambia:** From 2012-18 IntraHealth built local capacity in three provinces to provide quality, accessible HIV testing services (HTS), including for key populations, working in part through trained lay providers and social behavior change promoters in communities. Through this work, almost 739,000 Zambians received HTS and their test results (including 70,000 members of key populations), with 66,500 individuals (87% of those testing HIV-positive) initiated on ART.

- **Kenya:** IntraHealth is supporting strengthened HRH systems at the national and county levels. Focus areas include building the health workforce in 27 counties with high HIV disease burden and transforming health professional education and training systems. The Afya Elimu Fund, a public-private partnership established with IntraHealth’s support, has provided tuition fee loans to over 18,000 health professional students, emphasizing cadres critical for HIV/AIDS services.

- **South Sudan:** IntraHealth collaborates with governmental and nongovernmental agencies to prevent a spike in new HIV infections by improving access to HIV prevention services (including for key populations) and strategic information, and to high-quality medical care for people living with HIV. Our programs have provided HIV counseling and testing services to more than 250,000 people, including over 5,000 female sex workers.

- **Central America:** IntraHealth has strengthened hospital and health worker performance for HIV/AIDS services in five countries (Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama), using the OPQ approach in 100 hospitals, 37 HIV clinics, and 65 health centers, and supporting training of over 10,000 health workers in HIV counseling and testing, stigma and discrimination prevention, and other performance areas. In 2017, 93% of HIV-positive clients at supported facilities reported discrimination-free care.

- **Global:** As a partner in the LINKAGES project led by FHI 360, IntraHealth supports the Health4All campaign to champion and ensure stigma-free, rights-based, high-quality services for key populations. Since 2016, more than 760 health workers have been trained in Health4All, and 14 countries in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean have implemented at least one component of the campaign.

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**CONTACT**
Kate Stratten
*Director for Southern Africa Programs*
kstratten@intrahealth.org

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