

2017-2021 Young Children Affected by HIV and AIDS Strategy

To improve the growth and development outcomes for young children affected by HIV and AIDS in East and Southern Africa.

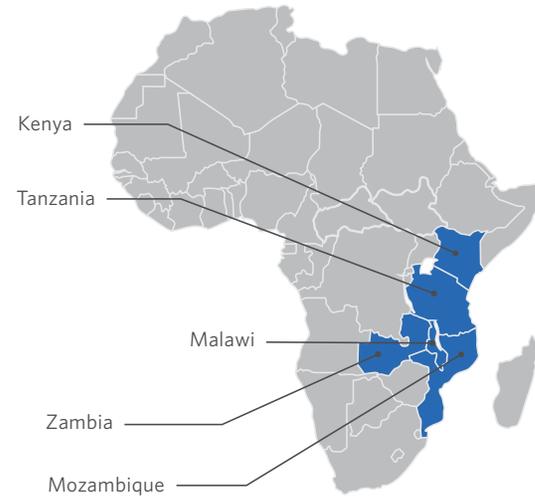


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An estimated 250 million children between 0-5 years, living in low- and middle-income countries, are at risk of poor development—and children living in communities affected by HIV and AIDS are particularly vulnerable. Early childhood development (ECD) interventions provide a powerful opportunity to level the playing field for these children. The global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target 4.2 includes early childhood development to “ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality ECD.” Further, the 2016 Lancet series “From Science to Scale” highlighted the importance of supporting children and families during the first 1,000 days of life when development is most rapid and when nurturing care (including responsive caregiving, stimulation and early learning, health, nutrition, and security and safety) by parents and other caregivers is among the most decisive factors for healthy child growth and development. The series further highlighted the need for multi-sectoral interventions, particularly the role of the health sector given its reach to families and children in the early years.

Building on increasing evidence and global momentum as well as our learning and achievements, the Foundation’s 2017-2021 strategy focuses on strengthening programs, systems and the evidence base to contribute to the 2030 SDG targets. Together with our partners, we aim to demonstrate effective, scalable approaches to improve growth and development outcomes for young children. Our emphasis is on the first 1,000 days and health systems in high HIV prevalence communities in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia.

IMPROVING THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES OF YOUNG CHILDREN (0-5 YEARS) AFFECTED BY HIV AND AIDS



By field testing approaches for delivering quality ECD programming, we set the stage over the next five years to determine key interventions while ensuring that progress and effectiveness can be measured, monitored and expanded.

The Foundation makes investments in three inter-related focus areas:



1. Advance proven and promising approaches

The Foundation seeks to improve the quality and effectiveness of programs that benefit young children living in high HIV prevalence communities—with emphasis on the first 1,000 days (pregnancy through age 2) and responsive caregiving. Foundation investments will include integrating caregiver coaching and support as part of existing service delivery platforms, reaching the most vulnerable and raising awareness with community members.



2. Strengthen systems through integration and collaboration

To reach caregivers and children, Foundation investments will strengthen civil society organizations, government systems and networks—including community-based organizations, faith-based entities and capacities of service providers, and government authorities at all levels (local, district and national). In addition, investments support scale-up of ECD services at the district/county level in several countries.



3. Build and disseminate credible evidence

To influence practice, policy and investments, the Foundation will address key gaps in learning and best practice. Investments will strengthen research and technical capacity—including for advancing measurement of child development outcomes. Field-testing approaches and reaching decision-makers with evidence on what works will facilitate replication, scale-up and increased funding for quality early childhood services.