

## Jhpiego in Zambia

### Quick Facts

**Estimated total population:**<sup>1</sup>  
15.5 million

**Maternal mortality ratio:**<sup>2</sup>  
398/100,000 live births

**Infant mortality rate:**<sup>2</sup>  
45/1,000 live births

**Under-five mortality rate:**<sup>2</sup>  
75/1,000 live births

**Total fertility rate:**<sup>2</sup>  
5.3

**Contraceptive prevalence:**<sup>2</sup>  
44.8% (modern methods)  
49% (all methods)

**HIV prevalence:**<sup>2</sup>  
13%

**Births with skilled provider:**<sup>2</sup>  
68.6%

Sources:

<sup>1</sup> Population Reference Bureau  
2015 *World Population Data Sheet*;

<sup>2</sup> *Zambia Demographic and Health Survey 2013–14*;

### Background

Zambia has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world. While scale-up of HIV/AIDS care and treatment programs in Zambia has rapidly expanded the number of facilities and health care workers providing these services, there is an increasing need for skilled health care providers due to the high burden of disease caused by HIV and other infectious diseases, the number of health workers becoming ill and the “brain drain” pulling trained personnel away from the health sector. Tuberculosis (TB) is also a major issue, with high rates of HIV and TB co-infection resulting in TB being one of the leading causes of death among people living with HIV/AIDS. Given the mounting evidence that male circumcision substantially reduces the risk of female-to-male HIV transmission, demand for male circumcision services is on the rise in Zambia, with the 2013–14 Demographic and Health Survey reporting 22% of males aged 15–49 being circumcised as compared to 12.8% in 2007.

Jhpiego has worked in Zambia since 1999, implementing programs with a diverse portfolio of donors, including the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and others. Jhpiego has been at the forefront of collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MOH) on important initiatives. These initiatives have included updating and scaling up postabortion care services; incorporating family planning (FP) and a strong component on infection prevention that later served as the basis for national infection prevention guidelines; and leading the revision and strengthening of the midwifery education program and piloting of key, high-impact interventions such as active management of the third stage of labor to prevent postpartum hemorrhage. In 2003, Jhpiego’s first voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) program was launched at three health facilities in Lusaka with USAID funding; the reference manual and training materials developed for this program subsequently formed the basis for the international consensus document *Male Circumcision under Local Anaesthesia* published by the World Health Organization, UNAIDS and Jhpiego in 2008. In addition, from 2005 to 2009, Jhpiego partnered with Abt Associates on USAID’s Health Services and Systems Program, rolling out in-service training in emergency obstetric care/postabortion care and the two-rod contraceptive implant.

Jhpiego has worked with CDC in Zambia since 2004 to partner closely with the MOH and Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health (MCDMCH) to strengthen service delivery and capacity building of interventions such as VMMC, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) including Option B+, HIV testing and counseling (HTC), antiretroviral therapy (ART), TB and HIV integration, and an electronic health record system called SmartCare. Support has resulted in more than 195,000 (approximately 25% of the national total) male circumcisions conducted, leading to an estimated 24,375 number of new HIV infections being averted by 2025. Other results include significant increases in HTC uptake and post-operative visits, more than 1,000 health care providers trained in different aspects of VMMC and over 1,700 trained in various TB/HIV/PMTCT/HCT-related skills.



In Zambia, Jhpiego has also been funded by DOD since 2005 to rapidly expand HIV services within the Zambia Defense Force (ZDF) health facilities. From 2009 to 2012, Jhpiego worked with 20 ZDF health facilities across the country. Since 2013, Jhpiego has supported 14 ZDF health units from Eastern, Southern and Western Provinces to expand HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment services including capacity building to deliver comprehensive HIV services in ART, PMTCT, TB/HIV, integrating counseling and testing into palliative care, strengthening and expanding VMMC services, and strengthening health systems to address human resource gaps. As a result, more than 14,400 pregnant women accessed testing and counseling through antenatal care, with approximately 70% receiving antiretroviral drugs for PMTCT. In addition, more than 12,503 males were circumcised to reduce the risk of HIV transmission, over 4,000 HIV-positive individuals were newly initiated on ART and 488 providers were trained to provide PMTCT services.

From 2013 to 2015, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation supported Jhpiego to rapidly expand access to long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) and increase method choice by accelerating the availability of implants and improving the quality of service provision. The project supported 36 public health facilities in Copperbelt and Luapula Provinces and trained 21 trainers and 116 health care workers in implant and IUD services. The attrition of trained service providers led to more being trained as replacements as well as to the training of 38 mentors who conducted on-the-job training within and outside their facilities. The project also trained 180 community volunteers to promote the uptake of LARC services at all 36 health facilities (five per facility). Furthermore, Jhpiego was one of the key FP partners contributing to the final draft of a national training plan along with the MCDMCH and other partners including Boston University, Society for Family Health, Marie Stopes International and the Scaling Up Access to Family Planning Services Project. As a result of successful advocacy, an addendum was inserted into the National FP Scale-Up Plan to include implants, and was launched by the First Lady.

Until 2015, Jhpiego also worked in Zambia under USAID's Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP) and Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) to support the *Saving Mothers, Giving Life* (SMGL) programs in seven selected target districts by increasing the availability and use of high-impact maternal health services, particularly in the labor/delivery and immediate postpartum periods. MCSP was also designated as the primary emergency obstetric and neonatal care and essential newborn care clinical implementing partner for the districts of Mansa, Samfya and Kabwe.

## Current Program Highlights

### Training and Capacity Building to Deliver HIV Services

In April 2015, Jhpiego was awarded a five-year project under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through CDC. The project seeks to improve the health care, health status and quality of life for the Zambian population through the two main intervention areas of training/capacity building and VMMC service delivery, with a geographical focus on Southern, Lusaka, Western and Eastern Provinces.

The VMMC component of the project is supporting the Government of the Republic of Zambia in reducing HIV-related morbidity and mortality by increasing national VMMC prevalence through expanding availability and accessibility of VMMC services, improving quality and efficiency, and building necessary capacity at all levels. To meet this goal, Jhpiego is employing the following strategies: 1) increasing the coverage of high-quality VMMC services to reach 80% of the target population in targeted districts with a focus on hard-to-reach populations; 2) strengthening VMMC quality per PEPFAR/World Health Organization (WHO) and Zambian national guidelines through establishment of quality assurance/quality improvement standards and systems and adverse event surveillance; and 3) building capacity of government health workers to confidently deliver up-to-date, high-quality VMMC services through innovative training approaches and on-site mentorship and support.

The training and capacity-building component of the project focuses on building and maintaining a competent workforce to deliver high-quality services encompassing a wide range of technical areas such as TB/HIV, PMTCT and ART through establishment of an operational, district-based, in-service training system that follows a blended learning approach including eLearning. The project is also developing an on-site clinical mentorship to improve and maintain health care providers' competency to deliver high-quality HIV services.

## Strengthening HIV/AIDS Clinical Prevention within the ZDF

In 2014, Jhpiego began implementing a two-year, DOD-funded project, “Strengthening HIV/AIDS Clinical Prevention within the ZDF,” which builds on the successes of previous projects with ZDF. This project, focusing on 14 health facilities in Eastern, Southern and Western Provinces, continues support in expanding HIV/AIDS services. In addition to a strong focus on integration, highlights of current programming include:

- Supporting rollout and operationalization of ART consolidated guidelines for Option B+ at targeted ZDF sites and increasing access and adherence to ART during maternal care for all women living with HIV.
- Establishing a communication system using SMS technology to accelerate the return of HIV test results to strengthen early infant diagnosis of HIV for exposed babies.
- Strengthening TB screening by introducing intensified case finding and establishment of additional TB diagnostic centers.
- Maintaining high levels of VMMC services through sustained, targeted demand creation and mobile/outreach for VMMC services at six sites. Currently, 4,421 men and boys have been circumcised since the program began.
- Addressing critical human resource gaps through technical support and development of a sustainable training system within the Defense School of Health Sciences (DSHS) that produces qualified Military Medical Assistants, Laboratory Assistants, Pharmacy Assistants and Registered Nurses.
- Establishing Data Associates at all 14 sites to strengthen monitoring and evaluation, improve quality and frequency of recorded data and facilitate increased data analysis and use for decision-making.



Male circumcision training course.

## Strengthening Integration of FP Services and Cervical Cancer Screening with HIV/AIDS Clinical Prevention within the ZDF

Under this DOD-funded project, Jhpiego is working to support ZDF sites to integrate FP/HIV services in all of the 14 ZDF sites of Southern, Western and Eastern Provinces. Interventions to ensure this integration include: 1) conducting baseline assessments to ascertain needs for integrating FP and cervical cancer prevention with HIV services; 2) training ZDF providers in LARC services; 3) training providers in cervical cancer screening using the single visit approach; 4) procuring and distributing LARC kits and commodities/supplies for cervical cancer prevention services; 5) strengthening logistics management systems for FP commodities and consumables; and 6) providing supportive supervision to the ZDF sites on a monthly basis.

## Program for the Advancement of Malaria Outcomes

Since 2015, Jhpiego has been a subawardee to PATH under USAID’s five-year Program for Advancement of Malaria Outcomes, which seeks to reduce illness and mortality due to malaria by addressing key challenges in malaria prevention and treatment. This will be accomplished by three priority program objectives: 1) support proven malaria interventions in alignment with the National Malaria Strategic Plan; 2) strengthen management capacity of provincial and district MOH/MCDMCH personnel to provide oversight/supervision of malaria interventions; and 3) strengthen the Health Management Information System at the provincial and district levels to improve data reporting, analysis and use for decision-making. Under this program, Jhpiego is leading efforts to increase delivery of intermittent preventive treatment of malaria during pregnancy using sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine as part of an integrated package of antenatal services through training and mentorship on focused antenatal care and malaria in pregnancy as well as district case management in four provinces.

## Safe Motherhood 360+

In 2015, Jhpiego was awarded a role on the Safe Motherhood 360+ program funded by USAID, as a subrecipient to local organization Churches Health Association of Zambia. The five-year project, which implements Phase II of the SMGL initiative, is undertaking key activities in five SMGL districts of Zambia that promote high-impact interventions aimed at the critical 48-hour period around labor and delivery. These interventions will result in reductions in the “three delays” commonly associated with maternal mortality: delay in seeking care, delay in reaching care and delay in receiving care. Project interventions will ultimately contribute to a 35% reduction in maternal mortality and 35% reduction in neonatal mortality and the goal of improving the health status of Zambians.

Interventions include: 1) increasing demand for antenatal care, institutional delivery and postnatal care in communities; 2) strengthening health care providers' capacity to deliver high-quality care through intensive training and mentorship; 3) strengthening health systems providing high-quality institutional delivery services; 4) providing an integrated package of services as a "one-stop shop" at facilities to avoid missed opportunities; and 5) identifying and overcoming barriers to access to skilled birth attendance at the facility level.

## Key Accomplishments

Since beginning its work in Zambia, Jhpiego has supported the MOH and ZDF in numerous areas to improve health systems and services. For example, Jhpiego supported the development and implementation of a national PMTCT training package in accordance with the country's service delivery guidelines. Jhpiego has also taken the lead to assist the MOH in training service providers and clinical trainers in PMTCT in all nine provinces, and in strengthening linkages between PMTCT programs and HIV/AIDS care and treatment programs, thereby improving access of HIV-positive women and their families to the continuum of HIV/AIDS clinical care, including ART.

Some of Jhpiego/Zambia's achievements under current programs include:

- Under the current CDC award, as of September 2015, Jhpiego-supported sites performed 29,319 circumcisions, with an adverse event rate of less than 2%.
- Key achievements under the DOD-funded "Strengthening HIV/AIDS Clinical Prevention within the ZDF" project include:
  - Supported the successful rollout and operationalization of ART guidelines for PMTCT Option B+ at targeted ZDF sites and increased access and adherence to ART during maternal care for all women living with HIV;
  - Established a communication system using SMS technology to accelerate HIV testing results return to strengthen early infant diagnosis for HIV-exposed babies;
  - Strengthened TB screening by introducing intensified case finding and establishing additional TB diagnostic centers; and
  - Maintained high levels of VMMC services through sustained, targeted demand creation and mobile/outreach for VMMC services at six sites, thereby providing safe circumcisions to 11,722 men and boys.
- Under the DOD-funded award for integrating FP and cervical cancer prevention with HIV services, four cervical cancer prevention service delivery sites have been established, resulting in 3,485 women being screened using the single visit approach from March to December 2015. Of those screened, 100% of women who had cervical lesions and were eligible for cryotherapy received treatment on the same day. Additionally, 40 providers have been trained in LARC and 11 providers in cervical cancer screening. Since March 2015, there have been 1,987 new acceptors of modern contraception and 4,901 maintaining a modern FP method.
- Under MCHIP, Jhpiego/Zambia supported training in emergency obstetric and neonatal care for over 90% of labor/delivery providers in Mansa District. As a result, all 32 facilities that provide delivery services in Mansa have at least one trained provider who can apply his/her skills and bring lifesaving services closer to the community and the home.

## Partners and Donors

- Jhpiego collaborates closely with the Government of the Republic of Zambia, including the MOH and the ZDF, as well as a variety of local organizations and institutions, including the Community-Based TB/HIV Organization and the Zambia White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood.
- Jhpiego's current U.S. Government donors in Zambia are CDC, DOD and USAID.
- Other collaborating partners include: PATH, Churches Health Association of Zambia, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Centre for Infectious Disease Research and the University of Maryland.

## References

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