

## Innovation and Leadership— Jhpiego's Role in the Fight against HIV

United Nations Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 6 calls for halting and reversing the spread of HIV and tuberculosis (TB) by 2015. Although progress is being made, the HIV epidemic continues to devastate countless lives—especially in low- and middle-income countries, where HIV/AIDS has placed an enormous burden on already strained health care systems and a dwindling health workforce, and where more than 90% of the world's HIV-infected population lives.<sup>1</sup>

The MDGs related to maternal health and child mortality call for a 66% reduction in the under-five mortality rate (MDG 4) and a 75% reduction in the maternal mortality ratio (MDG 5) between 1990 and 2015. Success in meeting these goals, particularly in Africa, depends on advancement toward MDG 6, because HIV contributes significantly to both maternal and childhood morbidity and mortality. Despite the daunting challenges, Jhpiego is committed to making steady, measurable progress toward these goals.

### What Jhpiego Is Doing

Jhpiego, an international health organization affiliated with The Johns Hopkins University, is recognized as a global leader in strengthening health systems for high-quality service delivery for women and families in limited-resource settings. For more than 15 years, Jhpiego has brought evidence-based innovations to the prevention, care, and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. As a key implementing partner in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR),<sup>2</sup> Jhpiego works with ministries of health (MOHs), defense force health systems, national AIDS programs, educational institutions, nongovernmental organizations, professional associations, and faith- and community-based organizations to implement HIV prevention, care, and treatment initiatives. Our technical and programming expertise in HIV includes:

- **Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT)** of HIV through support for interventions that: 1) prevent new HIV infections in women, 2) ensure that HIV-positive women have access to family planning services, and 3) ensure that pregnant women living with HIV have access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) for themselves, if they need it, and to antiretroviral prophylaxis to prevent transmission to their infants
- **HIV testing services (HTS)**, the gateway to comprehensive HIV prevention, care, and treatment for people who test positive, and to evidence-based prevention for those who test negative
- **Voluntary medical male circumcision**, which has been shown to reduce the risk of female-to-male HIV transmission by approximately 60% and which serves as an entry point to engage men, who have traditionally been underserved, in HIV testing and linkage to care



Photo by A. Marranguene/Jhpiego

Through Jhpiego's community- and home-based model of HIV testing and counseling in **Mozambique**, more than 1.5 million people have received HIV testing and counseling.

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Children's Fund. 2006. *Women and Children: The Double Dividend of Gender Equality. The State of the World's Children 2007*. New York: UNICEF. Available at: [www.unicef.org/publications/index\\_36587.html](http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_36587.html).

<sup>2</sup> With funding from and in collaboration with major international health organizations, such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as from private corporations and foundations such as GlaxoSmithKline, Pfizer, Wallace Global Fund, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

- **TB and HIV prevention, care, and treatment** through assistance to governments to address this dual epidemic from the national policy level to community level implementation, emphasizing patient-centered care
- **Prevention of transmission of HIV, other blood-borne diseases, and TB** by institutionalizing appropriate infection prevention and control practices in the healthcare setting
- **Support of HIV care and treatment scale-up** through direct service delivery efforts as well as support to pre-service education and in-service training to ensure that health care workers are ready and able to provide quality HIV care to their patients
- **Integration of comprehensive HIV/AIDS services** with primary care services, including cervical cancer, malaria in pregnancy, family planning, and maternal and child health services, to contribute to the goal of universal access to HIV prevention, care, and treatment services closer to where people live

### Highlights from Jhpiego's HIV Portfolio

Jhpiego adapts best practices and cutting-edge research to real-world situations, applying innovative methods in programmatic areas such as human capacity-building, performance and quality improvement, and policy and guidelines development. Below are some highlights from our ongoing efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS:

- In Kenya, Jhpiego leads the *APHIAPLUS KAMILI* project, which integrates HIV care and treatment services with antenatal care—including opt-out counseling and testing for all pregnant women, partner testing, WHO clinical staging plus CD4 testing, opportunistic prophylaxis, ART, and infant follow-up. During the period from October 2013 to September 2014, more than 360,318 individuals were tested for HIV. Between April and June 2014, 19,544 pregnant women were tested and counseled for HIV. In total, the project identified and tested 88,732 expectant mothers for HIV, reaching 95% of the intended target for 2014. During this same timeframe, 29,606 HIV-positive individuals were identified and placed on ART, surpassing the annual target at 103%.
- In **Mozambique**, Jhpiego has scaled up a community- and home-based model of HIV testing and counseling. As of March 2015, 1,272,368 of these individuals were tested for HIV, with traced linkage to care and treatment for those testing positive and linkage to voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) for men testing HIV-negative.
- Jhpiego is working with the MOHs in **Angola, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Sudan, and Zambia** to support the rollout of Option B+: a prevention of mother-to-child transmission option in which pregnant or breastfeeding women are initiated on lifelong ART for their own health and to reduce the likelihood of onward transmission to children and sexual partners. Since its first pioneering VMMC pilot project in 2003, Jhpiego has played a leadership role in the VMMC scale-up,<sup>3</sup> implementing in **Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Zambia**. As of April 2015, Jhpiego has supported more than 1.5 million VMMCs in these 12 countries—roughly 20% of the global achievement.
- In **Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zambia**, Jhpiego has provided technical assistance to nursing education institutions to ensure that new graduates are able to provide high-quality TB and HIV prevention, care, and treatment services.
- In **Côte d'Ivoire**, Jhpiego is directly supporting the provision of cervical cancer screening and treatment services at 20 health facilities. As of March 2015, 20,378 women had been screened for cervical cancer; more than 12,000 of these women were HIV-positive.
- In Tanzania, Jhpiego leads the Sauti za Watanzania program, an effort to reduce HIV incidence among populations at highest risk: men who have sex with men, sex workers and their clients, and adolescent girls and young women in high-prevalence hotspots.

In its work on HIV/AIDS, as in all of its efforts, Jhpiego's ultimate goal is sustainability—supporting the establishment of a well-prepared network of health care professionals and a strong institutional foundation to build upon.

<sup>3</sup> Comprehensive VMMC services include other reproductive health services such as risk-reduction counseling, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and HIV testing and counseling.