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# PRESIDENT'S EMERGENCY PROGRAM FOR AIDS RELIEF (PEPFAR) HIV/AIDS OVERVIEW

**Life of Project:** 2017-2020

**Implementer:** Family Health International (FHI 360) - LINKAGES

## OVERVIEW

With a significant HIV epidemic observed among key populations, where more than 13% of female sex workers are HIV-positive in Djibouti, the Ministry of Health has emphasized interventions that affect these populations and included them in their national strategic plan for the fight against HIV/AIDS. USAID, through the PEPFAR program, has been supporting these efforts. In 2017 the LINKAGES project started working with the Government of Djibouti, key population leaders, and health care providers to help expand their ability to plan and deliver services that reduce HIV transmission among key populations and their partners, and to protect the lives of people living with HIV.

## OBJECTIVES

The USAID LINKAGES project focuses on achieving the UNAIDS 90-90-90 cascade approach to identify the most-at-risk key and vulnerable populations in Djibouti Ville and 12 areas. A unique identifier code and a longitudinal support and tracking system are used to reach the key populations. By 2020, the LINKAGES project aims to: 1) enroll in care 90% of those tested positive; 2) 90% of them initiated on antiretroviral treatment (ART); and 3) 90% of them tested with low viral loads.

## ACTIVITIES

- Emphasize delivery of services to key populations and strengthen the capacity of community-based partners who provide HIV services through technical assistance and mentoring.
- Refer people living with HIV (PLHIV) to health centers and actively link them to antiretroviral treatment (ART).
- Distribute condoms and supplies, and provide active referrals for testing.
- Develop a peer mobilization structure including peer coordinators, peer supervisors, and peer educators.
- Provide sexually transmitted infections (STI) screenings to key populations and culturally appropriate STI counseling, diagnosis, and treatment to female sex workers, men having sex with men, and long-distance truck drivers.
- Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Health to manage the nation's sustainable prevention care and support interventions.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- Increased availability of comprehensive prevention, care and treatment services, including reliable coverage across the continuum of care for key populations.
- Enhanced and sustained demand for comprehensive prevention, care and treatment services among key populations.
- Strengthened systems for planning, monitoring, evaluating and assuring the quality of programs for key populations.