

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



HST's flagship project entitled '**Programmatic Implementation for HIV/AIDS and TB Prevention, Care, and Treatment Services**' (SA SURE PRO) is funded 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**' by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This is the third five-year grant awarded to HST by PEPFAR.

The SA SURE PRO project provides health systems strengthening support at provincial, district, facility and community levels to the Department of Health (DoH) in four PEPFAR focus districts in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Province – eThekweni, uMgungundlovu, uThukela, and Zululand.

The project's current cycle of work is aligned with South Africa's National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs 2023–2028, PEPFAR's Country Operational Plan, and DoH objectives, emphasising sustainable capacity development and support on the ground to integrate national health priorities and contribute to rapid acceleration towards epidemic control. This programme entails provision of technical assistance and direct services to patients 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 literacy and adherence counselling through promotion of the 'Undetectable=Untransmittable' (U=U) strategy; peer-led support for improved adherence; implementation of community-based ART; HIV prevention through pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP); strengthening of health systems through the clinic-laboratory interface; patient records management systems for quality health services; and implementation of the CCMD-D/Dablapmeds (Central Chronic Medicine Dispensing and Distribution) programme.

The project activities are delivered through technical assistance and direct services. This dual approach effects change at a systems



level and increases the scale of available health services for improved equity and accessibility in the four supported districts.

We work closely with other PEPFAR partners in providing support to orphaned and vulnerable children, adolescents and other members of key population groups. 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.

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 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.



For more information on this programme do email HST on [hst@hst.org.za](mailto:hst@hst.org.za)