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PEPFAR
U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

AIDSFree
Strengthening High Impact Interventions
for an AIDS-free Generation

Strengthening HIV and TB Service Delivery to Tanzania's Uniformed Services

Duration of activity: 24 months (with high likelihood of extension)

Anticipated funding for first year: ~US\$2.5 million

Description: Like similar institutions elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa, the national uniformed forces—the army, police, and prisons, and immigration personnel—are experiencing a high burden of the HIV and AIDS epidemic. The incidence and prevalence of HIV and AIDS in these institutions is often found to be higher compared to that in the civilian population. Members of the forces remain vulnerable to the risk of HIV infection and sexually transmitted infections due to their age, their status, the migratory nature of their work, and the inadequate family presence during assignments. The goal of AIDSFree Tanzania is to provide quality comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, care and treatment, and support services for the police and prisons staff, the prison inmates, and civilians within the surrounding communities in Tanzania.

The program will build on the existing HIV programs for police, the prison staff, and their families, and the surrounding communities to:

- Promote behavioral risk reduction, positive social norms, and use of biomedical prevention modalities for the uniformed forces population
- Increase availability and accessibility of comprehensive HIV care, treatment, and support services
- Strengthen systems for linking individual clients from community-based program interventions to the continuum of care for HIV, health, and other related services
- Provide guidance and capacity building for gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response in prisons and among police.

Planned AIDSFree Tanzania Key Activities

HIV prevention: AIDSFree will enhance HIV awareness through sensitization of police and prisons officers and provision of HIV prevention education materials for most-at-risk populations. Services will be provided to service members, dependents, prisoners, and civilians from communities near police and prison facilities. HIV prevention training modules will be integrated in the standard curricula of uniformed services training colleges and equip all new recruits of the two forces with the necessary knowledge and skills on HIV prevention and gender



issues. Finally, the project will provide ongoing access to information and services to prevent HIV among recruits and other youth within and outside the forces.

HIV testing and counseling (HTC): AIDSFree will work to scale up HTC services at police and prison health facilities in Tanzania and ensure availability of HTC services for other key populations—including sex workers and men who have sex with men—and link those who test positive to appropriate care and treatment support services.

HIV care and treatment: HIV care and treatment will be scaled up at regional police stations and regional and central prison health facilities in Tanzania Mainland, Zanzibar, and Pemba. This will provide direct service provision to increase the number of hospitals and health centers providing antiretroviral treatment (ART) services and reach more HIV-positive individuals (adults and children) receiving antiretroviral drugs (ARVs). The project will also support provision of umbrella care through facility-based and community activities.

Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV collaboration: AIDSFree will work to scale up TB care and treatment services at police and prison health facilities and to increase access to TB diagnosis and treatment for HIV-positive individuals.

Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT): AIDSFree Tanzania will aim to avert the transmission of HIV from mothers to their children and provide treatment for all HIV-positive pregnant women and their HIV-exposed children attending reproductive and child health and PMTCT services in the police and prison health facilities. This will be achieved through provision of HTC to pregnant women and subsequent provision of HIV-positive women with interventions to prevent vertical transmission of HIV to their infants.

Support to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and child-friendly police services: AIDSFree Tanzania will work with other PEPFAR-funded partners to scale up supportive care of OVC living in and around police and prison health facilities and surrounding barracks—including nutritional, educational, clinical, social, and/or financial support. Establishment of child protection and child-friendly services for OVC at district-level police facilities will be implemented in collaboration with PACT Tanzania, an implementing partner providing technical assistance to OVC programs.

GBV prevention and response: AIDSFree will implement three tasks to advance the work of the PEPFAR GBV Initiative in Tanzania: 1) Revise and update its GBV and Violence Against Children training package; 2) Facilitate an Inmate Peer Education Program within the prison system; and 3) Strengthen capacity of select police Gender and Children Desks to improve GBV response.