



U.S. Agency for International Development

Bureau for Global Health

COUNTRY PROFILE

HIV/AIDS

TANZANIA

Since the first three AIDS cases were reported in Tanzania in 1983, the epidemic has spread at an alarming pace. HIV infection in Tanzania is contracted primarily through unprotected sexual intercourse, and infection may be exacerbated by high levels of sexually transmitted infection in the population. According to UNAIDS, at the end of 2001, more than 1.3 million people were living with HIV/AIDS, and approximately 800,000 children under age 15 had lost one or both parents to AIDS.

Estimated Number of Adults (15 and above) Living with HIV/AIDS (end 2002)	2,229,700
Total Population (2002)	34,600,000
Adult HIV Prevalence (end 2002)	*11%
HIV-1 Seroprevalence in Urban Areas	
Population most at risk (commercial sex workers and clients, patients with a sexually transmitted infection, or other persons with known risk factors)	46.0%
Population least at risk (pregnant women, blood donors, or other persons with no known risk factors)	12.2%

Sources: UNAIDS, U.S. Census Bureau, *National AIDS Control Program Surveillance Report No. 16, Ministry of Health, Tanzania

HIV/AIDS affects Tanzania's young particularly. Young adults aged 15 to 24 account for 60 percent of new infections, while comprising only 20 percent of the population. Girls are particularly vulnerable for both biological and social reasons. More than 70 percent of sexually active girls report granting sexual favors in an effort to meet their basic daily needs.

Between 1990 and 2010, AIDS is expected to increase the crude death rate in Tanzania by more than one-half, and life expectancy will drop from 65 years to 37 years during that time due to the effects of HIV/AIDS. The already high infant mortality rate is expected to increase as well. According to UNAIDS, some 50,000 to 60,000 Tanzanian children are born HIV-positive every year.

Regardless of a discrepancy in prevalence reports (*Surveillance of HIV and Syphilis Among Antenatal Clinic Enrollees 2001–2002*, nearly 9.6 percent among antenatal attendees; *National AIDS Control Program Surveillance Report No. 16*, Ministry of Health, Tanzania, 11 percent among blood donors),

HIV/AIDS in Tanzania is considered a “generalized” epidemic, posing risks for nearly all segments of society.

In the most vulnerable populations, including urban sex workers and their clients and persons with sexually transmitted diseases, UNAIDS estimates that prevalence is 46 percent—nearly one out of every two persons in these vulnerable populations. Detailed seroprevalence studies compiled by the Census Bureau HIV/AIDS Surveillance Database show similar findings:

- Seroprevalence studies of patients with sexually transmitted infections in Dar es Salaam in 2000 and 2001 showed prevalence of 37 percent to 54 percent.



Map of Tanzania: PCL Map Collection, University of Texas

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- During the same time, seroprevalence among sex workers in various regions of Tanzania ranged from 39 percent to 68 percent.
- In some regions, seroprevalence among blood donors reached as high as 20 percent to 24 percent.

National Response

In recent years, the Tanzanian government has demonstrated growing political commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS, setting up new structures to integrate HIV/AIDS into other development sectors and mobilizing greater domestic and international resources. Until 2000, the HIV/AIDS effort was coordinated through a series of plans implemented by the Ministry of Health. In 2000, the Tanzanian Commission for AIDS was created to provide an accelerated, multisectoral response at the highest levels of government to the escalating epidemic. In 2001, the country adopted its first HIV/AIDS policy, which provides a framework for the national response to the epidemic.

By early 2003, Tanzania had in place, under the Tanzanian Commission for AIDS leadership, its first multisectoral strategic framework for AIDS. The Ministry of Health, for its part, had completed its first AIDS strategy, as had other key ministries, such as those that oversee education and community development.

The government has taken other important steps to make HIV/AIDS a high priority. It included HIV/AIDS in the development of the poverty reduction strategy paper, linking it with debt relief and giving it high visibility. It regularly allocates funds in its annual budgets to central, regional, and district government agencies to respond to the epidemic. It also funds civil society groups to provide information and services to reduce transmission and to care for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

With high-level political focus, increased domestic and international resources, and sectoral AIDS strategies that link up to the multisectoral strategic framework for AIDS, Tanzania is poised for success in its response to AIDS. Priorities for the next five years include:

- Preventing further spread of the epidemic and, in particular, reducing the number of new infections among youth;
- Reducing HIV transmission from mother to child;
- Ensuring that care and treatment are available for all who need it;
- Reducing stigma and discrimination and protecting the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS;
- Delivering scientific breakthroughs; and
- Protecting the most vulnerable populations, especially children.

USAID Support

USAID has supported Tanzania's response to AIDS since the late 1980s, when leadership and coordination were the responsibility of the National AIDS Control Program of the Ministry of Health. During the past three years, USAID has supported the creation of the Tanzanian Commission for AIDS as leader and coordinator of the multisectoral response. USAID has also worked closely with the National AIDS Control Program and the Ministry of Health to redefine their roles in the national response. USAID continues to maximize donor coordination.

The Mission's health and population team leader chaired the International Development Partners on AIDS in Tanzania in its first year of operation, and remains a visible presence in this effective coordination mechanism. As a result, Tanzania offers a model in donor coordination of a multisectoral response to HIV/AIDS. Finally, USAID has a strong reputation in Tanzania as a champion of civil society, strengthening organizations and their capacity to deliver quality services in partnership with government.

USAID works alongside other U.S. agencies in the joint Tanzania–U.S. Partnership against HIV and AIDS coordinated through the U.S. Embassy. USAID is the largest HIV/AIDS donor in Tanzania. Its programs range from highly visible national programs to powerful community interventions. It works in partnership with the Tanzanian Commission for AIDS, implementing Tanzanian priorities in collaboration with the public and private sectors. Specifically, USAID supports the following activities:

Formulating and implementing policy

USAID works with government and with civil society networks, supporting participatory approaches for formulating and implementing policies that will support a more effective response to AIDS. This includes collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to review legislation affected by the AIDS policy, as well as strengthening advocacy skills of civil society networks, such as associations of parliamentarians, people living with HIV/AIDS, and advocacy organizations.

Capacity building

USAID coordinates its organizational development support to the Tanzanian Commission for AIDS and the National AIDS Control Program with other donor partners, providing quality technical assistance for strategic planning, systems improvement (logistics, surveillance), and behavior change communication. USAID provides similar support to non-governmental organizations to improve their ability to deliver quality prevention, care and support, and impact mitigation services to communities.

Best practices in communities

Underpinning USAID's strategy is a focus on building public and private partnerships as a means of scaling up HIV/AIDS prevention and care interventions. Through an umbrella grant mechanism, USAID has helped create 32 district partnership committees in five regions of Tanzania, which in turn, have made awards to more than 200 community organizations (youth groups, faith-based institutions, informal associations) for prevention, care and support, and impact mitigation activities. The program strongly supports the Government of Tanzania's efforts to shift its response, and its resources, to affected communities.

Condom social marketing

USAID has supported a condom social marketing program in Tanzania since 1993. High-quality male condoms are now available through private sector outlets in every district in Tanzania. More than 23 million were sold through retail outlets in 2002—up from 11 million in 1998 and 300,000 in 1993. Moreover, female condoms are now available, providing a women-controlled method of protection from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. In 2001, more than 100,000 were sold.

Information, education, communication

USAID and the Tanzanian government are working together to promote an innovative campaign to get the HIV prevention message to youth. Splashed across billboards, repeated on radio and television, and on print materials distributed in places frequented by youth (sporting events, concerts, etc.), the message is clear and consistent: *Wait. Or use a condom every time.* Since the program was launched, youth-oriented clinics and reproductive health service sites have recorded noticeable increases in the number of patients seen daily.

Voluntary counseling and testing

USAID has contributed to the success of Tanzania's HIV/AIDS voluntary counseling and testing program. Through support of the African Medical and Research Foundation, USAID has helped to enhance same-day voluntary counseling and testing. Since 1999, more than 50,000 people have benefited from this service.

Support for orphans

Since 1998, USAID has provided support to the Social Action Trust Fund, a nongovernmental organization created by the Government of Tanzania. The Social Action Trust Fund makes grants to community groups and nongovernmental organizations working with HIV/AIDS-affected families. These grants provide school fees and other support to children who have lost parents to AIDS. Because these funds are provided on a loan basis, the fund has been able to increase its original capital, and thus provide help to more children every year. The Social Action Trust Fund has become one of the largest trust funds for orphans in Africa.

Innovative partnerships

USAID has spearheaded the establishment of several multidonor-funding mechanisms for AIDS. The Rapid Funding Envelope, a \$2.5 million, eight-donor fund, provides resources to nongovernmental organizations for short-term, essential start-up activities in support of Tanzania's national multisectoral framework. The Ishi Fund receives funds from USAID, Ireland Aid, and Danida to scale up the youth campaign nationwide. In setting up these funds, USAID has demonstrated excellence as a partner, as an innovator, and as a manager of grant funds.

For More Information

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*Prepared for USAID by TvT Global Health and Development Strategies/Social & Scientific Systems, Inc.,
under The Synergy Project*

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July 2003

