



FACT SHEET

The Multisectoral Response to HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is having a profound impact on Zambia, affecting its development, slowing economic growth, and destroying the social family safety net. There remains an urgent need for an integrated response from all sectors of society, the Government of Zambia, faith-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and collaborating agencies.

An estimated 16.5 percent of Zambian adults are HIV positive, 18 percent are women and 13 percent are men. In urban areas, two out of five women aged 25-39 are infected with the virus. Among those aged 15-19, prevalence is higher among females (seven percent) as compared to their male counterparts (two percent). However, prevalence rises among those aged 20-24, where 16 percent of women are infected compared to four percent among men.

Gender inequalities in social and economic status increase women's vulnerability to HIV. Sexual violence may also increase women's risk; young women are biologically more susceptible to HIV infection than men. Mother-to-child transmission also contributes significantly to the pandemic. More than 20,000 newly born babies are infected each year.

High prevalence rates are fueled by early sexual debut often coercive in nature, unprotected sex with non-regular partners, low incidence of condom use among high-risk groups, sexual violence against women, and poverty. Women and girls are often forced to sell sex for food, good grades, small gifts, or money. It is estimated that 21 percent of couples in Lusaka do not live together and are therefore prone to engage in sex with multiple partners. Other groups at comparatively high risk include highly mobile populations such as migrant workers, sex workers, long distance truck drivers, minibus drivers, miners, refugees, prisoners, uniformed personnel (such as the military and police), and fishmongers.

The Government of Zambia is working through the National AIDS Council and various cooperating partners to contain the pandemic. The U.S. Government, through USAID, fully supports Zambia's National HIV and AIDS strategic framework and the National Health Strategic Plan for 2006-2011.

As Zambia's largest HIV/AIDS funding source, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief supports critical HIV prevention, care, and treatment initiatives. The U.S. Ambassador has created a multi-agency HIV/AIDS team, with representatives from the Department of State, USAID, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Defense, and Peace Corps. The teams successfully designed an integrated program that is providing various services to Zambians.

Fast Facts-2006

1. 16.5%: Percentage of adults living with HIV/AIDS
2. 13.4% know their HIV status
3. 801,000: Estimated number of AIDS orphans
4. 96,000: Estimated number of deaths due to AIDS
5. 75,000 HIV positive people on anti-retroviral drugs



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID/Zambia's integrated and coordinated response through multisectoral approaches reflects the complex, cross-cutting nature of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The approaches include:

- Providing care and support for people living with AIDS, orphans and vulnerable children
- Reducing HIV transmission among the most-at-risk populations
- Strengthening of HIV/AIDS coordination at the national and local levels, and
- Improving the policy and regulatory environment.



HIV/AIDS caregivers provide care and support in homes. (Photo: USAID/Zambia)

USAID/Zambia's HIV/AIDS program supports other sectors —economic growth, health, education—to rapidly scale up and report on prevention, care, and treatment programs to respond to sector needs. The program is also strategically expanding private and public sector HIV/AIDS workplace programs.

USAID/Zambia works with various partner organizations in the following activities:

- Providing home and community-based care for people living with AIDS; care and support for orphans and vulnerable children; youth livelihood and promotion of abstinence among youth; household resilience, and improved food security for those affected by HIV/AIDS;
- Expanding access to HIV prevention; treatment and services through workplace programs; strengthening the capacity of HIV/AIDS coordinating bodies, and strengthening the policy and regulatory environment to protect persons living with or affected by HIV/AIDS;
- Providing HIV prevention information and testing to owners and employees of micro and small businesses and training owners on how to adjust their business plans in light of HIV/AIDS;
- Prioritizing and building local capacities to provide comprehensive care for people living with HIV/AIDS within the home and in hospices in rural Zambia.

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