



## GLOBAL HEALTH HIV & TB

Currently, ~39 million people live with HIV worldwide—1.5 million are children (0-14 years). Due to missed opportunities of prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment, children living with HIV have poorer HIV treatment coverage than adults and comprise a higher proportion of AIDS-related deaths. Since 2010, new HIV infections among children have declined by 58%, from 310,000 in 2010 to 130,000 in 2022.

Additionally, tuberculosis (TB) is the leading cause of death in people living with HIV. In 2022, 1.3 million people died from TB including 167,000 people with HIV and 183,000 children (0-14 years, HIV-negative). More than 80% of childhood TB deaths occur in those under the age of five. Similar to challenges in reaching children infected by HIV, child and adolescent TB is often overlooked by health providers and can be difficult to diagnose and treat.

Save the Children supports expanded access to comprehensive HIV prevention, care, treatment, and support services for children, women, and families, and key populations affected by HIV, focusing on countries with high rates of HIV and/or low levels of treatment and care. We work with governments, community-based groups, non-governmental local organizations, and donor institutions like the Global Fund, PEPFAR, UNICEF, UNAIDS, and the private sector to provide quality HIV programs.

*Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. In the United States and around the world, we do whatever it takes – every day and in times of crisis – so children can fulfill their rights to a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. With over 100 years of expertise, we are the world's first and leading independent children's organization – transforming lives and the future we share.*

### KEY FACTS

- 39 million people were living with HIV at the end of 2022, including 1.5 million children (0 – 14 years). (UNAIDS)
- Only 57% of children had access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) in 2022. (UNAIDS)
- 82% of pregnant women living with HIV had access to antiretroviral medicines to prevent transmission of HIV to their child in 2022. (UNAIDS)
- 10.6 million people developed TB at the end of 2022. (WHO)
- 34 million people were treated for TB between 2018-2022. (WHO)
- 11.3 million people living with HIV and 2.2 million children under five years were provided with preventative treatment for TB between 2018-2022. (WHO)

### OUR IMPACT

- Save the Children provided HIV prevention services to > 1.8 million people, and HIV tests to > 1.5 million from 2021 - June 2023.
- We supported the provision of ART for more than 43,000 people per year.
- We diagnosed and notified > 80,000 TB cases from 2021 - June 2023.

## Prevention

Our HIV prevention efforts expand access to quality information, services, and networks to reduce the risk of acquiring or transmitting HIV. We work with parents, teachers, and religious leaders to ensure children and adolescents get the help they need and promote **youth-friendly interventions that can help them to make healthy decisions and adopt protective practices**. We advocate for a combination of testing services and prevention strategies, including: prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), medications to reduce risk of HIV transmission (including pre-exposure prophylaxis), and behavior change actions, including use of condoms, low-risk sex, sex with partners of the same HIV status, and not having sex.

## Care, Support & Treatment

Care and treatment services help prevent new HIV infections, provide hope to people living with HIV and AIDS, save lives, and help realize the goal of an AIDS-free generation. Our programs focus on ensuring that HIV-positive children and adolescents are provided with a **holistic package of care and support interventions at all levels, improving not only their health, but also their social and economic status**. We improve community and home-based care and support as well as linkages to clinical services needed by people living with HIV and AIDS and their affected family members. We also support positive-living practices for individuals living with HIV to maintain their well-being and prevent disease progression, to help reduce death and illness. Using an integrated healthcare approach, we provide clinical care and treatment services, including treatment of opportunistic infections and TB/HIV co-infections for adults and children.

## Tuberculosis

Our TB work focuses on finding infected persons through active screening of adults, adolescents, and children, enhancing TB case detection, and provision of early treatment. **We identify and address TB infection and disease in vulnerable populations, including people living with HIV, other key populations, and those affected by multidrug-resistant TB**. We work with global and local partners, national ministries of health, community, and civil society stakeholders to raise awareness, support access to care in both public and private sectors, and strengthen managerial and technical capacities related to TB programming, monitoring, evaluation, and learning to provide high-quality data and information. Our strategy includes providing integrated programming for TB, HIV, and COVID-19, enhancing case detection in vulnerable populations by using family-centered approaches, and strengthening linkages and referral systems between facilities. We are dedicated to the World Health Organization's **End TB** goal of reaching zero TB deaths among all people, including young children who are more vulnerable in countries with a high TB burden.



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### A new life entrapped by pre-defined destiny

Rabeya, a 28-year-old female sex worker (FSW) in Bangladesh, received antenatal care, delivery, and postnatal support for her first-born child through a Save the Children-supported drop-in center (DIC). Both she and her husband were HIV-negative people who inject drugs (PWIDs). Our DIC staff came to know that Rabeya was pregnant during provision of HIV testing services early in 2021. DIC staff accompanied her to the Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital (SSMCH), one of the tertiary public medical facilities, for an antenatal care visit during her first trimester, where she was identified as anemic with low body mass index (BMI). She was also referred to SSMCH for her second antenatal care visit.

A team was formed at the drop-in center to provide follow-up care and to accompany Rabeya during antenatal care visits. They included a counsellor, nurse, PWID outreach worker, and DIC manager. The senior technical officer of the center coordinated all the efforts and the DIC team ensured she received timely medical support. Rabeya received a total of six antenatal care visits at the government facility that included several counselling sessions with her husband throughout her pregnancy period. At the time of delivery, she was admitted to the obstetric department of SSMCH and DIC staff assigned one female guide who stayed with her during delivery and provided all the necessary support.

## HIV and TB Country Programs

### Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Programming

Save the Children has supported HIV and TB programs through the Global Fund in country and regional grants since 2009. From 2021-2023, we support six countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Myanmar, and Nepal. Our programs target key populations including orphans and vulnerable children, youth at risk, pregnant mothers, and their children. We focus on providing prevention services/treatment, counselling, case management, improved quality of care, strengthened diagnostic technology, improved governance and accountability of programs, strengthened disease surveillance, and treatment options. Several of our key Global Fund programs are highlighted below:

#### Bangladesh - HIV

Save the Children, in a leading role in the national HIV and AIDS response in Bangladesh, has managed five Global Fund HIV grants in two capacities – management agency (2004 - 2009) and principal recipient (2009 - 2023). The present grant (2021 – 2023) provides high-impact and cost-effective interventions for key populations to prevent the spread of HIV and minimize the impact of AIDS on individuals, families, and communities affected by the epidemic. In collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh, our program covers 18 districts. And in partnership with five local partners, we provide HIV prevention services, increase access to testing and treatment, and strengthen the national HIV and AIDS response through supporting a functional health information system, improved reporting, and enhanced capacity of healthcare personnel. Since 2021, we have expanded our program to reach 14,035 people who inject drugs, representing a 48% increase in coverage from the previous grant period, and 30,000 female sex workers (a 62% increase in coverage).

#### Bhutan - HIV

The **Sustainability of HIV Services for Key Populations in Asia Program (SKPA)-2 (2022 - 2025)** is implemented through the Save the Children Country Office in Bhutan. The SKPA-2 Program partners with governments, key populations, and their communities to increase the financial sustainability of community-focused programs, strengthen the use of real-time high-quality data to inform programmatic design, bridge HIV service delivery gaps, and work on strengthening systems that support community ownership and action. One of the main achievements of this program is the successful implementation of the HIV self-testing demonstration project. The scale-up of this innovative approach is expected to enhance access and uptake of HIV testing that can potentially contribute towards closing the current case detection gap.

#### Côte d'Ivoire - Malaria

Save the Children has been the principal recipient of the Global Fund malaria grant in Côte d'Ivoire since 2016. Through this grant, we and our five sub-recipients support the National Malaria Strategy Plan 2021-2025, which prioritizes the need to scale up an integrated package of community-based activities to optimize the efforts of the Ivorian government to combat malaria. The project aims to achieve effective control of malaria in Côte d'Ivoire by 2025 via three objectives (i) - Reduce malaria incidence by at least 75% compared to 2015; (ii) - Reduce the mortality due to malaria by at least 75% compared to 2015; and (iii) - strengthen the program's management, coordination, and partnership capacities to provide high-impact interventions. To date, the project has successfully trained an estimated 8,500 community health workers, 2,044 women's groups, 271 staff, 1,248 nurses, and 1,147 midwives across 53 health districts and 16 health regions.

#### Mali – HIV & TB

Save the Children in Mali implements HIV programs to reduce illness and death from both HIV and AIDS and TB among vulnerable populations in the health district of Mopti, one of the conflict-affected regions in central Mali. Our work focuses on strengthening the health system to provide quality health services to program participants and reducing the burden of

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HIV and tuberculosis epidemics through effective diagnosis and treatment services. To date, the project has supported 28 health facilities and 52 community health worker sites, treating 185 cases of all forms of TB and 186 people living with HIV with ART. The project also tested 14,009 pregnant women to increase the percentage of people living with HIV who know their status.

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## **'One Meal Initiative' in Bangladesh: Together with a community network, Save the Children supports street-based people who inject drugs**

Like most marginalized groups, street-based people who inject drugs (PWIDs) had their livelihoods more dramatically impacted by COVID-19 lockdowns. Shahbaz, a 43-year-old PWID, felt helpless and drowned in complete uncertainty when he heard the news of a strict lockdown due to COVID. He used to survive on picking rags from the street and selling those to stores. However, after losing his livelihood due to lockdown, he found no support until Network of People Who Use Drugs (NPUD) stepped in with their volunteers.

During the lockdown, NPUD implemented the 'One Meal Initiative' to provide food to street-based PWID. NPUD members communicated with various organizations for financial aid and was able to secure donations to provide food and clothing during Eid-UI-Fitr. Network members also offered their homes to prepare and pack food. NPUD mobilized more resources from various sources to continue to support PWID in the older parts of Dhaka and beyond. Under the Global Fund HIV grant, Save the Children has taken a mentorship role with this initiative through branding the 'One Meal Initiative' and ensured minimal budgetary provision for around 150 HIV-positive PWID in Dhaka through NPUD.

diagnosis and effective treatment, and strengthen programmatic, technical, and managerial capacities towards malaria elimination. Through this effective and sustained programming, Nepal is on track to become malaria-free by 2025.

## **Myanmar - HIV, TB, and Malaria**

Save the Children has been the co-principal recipient of three grants under the Global Fund in Myanmar since 2011. Our HIV programs operate across 117 of 330 townships in the country. We provide comprehensive HIV prevention, diagnosis, and treatment services for key populations, integrated HIV and TB services, promote human rights, and strengthen community systems to create an enabling environment free of discrimination for at-risk and vulnerable populations. Our TB program is active across 182 townships and includes active TB case finding efforts, diagnosis, and treatment through community and facility-based interventions, as well as collaboration with the private sector. Through our malaria program, we provide long-lasting insecticidal nets to vulnerable populations and case management services spanning from early diagnosis through treatment in 132 townships. Additionally, we support capacity building through training on malaria surveillance for service providers and intensified case detection in high-risk areas. In addition to these programs, we received funding to implement COVID-19 interventions, including provision of personal protective equipment to health care providers and communities, effective surveillance, diagnosis, and treatment, community mobilization activities to increase awareness, as well as capacity strengthening of the healthcare workforce across all areas.

## **Nepal - HIV, TB, and Malaria**

In Nepal, Save the Children supports programs that target HIV, TB, and malaria through the Global Fund. Our HIV program contributes to the goals to achieve HIV testing, treatment, and viral suppression rates of 95%-95%-95% by 2025 and increase equitable access to HIV services. Save the Children's TB program in Nepal aims to reduce TB incidence through increased disease prevention, case detection, and diagnosis, TB and HIV co-infection management, and drug-resistant TB management. Additionally, we support Nepal's long-term National Malaria Elimination Strategy (2014-2025) with the vision of a "malaria free Nepal by 2025" through our malaria program. This grant aims to further reduce malaria transmission, improve access quality to early