

Project Fact Sheet | Swaziland



A lay counselor doing couples counseling.

Increasing Provider-Initiated HIV Counselling and Testing

Adult HIV prevalence rates in Swaziland are among Sub-Saharan Africa's highest. Only a small proportion of people know their HIV status, and most clinic attendees are not offered HIV testing and counseling (HTC). In addition, the quality of testing and counseling often does not meet national standards. To assist in addressing these obstacles, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded University Research Co. LLC (URC) the five-year project beginning in 2006. The project is building an indigenous, sustainable response to the national HIV epidemics through the rapid expansion of innovative, culturally appropriate, high-quality HIV/AIDS prevention and care interventions.

The project aims to:

- Increase utilization of high quality provider initiated HTC services through:
 - strengthened provider initiated testing in the TB clinical settings;
 - increased number of inpatients with knowledge of HIV status in health facilities; and
 - increased integration of HIV testing and TB screening in clinical care setting and community settings including home based HIV testing for families on index TB patients.
- Prevent HIV transmission through promotion of condom use and provide specific prevention education and counselling based on knowledge of HIV status.
- Strengthen national capacity to lead and manage roll out of adequate HTC services.

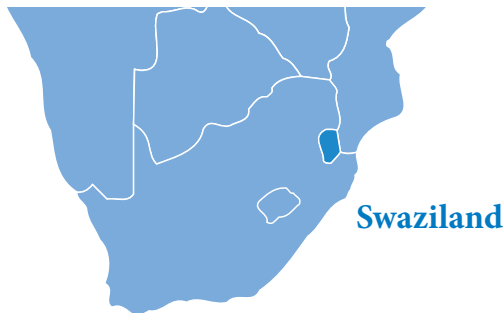
How we work

The project uses a collaborative approach for rapidly expanding the availability of quality provider-initiated HIV testing and counseling (PI-HTC) services.

The approach is a data-driven facility-level approach to service delivery that emphasizes:

- Mentorship and supportive supervision for supported health facilities, and
- Use of checklist and screening tools to standardize support across service delivery points.

Where we work





HIV counselor creating rapport and providing support to client in rural area

The project collaborates closely with MOH, the Swaziland National AIDS Program (SNAP), National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTCP), and other partners and subscribes to the national priorities and coordinating organs, such as the National Emergency Response Council on HIV/AIDS (NERCHA).

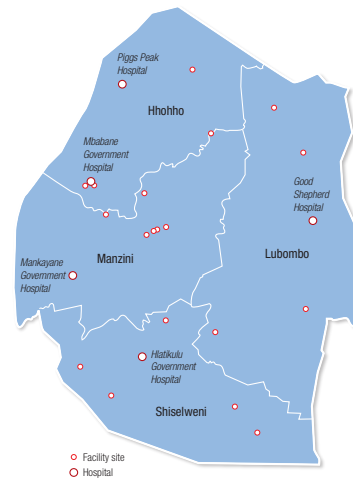
Focus areas

Strengthening PI-HTC

- Assisting the MOHSW to streamline policies on PI-HTC.
- Establishing multi-disciplinary teams to scale-up integrated PI-HTC.
- Establishing routine systematic monitoring and evaluation of PI-HTC.

Integrating HIV and TB clinical services

- Expanding PI-HTC in TB clinical services regionally through Regional PI-HTC expansion strategies and expansion teams.
- Advocating for physical space for TB clinics to promote confidential PI-HTC.
- In collaboration with SNAP/NTCP, training healthcare providers on skills needed to provide quality HTC.
- On-the-job mentoring for clinic staff.
- Developing referral linkages to increase awareness, uptake of HIV testing services, and referrals for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services.
- Regional-level quarterly data review workshops on PI-HTC in TB collaborative meetings.
- Conducting data audits to verify quality of reported data for TB and TB/HIV indicators.
- Increasing community awareness about benefits of HIV testing for comprehensive management of TB.
- Integrating TB and HIV care through coordinated activities.



Health facilities supported by the HTC project

Key achievements

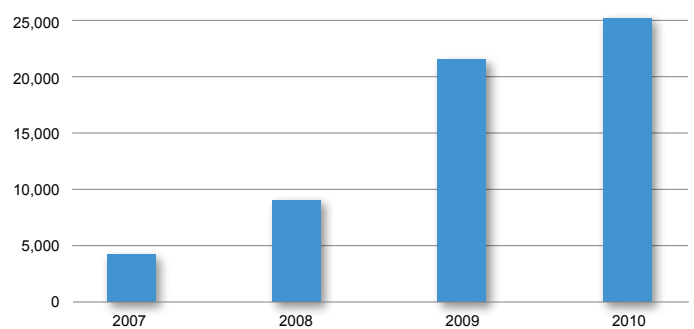
Between 2005-2010, the project:

- Supported the MOHSW in developing HTC guidelines and implementing an operational plan
- Trained 917 health providers in PI-HTC
- Integrated TB screening into HIV/AIDS services, and HIV testing for TB patients
- Distributed over 1,402,387 condoms
- Printed and distributed 600 HTC registers
- Introduced community-based HTC

Over 64,000 women and men have received HTC in project supported sites. The project has made a significant contribution to the National Strategic Framework target of increasing the percent of people tested for HIV during the last 12 months from 22% to 50% for women and 9% to 40% for men by 2014.

Over 20,000 TB patients and 30,000 TB suspects were tested for HIV and received their results.

Number of patients/clients tested for HIV in the four regions, October 2006–September 2010



Improving systems to empower communities