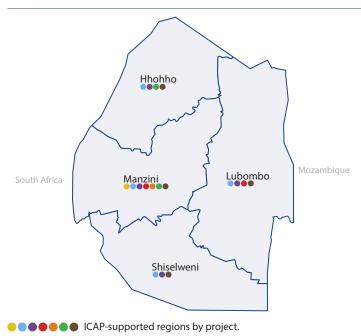


Swaziland



Program Start

2005

Key Technical Areas

HIV Prevention, Care, and Treatment Laboratory Systems Strengthening Health Management Information Systems Monitoring and Evaluation Population-based Surveys Key Populations

Current Funders

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
National Institutes of Health (NIH)
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Current Projects

- Strengthening Local Capacity to Deliver Sustainable, Quality-Assured, Universal Coverage of Clinical HIV/TB Services
 ICAP is providing technical assistance to: enhance capacity and service delivery at the national level for tuberculosis (TB), MDR-TB, and HIV/TB activities; strengthen stewardship and capacity of the Regional Health Management Team in Manzini Region for quality management of HIV/TB service delivery; and improve coverage and quality of adult and pediatric HIV testing, prevention, care, and treatment in health facilities and community settings. The approach emphasizes systems development, training, and mentoring for health workers, and integrating systematic, continuous quality improvement. (funded by PEPFAR through the CDC)
- Strengthening National Epidemiologic and Research Capacity to Improve Health Outcomes in the Kingdom of Swaziland under PEPFAR ICAP is partnering with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to build Swaziland's capacity in epidemiology and research and strengthen the monitoring and use of data. The aim of this work is to enable the effective use of health information and disease surveillance to inform policy and programming for a coordinated national health agenda. Activities include support for epidemiology, surveillance, research ethics, and the Health Research Training Program.

Under this award, ICAP is also providing technical assistance and support to conduct the second Swaziland HIV Incidence Measurement Survey (SHIMS 2) to assess HIV prevalence, incidence, and access to prevention, care, and treatment services. The survey consists of household-based interviews and HIV counseling and testing for adults and children. The first SHIMS was conducted in 2010-2011, and survey findings provided critical data for HIV programs in Swaziland during the past five years. The 2016 survey findings will be used to assess the impact of Swaziland's HIV response at the national level and to help guide and target future investment and programs. (funded by PEPFAR through CDC)

• Strengthening HIV/TB Laboratory Quality Management Systems and Services in the Kingdom of Swaziland under PEPFAR ICAP is enhancing laboratory capacity as a critical element of a strong health system. Through this five-year award, ICAP is supporting education and training in lab capacity to achieve lab accreditation, improve access to testing, strengthen equipment and supply chain management, and improve laboratory information systems with the goal of enhancing quality of care and program impact. (funded by PEPFAR through CDC)

Swaziland

Safe Generations Plus

ICAP is conducting a two-year study to examine the magnitude and determinants of disengagement from care among HIV-positive pregnant women and infants enrolled in prevention of mother-to-child services under Option B+ in Swaziland. The study is being conducted at ten health facilities in Swaziland's Manzini and Lubombo regions. (funded by NIH)

• HEART: Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factor Screening and Management Among People Living with HIV in Swaziland This study is evaluating the feasibility and acceptability of implementing cardiovascular disease risk factor (CVDRF) screening and management among HIV-positive adults enrolled in care at an ART clinic. It is also comparing the effectiveness of two CVDRF management strategies—integrated versus referred management—on linkage to and the retention in care. (funded by NIH)



The Evidence for Contraceptive Options and HIV Outcomes (ECHO) Study

The ECHO Study is a multi-country, open label, randomized clinical trial that will assess the effect of three highly effective, reversible methods of contraception—depot medroxyprogesterone acetate, the levonorgestrel implant, and the copper intrauterine device—on the risk of HIV acquisition in women in sub-Saharan Africa. This study is Swaziland's first experience with an interventional randomized clinical trial and is being conducted by ICAP in collaboration with the Family Life Association of Swaziland (a local sexual and reproductive health service provider).

(funded by consortium of donors via FHI360)

• Global Technical Assistance in Swaziland (funded by PEPFAR through CDC)

Enhancing Viral Load Monitoring

ICAP is working with the MOH to optimize facility-based components of the viral load cascade (pre-test, test, and post-test), including use of evidence-based approaches for enhanced adherence interventions that are essential for successful implementation of viral load monitoring and improved outcomes for patients on ART.

Facilitating HIV Drug Resistance Surveillance

ICAP is partnering with the MOH to implement a national HIV drug resistance surveillance plan, including developing protocols, implementing baseline surveys, and establishing a quality M&E system for ongoing surveillance.

Enhancing Pediatric HIV Surveillance

ICAP is working with the MOH to gather information on new pediatric HIV infections, and supporting the development of surveillance protocols for pediatric HIV case reporting and monitoring of surveillance system data quality.

Updating TB/HIV Nursing Curriculum

ICAP is providing technical assistance to the Swaziland Nursing Council and stakeholders to update the pre-service HIV and TB curriculum and implement its use at three nursing schools in Swaziland.

Supporting Early Infant Diagnosis

ICAP is collaborating with the MOH to implement birth testing for early infant diagnosis. The program is testing all HIV-exposed infants at birth using dried blood spots for DNA PCR testing. ICAP is also creating a system for returning results to mothers and immediately linking infected children to ART services.



Swaziland

Global Technical Assistance in Swaziland (continued)

Evaluating the World Health Organization Toolkit for Integration of TB/HIV Services

ICAP is collaborating with the MOH and CDC to pilot the World Health Organization (WHO) toolkit for the integration of PMTCT/TB services. In order to pilot the toolkit, ICAP is adapting M&E tools, providing guidance to facilitate the process of integration, and training health workers in service delivery.

Implementing Patient Feedback Surveys

ICAP is collaborating with the MOH and CDC to implement an anonymous patient feedback survey and ongoing health worker feedback sessions to enhance PMTCT services. Through patient feedback and provision of sensitivity training to health workers, the project aims to improve patient experiences at health facilities in order to increase retention in PMTCT services.



Recently Completed Projects

Safe Generations (2012 - 2017)

ICAP collaborated with Swaziland's Ministry of Health and the University of Cape Town to conduct this stepped-wedge implementation science study at 12 health facilities in Swaziland's Manzini and Lubombo regions. The study evaluated the impact of Option B+ on maternal retention and mother-to-child transmission of HIV, as well as the approach's feasibility, acceptability, and cost-effectiveness. (funded by USAID)

Link4Health: A Combination Strategy for Linkage and Retention (2012 - 2017)

Link4Health was a cluster-randomized, controlled trial that evaluated the effectiveness of a combination intervention strategy versus the standard of care on the primary outcome of linkage to care within one month and retention in care at 12 months following HIV diagnosis. The combination intervention included: point-of-care CD4 testing at time of diagnosis, accelerated ART initiation for treatment-eligible individuals, mobile phone appointment reminders, health educational packages, and non-cash financial incentives for linkage and retention. (funded by the NIH)

Rapid Scale-Up of HIV Care and Treatment Services under PEPFAR (2009 - 2015)

ICAP worked with the MOH and partners in Hhohho, Lubombo, and Manzini regions to decentralize adult and pediatric HIV services and expand treatment through nurse-initiated ART. ICAP provided technical assistance to strengthen networks of service providers, enhance linkages to care and referral systems, and introduce the Expert Client Program. Additionally, ICAP partnered with the MOH and CDC on the Swaziland HIV Incidence Measurement Survey, established the Health Research Training Program, conducted the first national ART program evaluation, and implemented a study assessing linkage to care after community testing. (funded by PEPFAR through CDC)

Technical Assistance for HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment & Other Infectious Diseases that Impact HIV Patients (2009 - 2015) ICAP worked to strengthen the capacity of the MOH and SNAP to use HIV program data to inform public health decision-making and ART programs, design and implement evaluations of priority programs, and strengthen monitoring and evaluation capacity. The first evaluation of Swaziland's hub-and-spoke decentralization model was conducted under this award. (funded by PEPFAR through CDC)

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