

# South Africa

## *Country Brief*

Global. Health. Action.

ICAP ensures the wellness of families and communities by strengthening health systems around the world.

### **Background**

In 2004, ICAP began its work in South Africa providing comprehensive, family-based HIV care and treatment. In partnership with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), ICAP supported the scale-up of HIV services and worked with the Government of South Africa to make care and treatment services available at primary health centers—expanding services beyond large district hospitals.

ICAP's current portfolio focuses on targeted technical assistance, capacity building, promotion of sustainable programs, and tuberculosis (TB) and HIV prevention, care, and treatment services. ICAP also supports nursing and midwifery education, the strengthening of services for non-communicable diseases, and is researching pediatric HIV treatment strategies.

ICAP works in partnership with South Africa's National Department of Health (NDOH), provincial health departments, and district teams in the provinces of Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State, Limpopo, Northern Cape, and Gauteng. ICAP also collaborates with university partners, community-based organizations, and associations for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and intersex community and people living with HIV.

ICAP has received support for its work in South Africa from: bilateral donors, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and private foundations, including Medtronic Foundation.

### **Current Projects**

#### **Strengthening Evidence Base & Capacity for Implementing HIV Care & Treatment Programs under PEPFAR**

A five year project supported by the CDC, ICAP is providing technical assistance (TA) to strengthen health systems and organizational capacity at a national level to design, implement, and monitor and evaluate technically sound and cost-effective HIV prevention, care, and treatment services. ICAP is also providing technical assistance at the national and provincial levels to improve the effectiveness of nurse-initiated and managed antiretroviral treatment (NIMART). This scope of work includes a situational analysis of NIMART in all provinces in South Africa and local capacity building to deliver NIMART in-service training, including curriculum, and tools revision.

#### **HIV Prevention Services for Key Underserved Populations under PEPFAR**

With support from the CDC, ICAP is contributing to South Africa's National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS & STIs and TB through the provision of technical support for the implementation of comprehensive HIV prevention services for men who have sex with men (MSM). Implemented under the project name Mosaic Men's Health Initiatives (MOSAIC), this project seeks to increase coverage, access, and quality of HIV-related services for MSM in five provinces in South Africa by creating manuals and conducting trainings for health care workers in an effort to provide appropriate MSM services. The project also delivers MSM services through mobile wellness clinics staffed by peer outreach workers, lay counselors and nurses who provide HIV counseling and

testing and screening for TB and sexually-transmitted infections.

#### **Leveraging HIV Scale-Up to Strengthen Non-Communicable Disease Services in South Africa**

With support from Medtronic Foundation, ICAP is implementing a study to enhance services for non-communicable diseases (NCDs). This two-phase project aims to expand diabetes and hypertension screening for people living with HIV in South Africa. Phase one included: a baseline needs assessment and situational analysis; selection of Zamdela Community Health Centre, in the Free State province, as the study site; provision of medical equipment; and development and delivery of NCD tools and training. Phase two includes a study to determine the prevalence of these conditions in HIV-infected patients and the feasibility of screening methods to be integrated in HIV services.

#### **Development and Establishment of an International Accredited Training Center in South Africa under PEPFAR**

With funding from the CDC, ICAP is collaborating with the University of Cape Town's Desmond Tutu HIV Centre and the University of Pretoria to implement training courses for primary care and community-level clinicians on managing TB/HIV co-infected patients and implementing infection control measures in a primary health care setting. The courses are accredited as part of the Continued Professional Development (CPD) requirements of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA). Additional partners include the Medical Research Council (MRC) and Council for Scientific Industrial Research (CSIR).

#### **Nursing Education Partnership Initiative (NEPI)**

Through NEPI, supported by HRSA, ICAP is working to enhance the capacity of nursing educational institutions in order to increase the number of qualified nurses capable of meeting South Africa's health needs. The project aims to bridge pre-service and in-service nursing education, foster continuing professional development, and strengthen the quality and capacity of nursing and midwifery educational institutions, increase the number of highly skilled nurses and midwives, support innovative nursing retention strategies in South Africa, expand the scope of nursing practice, and strengthen policy and guidelines in delivery of nursing services. Partners include the National Department of Health, the National Department of Higher Education, nursing and midwifery schools, educators, professional associations, and professional councils.

#### **The MCH-ART Study: Strategies to Optimize Antiretroviral Therapy Services for Maternal and Child Health**

With support from NIH and in partnership with the University of Cape Town, ICAP is leading a three-year randomized trial study to evaluate two strategies for delivering HIV care and treatment services to HIV-exposed infants. The goal of the study is to identify optimal strategies for postpartum ART services for HIV-infected pregnant women and their exposed infants.

#### **Enhanced Surveillance and Two-Year Outcomes of Children Enrolled on ART in Public Health Facilities in the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa (PESS)**

With support from the CDC, ICAP, in collaboration with the Eastern Cape Department of Health and the University of Cape Town, is conducting a two-year research study to enroll and track a cohort of HIV-infected children initiating ART in five public health facilities in the Eastern Cape. The Pediatric Enhanced Surveillance Study (PESS) examines the clinical, immunologic virologic, metabolic, psychosocial, and behavioral outcomes of children receiving ART in public health facilities.

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