

# HIV Testing Services

## An Opportunity for Linkage to Prevention and Treatment

### Innovations in Counseling and Testing

- Providing testing and counseling services to orphans and vulnerable children as well as to their caregivers is an innovative strategy that is being used in **Kenya**. Testing and counseling allows both members of this dyad to know their status and links them to care, if appropriate. Referral and linkage to care is vital for keeping these clients—not only the children, but also their caregivers—alive and healthy.
- In **Tanzania and Kenya**, the use of outreach services—set up temporarily at bars and other social venues—expands access to males and reaches at-risk individuals.

### Background

Despite a 33% decline in new HIV infections since 2005, as of 2012, 2.3 million new HIV infections were still occurring annually, with 1.6 million of these in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>1</sup> HIV testing services (HTS) continue to be the critical entry point to lifesaving care and treatment for people who test positive for HIV. HTS is also an important step for people who test negative so that they can be counseled on how to remain disease-free.

In addition to making clients aware of their HIV status, HTS provides them with an opportunity to:

- Identify ways to prevent becoming infected
- Discuss how to prevent infecting their sexual partner(s)
- Discuss options and ways to disclose their status to their partner(s)
- Be linked to HIV resources, including life-saving care and treatment
- Be screened for other infections or diseases, including tuberculosis (TB) and diabetes
- Be referred to additional services such as voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) or cervical cancer screening

### Jhpiego's HIV Testing Services Programs

Jhpiego partners with governments and nongovernmental organizations to establish, expand, and improve the quality of HTS. As with all Jhpiego activities, the core principles of ensuring country ownership, strengthening existing health systems, and providing continuous quality improvement apply to all HTS programs. Jhpiego also integrates HTS through its varied programs (for example, offering HTS along with cervical cancer screening, VMMC, family planning, and maternal and child health services).

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) have recommended use of Provider-Initiated Testing and Counseling (PITC) to increase uptake and improve access to HIV prevention, treatment, and care. As a global leader in the provision of

<sup>1</sup> Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). *Global Report: UNAIDS report on the global AIDS epidemic 2013*. UNAIDS: Geneva, Switzerland. Accessed July 2015 at [http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media\\_asset/UNAIDS\\_Global\\_Report\\_2013\\_en\\_1.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/UNAIDS_Global_Report_2013_en_1.pdf).

education and training programs, Jhpiego has been working in several countries to implement these recommendations by training counselors and clinicians in HTS and rolling out PITC programs.

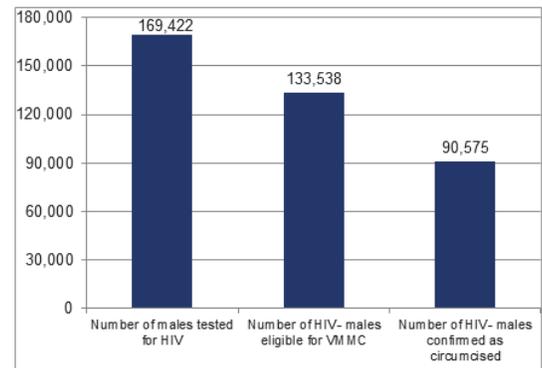
Between 2011 and 2014, through Jhpiego's HTS programs, 6.4 million individuals received testing and counseling services and received their test results. A few of Jhpiego's HTS programs are highlighted below:

### Tanzania

- Awarded by the United States Agency for International Development in February 2015, Sauti za Watanzania (Sauti-TZ) is a consolidated follow-on award of several previous investments in interventions for HTS, gender-based violence (GBV), youth HIV, mobile men, and other key and vulnerable populations.
- Over the next five years, Sauti-TZ will implement an ambitious, benchmarked saturation plan that will result in at least 80% coverage for key (sex workers and men who have sex with men) and vulnerable (vulnerable young women aged 15–24, clients of sex workers, and men in mobile occupations) populations with a core package of population-specific integrated biomedical, behavioral, and structural HIV prevention and family planning services in selected hotspots.

### Mozambique

- From September 2008 to March 2015, Jhpiego used a Community Counseling and Testing (CCT) model to provide HTS and other screening programs to over 1.5 million people.
- Within its HTS, the program integrates screening for TB, for non-communicable diseases (such as hypertension and diabetes), and for GBV. The CCT model uses community counselors to test and counsel communities for HIV and the other integrated services.
- The counselors also ensure appropriate linkages and referrals. Counselors refer all eligible men for male circumcision; ensure that persons with signs or symptoms of TB receive diagnosis and treatment, if indicated; and inform, screen, and refer all survivors of physical or sexual abuse.
- The counselors are also working toward an HIV-free generation by identifying, testing, referring, and following up all HIV-positive pregnant women and discordant couples.



Voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) uptake among eligible HIV-negative men referred from HTS in Mozambique, where two-thirds of eligible men took up VMMC services.

### Kenya

- In 2014, the APHIA<sup>PLUS</sup> KAMILI program provided HTS to 90,374 clients. Program data show that outreaches are more effective at drawing in clients than static site services, contributing over 96% of all clients.