

Expanding HIV Services in Namibia

Duration of activity: September 2015–September 2016

Anticipated funding: US\$1,474,304

Description: Led by Abt Associates Inc., Strengthening High-Impact Interventions for an AIDS-free Generation (AIDSFree) in Namibia will leverage the work of the Strengthening Health Outcomes through the Private Sector (SHOPS) project to target assistance to private, for-profit health care providers, and stakeholders. The goal is to increase access, affordability, and quality of HIV services, with emphasis on voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC), HIV testing services (HTS), tuberculosis (TB) control, and antiretroviral therapy (ART) services. These activities, defined in detail below, are intended to benefit the 389,000 Namibians with access to health insurance, the approximately 14,600 clients currently receiving ART from the private sector, as well as low-income clients and those paying out-of-pocket who may not currently be insured.

Over the next year the project will work to ensure that:

- 1,200 new clients will be initiated on ART
- 7,500 VMMC procedures will be conducted
- 25,000 HTS visits will take place
- 90 percent of existing ART clients will adhere to treatment
- 90 percent of newly diagnosed HIV-positive individuals who consent to HIV care will be linked to the appropriate services.

Activities carried out by AIDSFree support the partnership between the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to support control of Namibia's HIV epidemic.

Planned AIDSFree Namibia Key Activities

Expand Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC): Delivery of male circumcision (MC) services must be scaled up to reach the 80 percent coverage required to be epidemiologically beneficial. AIDSFree is geographically expanding the network of trained doctors created under SHOPS. It is also providing additional training, commodities, and support for demand creation to increase the number of providers able to conduct MC.

Expand HIV Testing Services: Provider-initiated testing and counseling (PITC) is recommended at all health facilities to increase uptake of HIV testing. AIDSFree is promoting PITC through training and exploring the use of pharmacies to expand HIV testing.

Expand ART Services: Namibia recently adopted the 2013 World Health Organization (WHO) ART Guidelines, which involve enrolling all patients with a CD4 count of 500 and below in HIV treatment. AIDSFree is working with insurance and clinical stakeholders in Namibia to increase the quality of, access to, and demand for HIV testing, care, and treatment.