Overview: PEPFAR in Limpopo

Since 2004, PEPFAR has been working in partnership with Limpopo’s provincial government departments, non-governmental and private organizations, academia, traditional leaders, provincial AIDS councils, civil society and community and faith-based organizations to control HIV and TB in the province. PEPFAR funding and technical assistance support the implementation of HIV/TB prevention, treatment and care services activities in Limpopo. Activities include condom promotion and distribution, HIV counselling and testing, provision of antiretroviral therapy (ART), voluntary medical male circumcision, care of orphans & vulnerable children and youth and clinical research. In addition, PEPFAR’s HIV/AIDS Community Grants program funds community-based organizations that offer direct HIV prevention, care and support and programs to people living with HIV, adolescent girls, young women, and orphans and vulnerable children and youth. PEPFAR’s work in Limpopo is focused in the two highest HIV burdened districts (Capricorn and Mopani municipalities). For HIV program areas of PEPFAR-supported implementing partners in Limpopo, visit the U.S. Mission in South Africa website: https://za.usembassy.gov/our-relationship/pepfar/.

Focusing on Epidemic Control: Reaching 90-90-90 Goals

In September 2016, South Africa formally began rolling out the new World Health Organization (WHO) Universal Test and Treat (UTT) guidelines on HIV treatment. UTT allows for any individual who tests HIV-positive to begin ART immediately. UTT directly supports the UN's 90-90-90 targets of ensuring that 90% of all people living with HIV know their HIV status, 90% of people with diagnosed HIV infection receive sustained ART and 90% of all people receiving ART have viral suppression. Through the national and provincial departments of health and implementing partners, PEPFAR’s Focusing for Impact strategy is supporting UTT across South Africa. PEPFAR is also working with the South African Government to implement PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis) key populations demonstration projects in Limpopo’s highest burden districts.

Focusing on Adolescent Girls and Young Women

Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) between the ages 10-24 remain the most vulnerable to new HIV infections and unplanned pregnancies. The South African Government is directing a special focus on this most at risk population through the national She Conquers campaign which seeks to empower girls and young women. PEPFAR’s DREAMS program is part of the She Conquers campaign; it focuses on addressing the structural drivers that increase girls’ risk of HIV infection: poverty, gender and economic inequality, and lack of education. DREAMS uses multiple evidence-based interventions such as post-violence care, parenting/caregiver programs, and facilitating access to education and economic opportunities in order for AGYW to develop Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe lives. The high priority AGYW regions and wards receiving PEPFAR DREAMS interventions are in the Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal provinces where HIV transmission is the highest. More about PEPFAR DREAMS: http://www.dreamspartnership.org/ and She Conquers: https://www.health.gov.za