



CANADIAN
INVESTMENTS
IN HIV/AIDS PROGRAMMING
ARE ACHIEVING RESULTS
WORLDWIDE



Canadian International
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de
développement international

Canada

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Canada's leadership in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care, and support initiatives has had a life-saving impact on people around the world. Canada's commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS globally is evident through its partnerships with dedicated Canadian and international organizations, as well as donor and recipient countries. Together, we are helping to advance HIV prevention, addressing the feminization of HIV/AIDS, strengthening health systems to ensure access to care and treatment, protecting children infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS, and supporting the development of a globally accessible HIV vaccine.

Here are some of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)'s recent achievements in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

MOZAMBIQUE

In our collaborative efforts to support the plans of the Mozambican Ministry of Health, Canada has helped strengthen local health systems and improve and increase access to health care services.

As of January 2008, the number of:

- HIV-positive people receiving antiretroviral treatment had risen by 454 percent, increasing to 88,211 from 15,900 in 2005; and 24,320 women are now receiving treatment, compared to 8,244 in 2005;
- health units providing preventative treatment for mother-to-child transmission of HIV had increased by 302 percent, rising to 386 from 96 in 2005; and
- health units equipped to provide antiretroviral treatment had risen by 559 percent, increasing to 211 from 32 in 2005.

TANZANIA

A second phase to the Rapid Funding Envelope for HIV/AIDS (RFE) in Tanzania is building on lessons learned from the initial phase, and continues to provide grants to civil society organizations throughout Tanzania for short-term, but potentially high-impact, projects related to HIV/AIDS. The RFE is rooted in improving the capacity of organizations to deliver HIV/AIDS services where it matters most: in the communities of Tanzania.



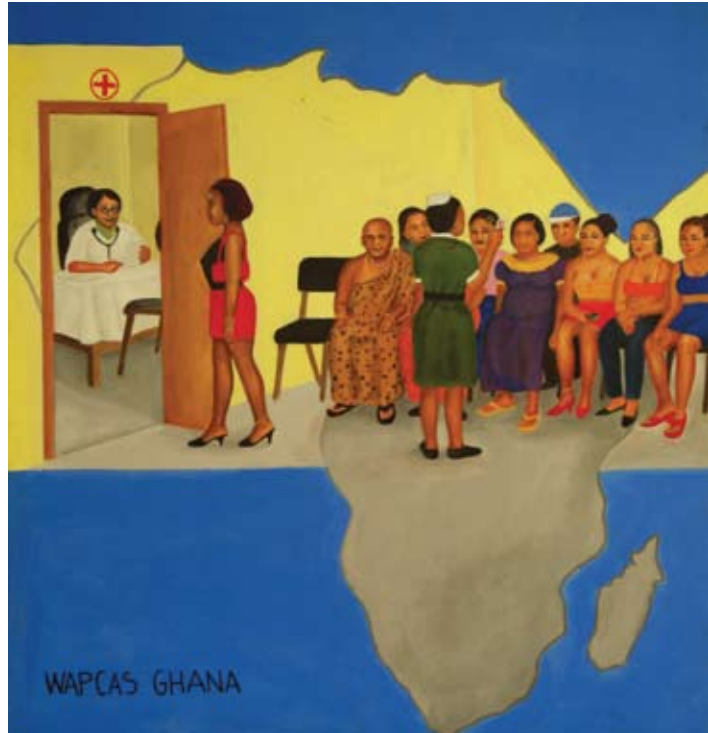
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One Canadian-funded RFE initiative helped to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS on elderly individuals who suddenly find themselves caring for their HIV-positive relatives or raising grandchildren orphaned by AIDS.

- This project, led by the Chama cha Wazee na Wastaafu Arusha (CHAWAMA) (association for the retired and elderly) in Arusha, helped to develop a model of home-based care by the elderly in 57 Tanzanian communities. A number of elderly people were trained to empower other seniors and provide health and psychosocial support to patients.
- Elderly people were also provided with health kits that would not only help treat the ill but could also prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS during the time of care. The caregivers were also linked with local health facilities to ensure that the medical supplies were replenished.

“Before, the sick were being hidden. Nobody was going to have, or admit to having, a sick person in their house,” said a home-based caregiver trained by CHAWAMA. “After reaching out, people were coming up to us saying ‘Would you please come and see my relative?’ We are more accepted in the community, and people understand us more than they used to.”

- CHAWAMA trained and equipped 18 home-based caregivers and 18 elderly peer educators, who have in turn volunteered to improve the skills of 114 elderly home-based caregivers.
- The initiative also trained 45 representatives to raise awareness on how AIDS affects the elderly.
- The RFE has recently approved another project focused on the elderly by HelpAge International Tanzania that aims to review the national home-based-care training curriculum and incorporate a focus on elders.



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SOUTH AFRICA

During the XVII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2008), Canada renewed its commitment to the HIV/AIDS Response Fund in South Africa and invested additional funding to help local organizations reduce the incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS and its impact on citizens there. In collaboration with several local South African organizations, an earlier phase of the fund benefited a total of 1,709,164 men, women, boys, and girls.

HAITI – CITÉ SOLEIL

In Haiti, 2.2 percent of people have HIV/AIDS, the highest percentage in the Americas. By comparison, 0.3 percent of Canadians have HIV/AIDS. The rate of HIV/AIDS is even more alarming in Cité Soleil, a slum in Haiti, where the figure is 5.6 percent.

- For this reason, Médecins du Monde Canada has actively provided support in this area with the Centre hospitalier Sainte-Catherine de Labouré—the only public hospital in the neighbourhood—to reduce the risk of HIV transmission, especially from mother to child, and to improve the living conditions of persons living with the virus. Some 4,700 people have been voluntarily screened at the hospital to find out their HIV status. Of this number, 10 percent were found to be HIV-positive, and all of them have access to a treatment program.
- Thanks to CIDA funding, in partnership with the Government of Quebec, the World Food Programme, and the Haitian Group for the Study of Kaposi's Sarcoma and Opportunistic Infections, 350 people living with HIV are medically monitored and receive medical,

psychological, and food care, and 75 receive antiretroviral drugs. In addition, 275 women have benefited from a program to prevent the mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and hundreds of children are born in good health.

- Médecins du Monde Canada offers ongoing training to staff members of the Centre hospitalier Sainte-Catherine de Labouré for treating, screening, and administering antiretroviral drugs to persons at risk of being infected or living with HIV, and giving care and psychosocial support to those living with the virus. Through the program to prevent the mother-to-child transmission of HIV, women have free access to milk and food rations for their newborn babies, and family-planning methods and food rations for themselves.
- HIV/AIDS information and awareness sessions have been held in schools, in the hospital's waiting rooms, and at gathering places in Cité Soleil. In 2007–2008, this project benefited 125,000 people.

HAITI – ARTIBONITE

The people of Artibonite, a district in Haiti, are determined to fight the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS. In tandem with the local community and supported by CIDA, an initiative of two Canadian non-governmental organizations—the Centre de coopération internationale en santé et développement and the Center for International Studies and Cooperation—is making a difference.

- Health-care workers were trained in the management of STIs and provided access to generic drugs. Now, 99 percent of health-care institutions in Bas-Artibonite are offering community services and a full range of STI medication. With public-education sessions and cooperation with local partners, more than 350,000 people have been reached by the project.
- The Artibonite region has also witnessed a substantial increase in the number of people being preventatively screened for HIV.

ZIMBABWE

Canada is helping to prevent mother-to-child transmission through technical support to key HIV/AIDS stakeholders in three districts in Zimbabwe: Chirumanzu, Shurugwi, and Gutu.

- Working in partnership with the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, the Zvitambo project successfully trained 694 district trainers, nurses, and other health workers in comprehensive HIV prevention between October 2006 and September 2008.
- This has contributed to the upgrading of 44 sites where comprehensive care is now offered to prevent the transmission of HIV from mother to child.
- Over the past year alone, the districts witnessed improvements in the number of people being tested for HIV/AIDS: an 8-percent increase in Chirumanzu, a 31-percent increase in Shurugwi, and a 39-percent increase in Gutu.

- In the past year the proportion of women who gave birth knowing their HIV/AIDS status increased from 89 percent to 93 percent in Chirumanzu, 54 percent to 78 percent in Shurugwi, and 62 percent to 77 percent in Gutu.
- In Chirumanzu and Gutu districts, more than 85 percent of at-risk babies are now receiving preventative treatment.

MALAWI

In tandem with other international donors, CIDA's contribution to the Malawi National AIDS Commission has helped reduce the prevalence of HIV and improve the quality of life of Malawians infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The limited number of medical sites at which people can access antiretroviral therapy, HIV testing, and counselling is a major challenge in Malawi. However, thanks to the contributions of CIDA and other international donors, as well as the strong commitment of the Government of Malawi, there has been a rapid increase in the both the number of antiretroviral therapy delivery sites and individual Malawians receiving this vital medical treatment.

By the end of 2007:

- 435 medical sites were operational, compared to 146 in 2004;
- 146,856 HIV-positive Malawians were receiving antiretroviral therapy treatment, compared to 3,000 in 2003; and
- the rate of HIV among 15- to 49-year-olds decreased to 12 percent, down from 15 percent in 2001.

PAKISTAN

HIV surveillance is a critical part of any country's response to the virus. It provides timely and accurate evidence about the growth of the epidemic, and allows a country to determine where HIV-prevention activities are needed. This is particularly important in places where HIV is concentrated in vulnerable, high-risk populations. The CIDA-funded HIV/AIDS Surveillance Project has positioned Canada as a key player in the fight against HIV in Pakistan.

Executed by a consortium led by Agriteam Canada in collaboration with the University of Manitoba and ProAction: Partners for Community Health Inc., Canada has helped to develop and implement surveillance methodology to 1) locate, or map, groups at high risk of contracting HIV, 2) collect information about the prevalence of HIV in these groups, as well as their high-risk behaviours, and 3) report on this information so government and donors can plan HIV-prevention programs.

- The project has conducted annual mapping and surveillance in 13 cities across Pakistan, and has confirmed the presence and growth of a concentrated HIV epidemic among injecting drug users.

- The project developed an innovative and cost-effective approach to surveillance in Pakistan. For example, testing dried blood samples not only costs less, but also simplifies national blood collection, transportation, and storage processes.

CARIBBEAN

Through a collaborative approach with the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) and the Pan American Health Organization, Canada has helped to develop national HIV/AIDS strategic plans in several Caribbean countries. CAREC also worked to improve the diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, as well as care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

- The number of countries with HIV care and treatment plans—which includes prevention of mother-to-child transmission programs, risk-reduction counselling and testing—has increased.
- The number of countries with operational clinical databases for tracking patients in HIV/AIDS care and treatment has also increased.
- To support the scale-up in HIV counselling and testing in the region, a rapid HIV testing protocol and a training curriculum were developed. Between 2005 and 2007, training and capacity-building workshops were held in Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Antigua and Barbuda.
- The number of countries that have developed communication programs to promote and adopt preventative behaviours in their community to reduce the risk and spread of HIV/AIDS increased to nine in 2006, compared to four in 2001. These programs were implemented in seven countries in 2006, up from four in 2001.

WORLDWIDE

Through its leading support to the World Health Organization's "3 by 5" initiative and subsequent universal access plan, Canada has helped treat three million people with lifesaving antiretroviral drugs as of 2007.

Through support to the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, more than 25 clinical trials of preventative HIV vaccines have been established globally.

Canada has been a strong supporter of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria since its inception. Approximately 60 percent of the funding goes toward HIV/AIDS programming worldwide.

- It has been estimated that thanks to the commitments made by Canada and the donor community, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria programs supported by the Global Fund have saved approximately 2.5 million lives to date.

- As of mid-2008, the Global Fund has helped 1.75 million people receive antiretroviral treatment; provided medical services, education and community care to 2.8 million orphans; and supported 46 million HIV testing and counselling sessions.

A Global Fund caravan to fight AIDS has completed a journey of more than 1,000 km, travelling through five West African countries along one of the busiest highways in the world. The “Love Life Caravan” brought AIDS-prevention messages to four million people along the Lagos, Nigeria, to Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, artery in May and June 2008.

www.cida.gc.ca

For more information about CIDA’s projects:
<http://les.acdi-cida.gc.ca/project-browser>

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
200 Promenade du Portage
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0G4

Telephone: 819-997-5006 / Toll free: 1-800-230-6349
TTY: 819-953-5023 / Toll free TTY: 1-800-331-5018
Fax: 819-953-6088
E-mail: info@acdi-cida.gc.ca

www.cida.gc.ca

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