



Reaching Impact, Saturation, and Epidemic Control (RISE) Key Populations

The Global Challenge

Even as significant progress is made towards HIV epidemic control among the general population in many countries, key populations (KPs) and other marginalized groups continue to bear a disproportionate burden. Of the 1.7 million new cases of HIV reported in 2018, 54% were among KPs and their sexual partners. KPs, which include female sex workers (FSWs), men who have sex with men (MSM), people who inject drugs (PWID), people in prisons, and transgender people, are at significantly higher risk of contracting HIV than the general population because of the individual, societal, and structural risks they experience. Other priority populations include adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), who often lack the agency or finances to seek health care, and heterosexual men, including seasonal workers, who may avoid seeking care because of harmful gender norms or stigma.

RISE is a 5-year global project (2019–2024) generously funded by the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to support countries to achieve and maintain epidemic control by providing strategic technical assistance and direct service delivery to improve HIV prevention, case finding, treatment, and viral load suppression. Key to these efforts are interventions that support KPs and address the barriers that reduce their ability to access HIV prevention and treatment services and remain in care.

The RISE consortium (Jhpiego, ICAP, Management Sciences for Health, Anova Health Institute, BAO Systems, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Mann Global Health) brings unrivaled expertise in taking evidence-based programming to scale and transitioning to local implementing partners for sustainable, self-reliant, and resilient health systems. We have a history of meeting ambitious targets through provision of high-quality, cost-efficient services matched with innovative and human-centered demand-creation approaches.



Our Technical Focus in Key Populations

Key to RISE's strategy to overcome the challenges KPs face in accessing and continuing HIV services is the commitment to strengthen local KP partners and ensure the needs of both KP and ministry of health (MOH) stakeholders remain central to the design and deployment of support services. Our strategy includes:

- **Strengthening health policy and legislation to improve access to care.** RISE offers support to MOHs and local KP stakeholders to align existing health policies and introduce new legislation to facilitate the implementation and rapid scale-up of evidence-based strategies such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), multi-month dispensing, self-testing, and community-based antiretroviral therapy (ART) services. RISE offers support to MOHs to ensure that national and sub-national policies address the needs of KP including access to HIV services such as ART, viral load testing supplies, palliative care, and differentiated care for opioid-dependent people living with HIV (PLHIV). RISE partners also bring expertise in above-site support including drug registration, supply chain, procurement, and health financing for interventions that address the needs of KPs.
- **Tailoring services to meet the needs of KP communities.** RISE partners bring experience working closely with local KP partners and stakeholders to deploy services and technical support that is tailored to address KP needs and priorities. RISE partners use evidence-based tools and community mapping in close partnership with KP stakeholders to identify population size and high-risk subgroups that may be hard to reach or have not yet been engaged in care. These approaches ensure programming is effectively targeted, scaled to reach high-risk and hidden KPs. RISE strategies are also adaptable within the local health system, reaching KPs through standalone or parallel services (e.g., drop-in centers and one-stop-shops); integrative strategies that support KPs within general public health services; and supplemental community-based or mobile strategies to expand reach and access.
- **Expanding and integrating services to reach priority populations, particularly men.** Men and young people are the least likely to know their HIV status and be on treatment. Heterosexual-identified MSM are even less likely to seek care or receive appropriate treatment despite their increased risk for HIV. RISE offers support to MOHs to strengthen clinical services to more effectively reach these high-risk populations with strategies best suited to the country's health system. RISE is also able to provide technical assistance to service delivery partners to help ensure that needs to KP are also met within services provided to general and priority populations.
- **Establishing and strengthening health information systems.** RISE offers support for introduction and capacity building for community-based reporting systems that are adaptable and tailored for use by local KP partners to capture community-based services (including provision of PrEP, HIV testing services, and community-based ART services), meeting the specific needs of KP communities.

Examples of Our Work with Key Populations

Our work with KPs spans the continuum of care, from policymaking support to outreach and service delivery. Within the RISE consortium, Anova provides technical leadership and guidance for KP programming, and each RISE consortium partner brings deep experience in KP programming across multiple countries. Examples of RISE partners' work with KPs and the organizations that support them include:

- In **Zambia**, RISE partner Anova provided technical support (including health worker training and train-the-trainer programs, data collection design, and monitoring and evaluation) in three provinces for the introduction of clinic-based PrEP, targeting FSWs and young women. Anova also developed and deployed health care worker training, train-the-trainer programs, and mentorship training for KPs and PrEP in **Haiti, Lesotho, Namibia, and Zambia**. Additionally, in **Namibia**, Anova

designed a model for clinic-based KP PrEP across four sites. The program met annual PrEP targets and was successfully transitioned to local partner management.

- In **Botswana, Haiti, and Namibia**, Anova supported the development of peer-designed demand-creation material for KPs and men to strengthen uptake of HIV prevention and treatment services.
- RISE lead Jhpiego has developed, implemented, and scaled up interventions to reach KPs in **Tanzania** since 1999. Through a recent USAID-funded program, Jhpiego provided HIV testing services to more than 2.5 million clients across 14 regions. Of the more than 113,000 HIV-positive clients identified, 71% enrolled in care and treatment through peer-led escorted enrollment or self-referral. To strengthen positive social norms and structures at the community level, Jhpiego supported community-based HIV service providers to reach almost 180,000 FSWs, 24,000 MSM, and 360,000 AGYW with social and behavior change communication education.
- In **Kenya**, Jhpiego worked to scale up oral PrEP by developing tools and training materials, expanding awareness, and creating demand among KPs and AGYW, strengthening the supply chain and building capacity of facilities, service providers, peer educators, and government working groups. As of May 2018, Jhpiego had supported the enrollment of more than 12,000 clients on PrEP, including 308 AGYW, 2,136 MSM, and 7,675 FSWs.
- In **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan**, ICAP partnered with MOHs, national and local AIDS centers, national and local narcology centers, primary health care facilities, nongovernmental and community-based organizations, and institutes of higher learning to improve uptake of ART and medication-assisted treatment (MAT) among PLHIV and PWID.
- In **Ukraine**, RISE partner MSH supported the MOH to strengthen procurement and supply chain management through the development of quantification methodologies and tools for HIV, TB, MAT, and viral hepatitis; and to design and deploy a PrEP distribution model in partnership with private pharmacies to increase access and uptake.
- In **Angola**, RISE partner MSH improved the capacity of 10 local civil society organizations and three community groups to bring HIV prevention, testing, and care services to 61,852 FSWs, transgender people, and MSM. Some 76% of individuals reached agreed to be tested for HIV, many for the first time; of the 2,344 people who tested positive for HIV, 80% were linked to health facilities for treatment.
- RISE partner MSH supported the Namibian Medicines Regulatory Council to include PrEP in current treatment guidelines, expedite tenofovir/emtricitabine's official registration and regulatory approval, and establish an integrated system to monitor use and supply of PrEP at the pharmacy level.

RISE Project Principles

- Break the cycle of HIV transmission and reach those at highest risk for HIV.
- Scale up proven and innovative approaches, using human-centered design thinking to inform the development and implementation of locally driven, adaptive solutions.
- Implement interventions that address structural drivers.
- Strengthen local partners and build networks for resilient systems.
- Impart a culture of quality, data use, and accountability.
- Rapidly mobilize to respond to immediate country needs and establish strong working platforms to achieve the bold vision of epidemic control by 2020.
- Work with local partners to tailor impactful, innovative, evidence-based services to targeted populations, particularly at-risk adult men and women, including key populations.

Tools & Resources

- [Key Populations: Targeted Approaches Toward an Aids-Free Generation](#), U.S. Agency for International Development (2019)
- [Consolidated Guidelines on HIV Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment and Care for Key Populations](#), World Health Organization (2016)
- [WHO Guidelines on HIV/AIDS](#) (list of publications)
- [The United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief](#)

RISE Technical Areas

To learn more about our work, visit our website at <https://www.jhpiego.org/rise>, and see our briefs on:

- [RISE Introductory Brief & Project Overview](#)
- Health Systems Strengthening
- HIV Prevention
- HIV Testing Services and Linkage
- Antiretroviral Therapy Optimization
- Strategic Information
- TB/HIV Integration
- Laboratory Services

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