

# Swaziland

## *Country Brief*

Global. Health. Action.

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

### **Background**

In 2005, ICAP began its work in Swaziland with support from USAID through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to reduce perinatal transmission of HIV. In partnership with the Swaziland Ministry of Health (MOH), ICAP supported activities to strengthen, link, and decentralize services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and family-focused HIV care and treatment.

ICAP has received support for its work in Swaziland from: bilateral donors, including the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), 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).

### **Current Projects**

#### **Strengthening Local Capacity to Deliver Sustainable, Quality-Assured, Universal Coverage of Clinical HIV/TB Services**

Through this five-year project, supported by the CDC and in partnership with the MOH, ICAP is providing technical assistance to: enhance capacity and service delivery at the national level for TB, MDR-TB and HIV/TB activities; strengthen stewardship and capacity of the Regional Health Management Team in Manzini Region for quality management of HIV/TB service delivery; and improve coverage and quality of adult and pediatric HIV testing, prevention, care and treatment in health facilities and community settings. The approach emphasizes systems development, training and mentoring for health care workers, and integrating systematic, continuous quality improvement.

#### **Strengthening National Epidemiologic and Research Capacity to Improve Health Outcomes in the Kingdom of Swaziland under PEPFAR**

Funded by the CDC, ICAP is partnering with the MOH to build Swaziland's capacity in epidemiology and research and strengthen the monitoring and use of data. The aim of this work is to enable the effective use of health information and disease surveillance to inform policy and programming for a coordinated national health agenda. Activities will include support for epidemiology, surveillance, research ethics, the Health Research Training Program, and a population-based HIV impact assessment.

#### **Strengthening HIV/TB Laboratory Quality Management Systems and Services in the Kingdom of Swaziland under PEPFAR**

Funded by CDC, ICAP is enhancing laboratory capacity as a critical element of a strong health system. Through this five-year award, ICAP is supporting education and training in lab capacity to achieve lab accreditation, improve access to testing, strengthen equipment and supply chain management, and improve laboratory information systems with the goal of enhancing quality of care and program impact.

#### **Technical Assistance Services to Countries Supported by PEPFAR**

Through the Global Technical Assistance award, supported by CDC, ICAP is leading three TA projects in Swaziland:

- Developing HIV drug resistance surveillance systems
- Establishing a surveillance system for pediatric HIV case reporting
- Supporting the Swaziland Nursing Council to update their pre-service HIV/TB curricula and the development of a continuing professional development database.

#### **Situlwane Lesiphephile – Safe Generations**

Funded by USAID, this implementation science study is evaluating the Option B+ strategy for PMTCT, in which all pregnant women initiate lifelong triple ARV therapy independent of CD4+ count. A stepped-wedge design is being used at ten health facilities with one facility transitioning from Option A to Option B+ every month over 12 months. This study will test whether Option B+ results in differences in rates of infant HIV infection and mother and child retention in care.

#### **Link4Health: A Combination Strategy for Linkage and Retention**

Funded by the NIH, Link4Health is an implementation science study that uses a facility randomized trial design to evaluate the effectiveness of a combination intervention strategy, as compared to standard of care, on the combined outcome of rapid linkage to HIV care within one month and retention in care at 12 months among adults.

### **Past Projects**

#### **Rapid Scale-Up of HIV Care and Treatment Services under PEPFAR**

Through this five-year CDC award, ICAP worked with the MOH and partners in Hhohho, Lubombo, and Manzini regions to decentralize adult and pediatric HIV services and expand treatment through nurse-initiated antiretroviral treatment (ART). ICAP provided TA to strengthen networks of service providers, enhance linkages to care and referral systems, and introduce the Expert Client Program. Additionally, ICAP partnered with the MOH and CDC on the Swaziland HIV Incidence Measurement Survey ([shims.icap.columbia.edu](http://shims.icap.columbia.edu)) and established the Health Research Training Program.

#### **Technical Assistance for HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment & Other Infectious Diseases that Impact HIV Patients**

Through this award from CDC, ICAP worked to strengthen the capacity of the MOH and SNAP to use HIV program data to inform public health decision-making and ART programs, design and implement evaluations of priority programs, and strengthen monitoring and evaluation capacity. The first evaluation of Swaziland's hub-and-spoke decentralization model was conducted under this award.

#### **Global Nurse Capacity Building Program (GNCBP)**

Through this award, supported by HRSA, ICAP worked to enhance the capacity of nursing educational institutions to increase the number of qualified nurses. The project introduced innovative learning strategies, academic-service partnerships, and policies and guidelines for an expanded clinical role for nurses. Partners included the University of Swaziland, Southern African Nazarene University, Good Shepherd College of Nursing, and the Clinical Nursing Council.

#### **ICAP HEADQUARTERS**

Mailman School of Public Health  
Columbia University  
722 West 168th Street  
New York, NY 10032  
T.212.342.0505

#### **SWAZILAND OFFICE**

Lot 192, Somhlolo Road  
Mbabane, Swaziland  
T.268.2404.8055



[icap.columbia.edu](http://icap.columbia.edu)

August 2015