A Global Leader in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS

EVERY DAY IMPACT: PEOPLE REACHED BY FHI 360 HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS 2010*

11,000 people tested for HIV infection every day

320 people starting antiretroviral treatment every day

120 HIV-positive pregnant women starting treatment to prevent mother-to-child-transmission every day

870,000 people receiving clinical care, support and prevention services.

* Quarter 4, fiscal year 2010

FHI 360 has been a global leader in the response to HIV/AIDS since the earliest years of the epidemic. Today, we lead some of the world’s largest and most comprehensive HIV/AIDS programs, and we manage global clinical trials to develop effective and innovative methods of HIV prevention. In partnership with funders, health ministries and nongovernmental organizations, our work sets new health care standards, strengthens national health systems and provides millions of people around the world access to HIV testing, prevention, care and treatment services. FHI 360’s comprehensive approach to fighting HIV/AIDS is driven by research, evidence and a long track record of engaging directly with those communities around the world hit hardest by the epidemic.

Breakthrough Drug Therapies and Research

In 1999, FHI 360 helped demonstrate that a simple, inexpensive dose of nevirapine given to pregnant women could sharply reduce the likelihood that a mother infected with HIV would pass the virus onto her child. Preventing mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV has now become a core feature of global prevention efforts.

A recent FHI 360 collaborative study in Africa demonstrated that an antiretroviral (ARV) vaginal gel can decrease HIV acquisition in women, giving them greater control in prevention. Other research, conducted by the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN), showed that ARVs can dramatically reduce risk of sexual transmission from HIV-positive persons to their HIV-negative partners. FHI 360 serves as the coordinating and operations center for HPTN. Our Be the Generation Bridge project, funded by the U.S. National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), establishes and maintains relationships with communities most impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in order to promote awareness, understanding, dialogue and support for biomedical prevention research.

Expanding Access to Prevention, Care and Treatment

When few thought it possible to deliver ARVs in resource-poor settings, FHI 360 pioneered this effort in sub-Saharan Africa in 2001. Millions of people throughout the world have benefited from FHI 360-supported prevention, care and treatment services. FHI 360 builds the capacity of district and primary care health centers to deliver quality HIV services. In Zambia, we trained community volunteers to provide HIV counseling and testing in health care facilities. In Ghana, we worked with the government to develop HIV/AIDS treatment and care protocols and guidelines. In Rwanda, Nigeria and many other countries, FHI 360 renovated and equipped clinical facilities, including counseling centers, examination and waiting rooms and laboratories.
An Integrated, Holistic Approach
Winning the fight against HIV/AIDS means delivering HIV services, while meeting other health and development needs. FHI 360 is a leader in promoting the integration of HIV counseling, testing, prevention, care and treatment within primary health care, maternal and child health and infectious disease management. Our programs also provide better nutrition to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV: FHI 360 is a core partner in the USAID-funded TB CARE I project, which connects TB and HIV treatment in several countries, including Zambia and Mozambique, where FHI 360 is the lead implementing partner, and Cambodia, Indonesia, Nigeria and Kenya, where we work with others.

Family planning and HIV: Preventing unintended pregnancies in women who have HIV by increasing contraceptive use is an important strategy for preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV. In Tanzania, FHI 360’s research led to changes in the country's National Standard Operating Procedures for HIV Care and Treatment. The updated guidelines now mandate that the country's HIV care and treatment centers address the contraceptive needs of their clients.

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and HIV: NCDs, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases, have become a major disease burden in low and middle income countries, and those living with HIV/AIDS are at increased risk. In Kenya, FHI 360 has integrated an NCD program into HIV counseling and testing services and treatment and care programs. In Nigeria, we have integrated cervical cancer prevention into PMTCT programs. In South Africa, our Mobile Service Units integrate NCD prevention, including hypertension, cervical cancer and diabetes into HIV and family planning services.

Leadership in Male Circumcision for HIV Prevention
As a member of the Male Circumcision Consortium, FHI 360 is working with the Government of Kenya and other partners to make voluntary medical male circumcision safe and accessible in western Kenya as part of comprehensive HIV prevention services. FHI 360 is also increasing worldwide knowledge about male circumcision’s protective effects through the Clearinghouse on Male Circumcision for HIV Prevention, a website launched in 2009.

Communication to Change Behavior
FHI 360 surveys measure HIV-related knowledge, attitudes and practices to understand better how to promote behaviors that reduce HIV acquisition and transmission. FHI 360 experts collaborate with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to promote HIV testing among U.S. black men who have sex with men (MSM). In India, we sponsor a cell-phone-based helpline that shares HIV information and makes referrals for counseling, testing and treatment. We are also partnering with Swaziland to create a national HIV/AIDS communications strategy, using workplaces as a platform for discussing HIV/AIDS prevention and stigma in Haiti and developing communications materials to encourage male circumcision in Kenya.

Looking Ahead
FHI 360 will continue to meet the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS by conducting research, building local capacity, advocating for evidence-based policies and developing programs that integrate family planning and other health services. Our success depends on working closely with our partners, funders and local communities to meet the highest standards of science and ethics, and on respecting cultural diversity, human rights and equality.