



A mother surrounded by her children as she receives her HIV medication from a community health volunteer. Photo by Karen Kasmauski for CRS.

overview

FASTER (FAITH-BASED ACTION FOR SCALING UP TESTING AND TREATMENT FOR THE EPIDEMIC RESPONSE) PROJECT

BACKGROUND

- Almost a million children are now on treatment for HIV, a success viewed as impossible only a decade ago.
- The number of children newly infected with HIV each year has dropped by almost half since 2010 owing mainly to prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT).
- The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) estimates that over half of all children currently living with HIV still need to be identified and enrolled on life-saving antiretroviral therapy (ART).
- Somewhere in the world, an infant is infected with HIV every three minutes, and new adolescent infections are not declining fast enough.
- About half of HIV positive Zambian children are unidentified.
- Viral suppression in children is just below 50%.

THE FASTER PROJECT

FASTER is a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) global grant to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to accelerate the pediatric HIV response in four African countries: Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia.

ZAMBIA STRATEGY

CRS is partnering with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and the Government of Zambia (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Community Development and Social Services) to implement this project. Priority actions include:

QUICK FACTS

Project Type	HIV / AIDS
Funder	CDC / PEPFAR
Project location	Lusaka, Southern, and Western Provinces (Zambia)
Timeframe	2019 - 2020
Partners	CHAI, EGPAF, and Ministry of Health

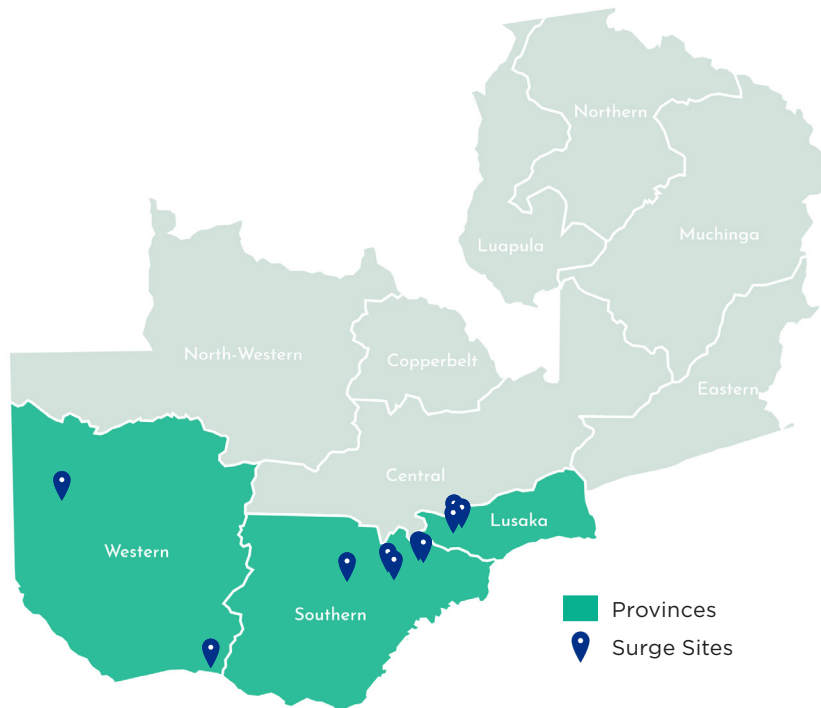


- Foster an environment that accelerates the child and adolescent HIV response and epidemic control.
- Develop robust operational guidance, tools, and training materials to enhance local service delivery capacity.
- Generate practical evidence to allow provinces, districts, and sites with high unmet need to quickly and strategically expand high yielding HIV testing and child and adolescent-friendly treatment, care, and support.
- Support the emergence of better drugs for young children and more advanced diagnostics.
- Support well-organized, data-driven, and targeted case finding, linkage to treatment, and retention effort scale up.



Photo by Karen Kasmauski for CRS.

WHERE WE WORK



CONTACT INFORMATION

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