Tanzania
HIV/AIDS Indicator Survey
2003-04

Tanzania Commission for AIDS
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

National Bureau of Statistics
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

ORC Macro
Calverton, Maryland, USA

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This report summarises the findings of the 2003-04 Tanzania HIV/AIDS Indicator Survey (THIS). The main objective of the survey was to provide information about HIV/AIDS to programme managers and policy-makers, to guide planning and implementation of interventions to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Additional information about the survey may be obtained from the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), P.O. Box 76987, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (Telephone: 255-22-212-2651; Fax: 255-22-212-2427; Email: tacaids@raha.com) and the National Bureau of Statistics, Mkwepu St., P.O. Box 796, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (Telephone: 255-22-212-2722/3; Fax 255-22-213-0852; Email: dg@nbs.go.tz).

Additional information about the DHS programme may be obtained by contacting: MEASURE DHS, ORC Macro, 11785 Beltsville Drive, Suite 300, Calverton, MD 20705, USA (Telephone 301-572-0200; Fax 301-572-0999; Email: reports@orcmacro.com; Internet: www.measuredhs.com).

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FOREWORD

This report presents the major findings of the 2003-04 Tanzania HIV/AIDS Indicator Survey (THIS). The Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) authorised the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to conduct the THIS. The THIS is the first household survey of its kind to be conducted in Tanzania. The survey covered the Tanzania Mainland only.

The main objective of the survey was to provide HIV/AIDS programme managers and policymakers with information needed to guide planning and implementation of interventions, including resource mobilisation and allocation, monitoring and evaluation of existing programmes, and designing new and effective strategies for combating the epidemic.

Before this survey, national HIV prevalence estimates depended entirely on data derived from blood donors and pregnant women seeking antenatal care. Although this information from the surveillance system has been useful for monitoring the trends of HIV in Tanzania, the inclusion of HIV testing in the THIS offers the opportunity to better understand the magnitude and pattern of infection in the general reproductive-age population in Tanzania. The THIS results are in turn expected to improve the calibration of the annual sentinel surveillance data, so that trends in HIV infection can be more accurately measured in the intervals between household surveys.

This report contains findings from the 2003-04 THIS collected from the households visited. The survey was designed to produce regional estimates. The tables and text cover the most important indicators related to HIV/AIDS and should be of use to policymakers and programme administrators who need up-to-date data for evaluating their activities and planning future directions.

Maj. General (Retired) Herman C. Lupogo  
Executive Chairman  
TACAIDS  
Dar es Salaam

Cletus P.B. Mkai  
Director General  
National Bureau of Statistics  
Dar es Salaam
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A considerable number of other stakeholders contributed to the questionnaire content. We would also like to thank the Demographic and Health Surveys programme of ORC Macro in Calverton, Maryland, U.S.A. for providing technical assistance in all aspects of the project, in particular Ms Annie Cross, Ms Holly Newby, Ms Jasbir Sangha, and Ms Ladys Ortiz. Special thanks for good work for testing blood samples for HIV are due to the National Reference Laboratory at Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences, in particular Prof E. Lyamuya, Prof M. Matee, Ms M. Mashurano, Mr C. Kagoma, Mr E. Mlena, and Mr S. Mataro. The survey would not have gotten off the ground without the exemplary and tireless efforts of the staff at the National Bureau of Statistics in particular Mr S. M. Aboud, the principal investigator and Mr E. Karugendo, the desk officer of the project. Their many long days of working overtime served to make this survey a success. Similarly, the nurses who worked as interviewers for the survey deserve our heartfelt thanks. We are ever more grateful to the survey respondents who generously contributed part of their time to enable us to gather crucial data for our country’s future planning.

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