



Leveraging U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) – funded activities to increase COVID-19 and influenza vaccination uptake in South Africa.

1 July 2023 to 31 December 2024



This demonstration project – implemented in one HST PEPFAR-supported district: uMgun-gundlovu, covering its five sub-districts – supports the objectives of the 'Initiative for Global Vaccine Access' Global VAX Programme to enable integration of COVID-19 and influenza vaccination as a component of a routine adult vaccination programme in KwaZulu-Natal, in partnership with the Provincial Department of Health and the National Institute for Communicable Diseases.

This work is layered on an existing HIV/TB footprint for accelerated engagement at Primary Health Care (PHC) level, using health education and promotional materials to mitigate the damage of myths related to vaccine use.

Teams partner with PEPFAR-funded community-based HIV and TB service providers to reduce vaccination stigma, increase uptake, and widen the vaccine education scope, with specific access provided to those who are most vulnerable to COVID-19 infection.

The key objectives are to improve integration of COVID-19 vaccination into routine PHC activities, develop Quality Improvement Plans, and train Facility Managers on allocation of human resources for maximum uptake of vaccine services.

Clinicians will receive capacity-building to offer vaccines to all eligible patients, and adult vaccine programmes will be strengthened through development of job aids and materials for awareness and demand creation for vaccine services in the selected sub-districts.

The project will introduce technological innovations to improve the recording of routine vaccination data captured in Tick Registers into WebDHIS, and of influenza and COVID-19 vaccination activities.

As a project built on technical assistance, our goal is to achieve a strengthened system for integrated health service provision across all streams in an Ideal Clinic model. The project will conduct a qualitative evaluation to assess the value and impact of campaign-driven community outreach for delivery of vaccination services.

The project will also partner with the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute and the University of Cape Town to conduct vaccine-safety programme activities within maternal health sectors, to guide and influence policy for improved maternal vaccination for COVID-19 and dread diseases.

For more information on this programme do email HST on hst@hst.org.za