



## **DREAMS Namibia**

The DREAMS project (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-Free, Mentored and Safe) seeks to reduce new HIV infections among Adolescent Girls & Young Women (AGYW). Preventing HIV in AGYW means empowering them with social protection and safe spaces, education and economic skills, and access to family planning and reproductive health services. DREAMS uses a core package of evidence-based, multi-sectoral interventions that are proven to reduce new HIV infections among AGYW. Initially, the program will be implemented in five districts in three regions of Namibia.

### **Objectives**

DREAMS will empower young women to remain HIV free and to achieve their full potential. The primary target population is adolescent girls (in and out of school), orphans and vulnerable children aged 9-19, and young women aged 20-24. A secondary target population is their male sexual partners aged 20-49. The goals are as follows:

- To decrease new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women using evidence-based interventions;
- To decrease teenage pregnancy and gender-based violence rates among adolescent girls and young women using evidence-based interventions;
- To link all girls and their partners newly diagnosed as HIV-positive to HIV treatment and retention services;
- To improve progression and graduation rates from secondary school, particularly of young women;
- To increase economic opportunities for young people, particularly young women; and,
- To generate country-specific information to improve performance, impact and sustainability of interventions.

### **Project Duration**

October 1, 2017– September 2019, with possible continuation of the program, subject to funding.

### **Location**

The project will offer the full package of services in the Khomas (Windhoek district), Oshikoto, (Omuthiya, Onandjokwe and Tsumeb districts), and Zambezi (Katima Mulilo urban and Sibinda district) regions.

### **DREAMS implementation**

Implementation will ensure a tailored array of services and support to AGYW to help them know their HIV status and access preventive HIV and sexual reproductive health services by:

- Collaborating with ministries and providers to bring services closer to AGYW, and making services more youth friendly;
- Supporting AGYW to access prevention, care, and treatment services as needed through case management, mentoring and other support interventions;

- Reducing exposure to gender-based violence (GBV) and helping AGYW access care for GBV through linkages with improved services;
- Increasing the number of girls who complete secondary school education and,
- Obtaining academic, vocational and economic support through savings schemes and linkages with established private and public institutions.

A combination of interventions will be delivered, including information about and access to condoms, Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), sexual and reproductive health services, GBV prevention and care, and economic empowerment activities. When combined, interventions have greater impact. Engaging the parents of the AGYW enrolled in the program by giving them access to positive parenting programs is also a significant aspect of the initiative, ensuring that the home environment offers a supportive container for AGYW's newly acquired knowledge and skills.

### **Project Partners**

The project will be implemented by a consortium of partners led by I-TECH and Project HOPE Namibia. Sub-partners include: Intrahealth, LifeLine/ChildLine, Star for Life, Namibia Planned Parenthood Association (NAPPA), Project HOPE-US, the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the Ombetja Yehinga Organisation (OYO). Peace Corps Namibia has placed four Volunteers with I-TECH in Katima Mulilo and Project Hope in Omuthiya.

### **Namibian Government Partners**

Ministry of Health & Social Services  
 Ministry of Gender Equality & Child Welfare  
 Ministry of Education Arts & Culture  
 Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service

### **PEPFAR Interagency Partners**

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)  
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
 Peace Corps

### **Expected Outcome**

Between October 1 2018 and 30 September 2019, the DREAMS project is expected to support nearly 15,000 adolescent girls and young women to access at least five layered services, and over 10,000 girls and young women with their families will receive OVC services.

