



USAID/STRENGTHENING THE CARE CONTINUUM

Project Duration

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Implementer

JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

Partners

The Population Council

Project Office

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Background

While Ghana has made significant progress in reducing its number of HIV cases, analysis from 2014 shows that a significant number of all new infections—43%—occur among key populations, including men who have sex with men, female sex workers, transgender individuals, and their partners.

Ghana faces numerous hurdles in providing tailored HIV services to these populations. Despite national progress in HIV related policy-making and service provision, there is a strong need to improve key populations' access to care. Currently, weak referral linkages, inadequate key population-friendly clinical services, and high levels of stigma and discrimination among health staff and community members prevent members of key populations from receiving the care they require.

Objectives

In partnership with the Population Council, JSI will implement the USAID Strengthening the Care Continuum project to improve the capacity of the Government of Ghana and its partners to provide quality and comprehensive HIV services for key populations and people living with HIV.

Using a coordinated and sustainable country-owned and led approach, JSI will:

- Improve key populations' access to and use of HIV services
- Work toward reducing stigma and discrimination in health settings for key populations and people living with HIV

Activities

Over five years, JSI will use an integrated approach to address the needs of key populations in Ghana.

- From the project's start, JSI will work alongside civil society organizations to strengthen their abilities to develop, manage, and execute innovative HIV projects that are targeted to serve key populations.
- By establishing public-private partnerships for HIV/AIDS services with organizations across the continuum of care, JSI will harness the expertise, core competencies, and business resources of non-traditional actors to develop creative joint solutions to improve HIV services for key populations.
- Guided by Ghanaian leadership, members of the key population community, and relevant government policies related to key populations, JSI will help the government better manage each stage of the treatment cascade (HIV testing and diagnosis; getting and staying in medical care; treatment initiation; and achieving viral suppression) to ensure clinics and community services are welcoming to and understanding of key populations.