

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (UB) FOR PAEDIATRIC AND ADOLESCENT HIV IN KWAZULU-NATAL



Funded by ELMA Philanthropies and led by a partner consortium with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) as National Co-ordinating partner, the Unfinished Business Project seeks to achieve three objectives in the supported districts (eThekweni, Zululand and uMgungundlovu), in line with UNAIDS global 95-95-95 targets, building on the 'Getting to Zero' strategy to end the HIV epidemic by 2030.

These objectives are to:

1. improve earlier diagnosis of children and adolescents with HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malnutrition by increasing testing, screening and case-finding to reach 95% of children living with HIV;
2. improve linkages to treatment and support to ensure that 95% of children and adolescents identified as HIV-positive are initiated on antiretroviral therapy (ART) and TB prophylaxis/treatment; and
3. increase access to quality HIV treatment services for children and adolescents

to ensure that 95% of those initiated on ART are maintained in care at 12 months, and are virally suppressed.

The project has been active since May 2019, and following a successful bid for the extension of its second phase, has been extended for an 18-month period from 1 May 2022 to 31 October 2023.

The project continues to support 81 facilities, with 45 health facilities in eThekweni, 13 in uMgungundlovu, and 23 in Zululand. Simultaneously, the community-based outreach work was also cemented through incorporation of the existing dedicated Outreach Teams into the main project.

The extension project remains funded by ELMA Philanthropies – mainly for the facility-based component and ViiV Healthcare – and by Positive Action for Children's Fund (PACF) for the community-based outreach component

Children and caregivers with the gifts they received at the Pongola Clinic Support Day event.



in all three districts. The extension phase focuses on supporting full-scale implementation of existing UB strategies, documentation of good practices, and building capacity for sustainability.

Improved performance in HIV case-finding and treatment initiation is being achieved through:

- enhanced use of the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) Results for Action Dashboard;
- technical support reviews conducted with the roving teams;
- improved index contact elicitation and testing, especially among adolescents;
- re-instatement of caregiver support groups;
- revitalisation of Adolescent- and Youth-friendly Services (AYFS) and re-establishment of Youth Care Clubs;
- case management of new patients and those with interrupted treatment being

re-engaged in care (where Paediatric Case Managers are available);

- completion of the KidzAlive training by all UB roving and facility-based staff; and
- completion of refresher training on index contact elicitation and testing by all UB roving and facility-based staff.

The Department of Health's Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Matrix of Interventions (Mol) is implemented in facilities, and the roving team provides technical support by assisting facility staff with the completion of Mol plans, the monitoring of Mol implementation, and reporting of monthly facility Mol data.