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

AIDSFree
Strengthening High Impact Interventions
for an AIDS-free Generation

Systems Strengthening for Improved HIV and AIDS and TB Patient Outcomes in Hhohho and Shiselweni Regions and Provision of National-Level Support to the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland's PMTCT and Pediatric HIV/AIDS Program

Duration of Activity: April 2015–July 2019

Anticipated level of funding for first year: ~ \$4 million

Description: The overall purpose of AIDSFree in Swaziland will be: (1) to support the provision of patient outcome-driven mentorship and technical assistance for comprehensive HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis (TB) services in the Hhohho region and more targeted support (in collaboration with Médecins Sans Frontières [MSF]) in the Shiselweni region and (2) to provide national-level technical assistance to the maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) platform to strengthen the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) and pediatric HIV/TB care and treatment programs.

The project will enhance the quality and sustainability of facility-based HIV/AIDS and TB interventions, in line with the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland (GKoS) priorities and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) principles. Focus will be placed on institutionalizing routine and consistent use of systems designed to improve efficiencies, program monitoring and evaluation, and monitoring of quality of care. This project will help strengthen regional and health facility leadership to effectively manage health care and improve engagement with communities in the design and delivery of primary health care. This approach will expand coverage of antiretroviral treatment and identification of TB and HIV cases, enhance capacity for patient follow-up, and improve the continuum of HIV and TB care at health facilities. It will also better position the PEPFAR platform to be leveraged to address broader MNCH priorities through integration efforts, as outlined in the Global Health Initiative strategy.

Planned AIDSFree Swaziland Key Activities

Expand coverage of high-quality, integrated, decentralized, and comprehensive HIV and AIDS and TB prevention, care, and treatment clinical services at health facilities in the Hhohho and Shiselweni regions that show continuous improvements in patient outcomes

- **Provider-initiated testing and counseling (PITC):** Support will include engaging the services of lay counselors for selected high-volume facilities, clinical mentoring of facility staff on PITC, and supporting the Ministry of Health (MOH) to create an enabling environment that allows health workers to provide quality services. AIDSFree will also



support health facilities to develop and implement PITC standard operating procedures to improve linkages with HIV and TB services.

- **MNCH/PMTCT:** The PMTCT platform will be used to implement evidence-based interventions to improve MNCH outcomes, focusing efforts on reducing maternal mortality through broadening PMTCT support to include MNCH activities at health facilities. The project will strengthen early infant diagnosis efforts at health facilities to ensure that infants are diagnosed early and promptly initiated on ART if HIV positive.
- **TB/HIV:** AIDSFree will establish strong referrals and linkages between intensified case finding and isoniazid preventive therapy or TB diagnosis and treatment services. Additionally, the project will support the expansion of quality TB services through rapidly rolling out TB diagnostic sites and multi-drug-resistant TB diagnosis and treatment services to all supported sites, in line with the essential health care package.
- **Adult and pediatric care and treatment:** The project will support health workers to ensure that eligible children, adolescents, adults, and key populations are counseled and started on appropriate treatment, and that clients are adequately counseled on adherence to improve retention.

Build Regional Health Management Teams' (RHMT) capacity to employ strong stewardship of HIV/TB service delivery informed by routine monitoring of patient outcomes

- Ensure that HIV and TB care and treatment services are comprehensive and holistic through integration with other essential primary health care platforms; and that service delivery, training, mentoring, and supervision activities are sustainable.
- Enhance the ability of the RHMTs in Hhohho and Shiselweni regions to formulate and implement comprehensive workplans that include clear monitoring and supervision plans.
- Provide expert assessments to identify organizational development needs of the RHMTs. Assist in implementing institutional capacity building workplans to strengthen the institution's ability to effectively function as stewards of health services in the region.
- Support and strengthen regional data management systems.
- Work with the RHMT in implementing a quality-assured health delivery system in the region in line with the MOH Quality Management (QM) program.

Provide technical assistance and support to the Sexual and Reproductive Health Unit (SRHU) and the Swaziland National AIDS Program (SNAP) to strengthen the MNCH platform in order to scale up and sustain high-quality PMTCT and pediatric HIV/TB services

- Support the SRHU and SNAP to update policies, guidelines, pre- and in-service training curricula, standard operating procedures, job aids, and other key documents in line with current practice and World Health Organization recommendations, as well as national priorities.

- Collaborate with SNAP, the National TB Control Program, and other PEPFAR partners [including the human resources for health partner, the TB partner, and the care and treatment partner] to support the integration of PMTCT and pediatric care and treatment into the pre-service training curriculum.
- Provide technical assistance to the MOH for the development of a national performance monitoring system for PMTCT and pediatric HIV care and treatment in collaboration with the national QM program.
- Conduct strategic quality improvement projects of new approaches, to inform evidence-based programming on PMTCT and pediatric HIV care and treatment.