

# SA SURE PRO | South Africa Sustainable Response to HIV and TB Project



Community-based, Nurse-led mobile pick-up points provide clients with speedy, convenient healthcare services.  
(Photo: Duncan Maccallum)

HST's flagship project entitled **'Programmatic Implementation for HIV/AIDS and TB Prevention, Care, and Treatment Services' (SA SURE PRO)** was awarded a third grant for the period 2021 to 2026 under the U.S. President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) programme for **'Sustaining HIV/TB Epidemic Control in South Africa'**.

HST's flagship project entitled 'South Africa's Sustainable Response to HIV/AIDS and TB' (SA SURE PRO) was awarded a third grant for the period 2021 to 2026 under the U.S. President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) programme.

The SA SURE PRO project focuses on the provincial, district, facility and community levels of the South African health system to support Department of Health (DoH) facilities in four PEPFAR focus districts in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Province – eThekweni, uMgungundlovu, uThukela, and Zululand.

The project's current five-year cycle of work adopts an approach aligned with the PEPFAR Country Operational Plan and DoH objectives, with ongoing emphasis on sustainable capacity development and support on the ground to integrate national health priorities and contribute to rapid acceleration towards epidemic control. This work entails provision of technical assistance

and direct service delivery to ensure the continuity of approximately 850 000 patients on antiretroviral therapy (ART) and impetus towards reaching the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets to end AIDS by 2030.

Key areas for SA SURE programming are: integrated HIV and TB care and treatment service cascades for adults and children; TB prevention; HIV Testing Services (including index contact testing, HIV self-screening, and HIV recency testing); provision of Advanced Clinical Care; enhanced HIV treatment adherence counselling through promotion of 'Undetectable = Untransmittable' (U=U) guidance; HIV prevention through pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP); strengthening of health systems through the clinic-laboratory interface; patient management systems for quality health services; and implementation of the CCMDD/Dablapmeds (Central Chronic Medicine Dispensing and Distribution) programme.



*CDC, PEPFAR and HST colleagues celebrate eThekweni's top-performing clinics at a certification ceremony.*

Having played a pivotal role in developing and piloting the web-based CCMDD system – Synchronised National Communication in Health (SyNCH) – HST continues to support its operation in partnership with the National Department of Health.

The project strengthens COVID-19 pandemic responsiveness through improved facility preparedness and innovations in community-based services. HST continues to support provincial and district operationalisation of the COVID-19 Resurgence Plans, and implementation of the Provincial COVID-19 Vaccination Roll-out Plan, including implementation of the Global VAX Project, resource mobilisation, and related reporting to provincial government leadership and the DoH.

The SA SURE PRO Provincial Team provides technical assistance to the District Health Services and Strategic Health Programmes Units within the KZN Provincial Department of Health to strengthen key programmes, such as Differentiated Models of Care and the Paediatric Cascade. The team also strengthens provincial health leadership and governance through support for planning processes, along with input to enhance role clarity for Chief Executive

Officers of hospitals and Community Health Centres, and District Health Management Team members.

Support for provincial policy and guideline development has entailed revision of the Provincial Patient Referral Policy and Standard Operating Procedure, praxis for community-based ART services, and evolution of the Monitoring and Evaluation framework. HST teams provided feedback on the South African National AIDS Council's National HIV Literacy Implementation Framework, and participated in a task team responsible for crafting KZN's Integrated Multi-stakeholder Health Promotion and Wellbeing Strategy.

The project's strategic partnerships enable multi-sectoral collaboration with civil society through engagement with District AIDS Councils, Operation Sukuma Sakhe structures, and people living with HIV through the Ritshidze Project, as well as support for programmes under the aegis of the Office of the KZN Premier.

