



USAID SAFE:

Supporting an AIDS-Free Era Program

The USAID SAFE: Supporting an AIDS-Free Era Program directly supports the Government of Zambia's (GRZ) long-term vision of becoming a nation free from the threat of HIV and AIDS by 2030. Over the next five years (2017-2022), the program will work to reduce HIV mortality, morbidity, and transmission, while improving nutrition outcomes and family planning integration in three provinces: Central, Copperbelt, and North-Western.

The USAID-funded initiative is implemented by John Snow, Inc., in collaboration with Abt Associates, mothers2mothers, and the Catholic Medical Mission Board.

Partnering with the Government

USAID SAFE serves as a strategic partner to the GRZ through the Ministry of Health (MOH), the private sector, and civil society institutions at the national, provincial, district, facility, and community levels. The program is designed to increase access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) for HIV positive adults and children; reduce the incidence of new infections; improve nutritional assessment, counseling, and services (NACS) and family planning services; and increase the capacity of local health institutions to better serve affected populations.



Zambia has made great strides in decreasing infection and mortality rates associated with HIV over the last decade, with 85% of people living with HIV currently enrolled in treatment, according to the 2016 Zambia Population-Based HIV Impact Assessment (ZAMPHIA). However, despite this progress, the country continues to have among the highest HIV prevalence in the world; an average of 12% of persons aged 15 – 59 years are infected with HIV.

Progress Towards An AIDS-Free era

Zambia is part of an ambitious global effort to end the HIV epidemic by 2030 by reaching UNAIDS's 95-95-95 targets for those who know their status, are enrolled on treatment, and are virally suppressed.

AS OF DECEMBER 2017:



66 PERCENT of PLHIV ages 15 to 59 years report knowing their HIV status



85 PERCENT of these individuals report currently use ART



59.1 PERCENT of these individuals on ART self-report as virally suppressed

An ART/TB specialist administers an HIV blood test to a patient.

USAID SAFE is part of the GRZ's efforts to achieve sustainable epidemic control. The program is dedicated to establishing and rolling out service delivery systems where they are most needed, strengthening existing service delivery platforms, and increasing the GRZ's ability to manage USAID government-to-government (G2G) activities.

In light of this aim, the program will:



Increase access to and utilization of quality HIV/AIDS services at the primary care level to support the enrolment of new HIV patients in pursuit of the 95-95-95 goal



Improve the health and well-being of people living with HIV (PLHIV) through improving nutritional assessment, counseling, and services that prevent malnutrition, reduce vulnerability to infection, and increase ART efficacy



Improve the capacity of the MOH at the provincial, district, facility, and community levels to provide comprehensive, high-impact HIV/AIDS services by identifying and reducing bottlenecks that currently hinder service delivery and improving M&E and supply chain systems



Strengthen the GRZ's capacity to manage government-to-government (G2G) activities for HIV service delivery scale-up and long-term sustainability



Integrate family planning services into all HIV/AIDS service programs in the three supported provinces as part of a comprehensive health care package

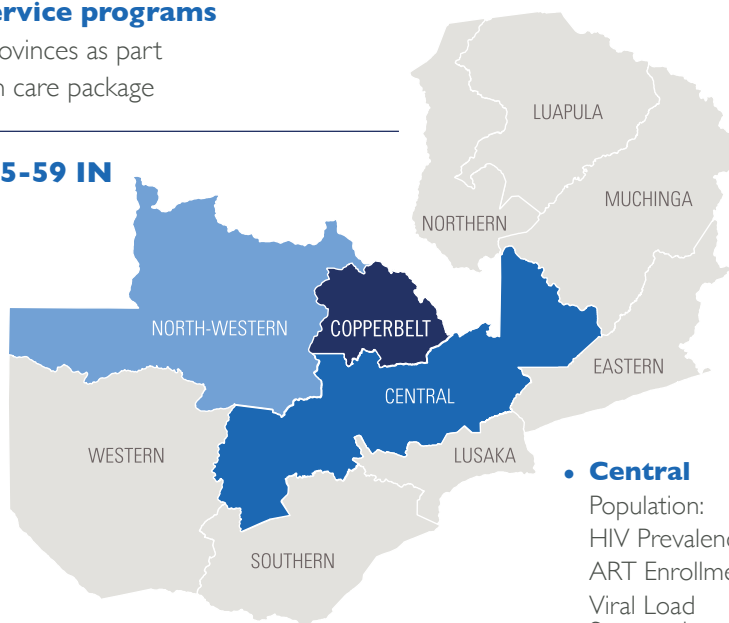
2017 STATUS FOR AGES 15-59 IN USAID SAFE DISTRICTS

• North-Western

Population: 419,508
HIV Prevalence: 6.9%
ART Enrollment: 16,239
Viral Load Suppression: 53.4%

• Copperbelt

Population: 1,341,765
HIV Prevalence: 13.8%
ART Enrollment: 103,877
Viral Load Suppression: 56.7%



• Central

Population: 802,890
HIV Prevalence: 12.8%
ART Enrollment: 57,654
Viral Load Suppression: 59.1%

Over five years, USAID SAFE is designed to:

- Ensure that 95 percent of HIV positive individuals know their HIV status;
- Initiate 95 percent of those who test positive on ART;
- Ensure 95 percent of those on ART are virally suppressed;
- Strengthen the health system to support the 95/95/95 objectives;
- Prevent new infections through voluntary medical male circumcisions for priority populations;
- Integrate voluntary family planning services into 95 percent of HIV service delivery locations;
- Reach 90 percent of eligible HIV positive adults and children with NACS;
- Increase M&E capacity at the facility, district, and provincial levels for improved program management; and
- Strengthen the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance's public financial management systems.