Health

A comprehensive HIV treatment & care package in Zimbabwe

“What would you like to be when you grow up?”
“I want to be alive”.

Reply of 5 year old Takunda born to an HIV-positive mother who enrolled with PMCT. Takunda tested negative at 18 months.

Context

The AIDS epidemic in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has one of the highest HIV/AIDS epidemics, with a prevalence estimated rate at 20.1% in 2005 of the adult population aged 15-49, or 1.4 million people. The number of children orphaned by AIDS was estimated at around 1 million in 2005. The prevalence of the virus among women attending antenatal clinics in Zimbabwe showed a rate of 23.9% in 2004.

Objectives

Preventing Mother to Child Transmission (PMCT)

- To reduce the mortality and morbidity due to HIV/AIDS through a holistic approach combining prevention (PMTCT), care (Antiretroviral Treatment and Community Home Based Care), mitigation and support (psychological and income generating activities)
- To improve access of the most vulnerable rural people, particularly pregnant women, to effective and comprehensive HIV/AIDS response through enhanced capacity of health system

Impact

What has been achieved so far?

Since the project’s implementation in 2005, results already achieved include:

- Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMCT) Services at hospital level upgraded and scaled up with support from NGOs CESVI and ISPED
- PMCT services at clinic level expanded with support from NGO COSV
- Follow-up care provided for babies exposed to HIV and their families
- Community participation has been assured through mobilization of awareness campaigns, involvement of traditional leaders and networking between different stakeholders

For more information on EC External cooperation: [http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid)