

EpiC Tanzania Fact Sheet

Project Overview

Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) is a five-year, FHI360-led global project funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). EpiC is dedicated to achieving and maintaining HIV epidemic control, in the United Republic of Tanzania. This is through the provision of strategic technical assistance and direct service delivery to break through barriers to 95-95-95 goals and promote self-reliant management of national HIV programs by improving HIV case-finding, prevention, and treatment programming. EpiC programs work with key and vulnerable populations, including adolescent girls and young women, female sex workers, men who have sex with men as well as other priority populations.

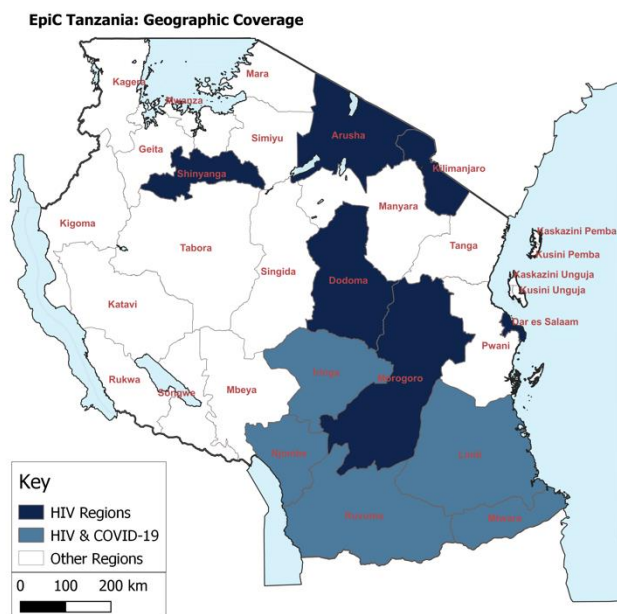
EpiC in Tanzania

While HIV prevalence among the general population in Tanzania is 4.7 percent, the rates among key populations are much higher. HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs is 35 percent. Among men who have sex with men, the rate is 25 percent, and among female sex workers, it is 15.4 percent. High HIV prevalence among key populations is propelled by gender-based violence, stigma, and the criminalization of these groups. Among the general population, only 83 percent of adults 15 and older are aware of their HIV-positive status, of whom 90 percent are on antiretroviral therapy (ART). Of adults on ART, 92 percent have suppressed viral loads.

Expected Outcomes

EpiC Tanzania provides technical assistance and service delivery among key populations, adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), and other adult men and women at higher risk. The project supports targeted prevention and case-finding strategies at the community level to strive toward the following planned outcomes:

- Increased access to HIV preventive services, HIV testing, and enrolment to care and treatment services to ensure attainment and maintenance of epidemic control among key vulnerable and priority populations.
- Strengthened HIV program management, health information systems, and human resource for health and financial systems to ensure the attainment and maintenance of epidemic control.
- Improved Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) capacities in the implementation of key vulnerable populations programs in Tanzania.



Project Activities

To accomplish the planned outcomes, EpiC provides direct services and technical assistance for HIV prevention and mitigation that prioritize scalable prevention, care, and treatment, and viral load monitoring. To reduce the risk of HIV infections among AGYW, the project focuses on empowerment through social and behavior change interventions, economic strengthening, and provision of biomedical services, as well as mobilizing the community to reduce negative norms that affect AGYW. The project



Photo credit: Agness John, EpiC Tanzania

supports civil society organizations (CSOs) in strengthening their organizational and financial management capacity to implement and provide high-quality HIV services and strong human resources management.

By working across the HIV cascade, EpiC Tanzania aims to increase access to HIV prevention, testing, and care services to attain and maintain epidemic control; strengthen HIV program management, health information systems, human resources, and financing solutions; and improve organizational capacity of CSOs to support the transition of direct funding and implementation.

COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation

EpiC with support from the Global Vax funding is supporting the government of Tanzania to increase the uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine through the implementation of facility, outreaches, and event-based vaccination services in Iringa, Lindi, Mtwara, Njombe, and Ruvuma regions to reach national targets of vaccinating 70% of eligible population. The number of people required to be vaccinated to reach the 70% target (393,324 people in Iringa, 519,078 people in Lindi, 498,640 people in Mtwara, 817,247 in Ruvuma and 528,762 in Njombe). Since EpiC started supporting vaccination across all regions in April 2022, the project vaccinated 2,446,527 eligible people with slightly more women (1,435,103) than men (1,011,424) being vaccinated. In November, all EpiC-supported regions had already achieved 70% vaccination targets, Ruvuma was the first region in Tanzania to achieve its target of 70% vaccine coverage.

Budget: to be filled

Duration Implementing: 2019 to 2025

Implementing Partners: Right to Care, Palladium, and Population Services International (PSI).

Contacts

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This publication is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The contents are the responsibility of FHI 360 and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID, PEPFAR, or the United States Government.