PEPFAR Overview

Since 2004, PEPFAR has invested more than $4.2 billion in the SA response to the HIV/AIDS and TB epidemics. PEPFAR works in partnership with national, provincial and local governments, with non-governmental and faith-based organizations, and with academia and the private sector to scale up life-saving HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment services across SA. Joint national outcomes include:

- 2,400,000 million HIV-positive individuals on antiretroviral treatment,
- Reduction in mother-to-child transmission rate of HIV to less than 3%,
- 6,617,300 individuals received HIV counseling and testing,
- 295,000 men received medical male circumcision as part of a package of prevention services, and
- 177,000 orphans and vulnerable children were reached with care services.

HIV in the Province

The sexually active age group (males and females, aged 15—49 years) represents 51.5% of Eastern Cape’s population; HIV prevalence amongst this age group is 18.7%. According to recently released DoH data, Eastern Cape recorded a decrease in antenatal HIV prevalence of 0.6% from 29.9% to 29.3% (95% CI: 27.5—31.1%). Buffalo City was the only Eastern Cape district with antenatal HIV prevalence above 30% (recorded at 34.1%).

PEPFAR’s Current Work

The USG works in close partnership with the SAG to achieve the goals of zero new HIV and TB infections, zero new infections due to vertical transmission, zero preventable deaths associated with HIV and TB, and zero discrimination associated with HIV, STIs, and TB. In August 2012, the US and SA governments signed a Partnership Framework Implementation Plan which outlines joint investments through 2017 to further reduce HIV infections and build health systems capacity. PEPFAR works in alliance with Eastern Cape’s provincial and local governments to strengthen its health system infrastructure through ensuring high quality standard of care at health facilities; enhancing training, recruiting, and strengthening human resource systems for clinicians, community health workers, and managers; strengthening use and data capturing of routine health information systems, including ETR, EDR, Tier.net, and DHIS; and promoting evidence-informed planning.

Eastern Cape Achievements

Through district health partners, PEPFAR has supported the provincial government in reaching the following Milestones in 2013:

- 253,900 HIV-positive individuals on antiretroviral treatment, and
- 782,000 individuals received HIV counseling and testing.

Additionally, PEPFAR implementing partners in the province contributed directly to:

- 3,400 medical male circumcisions (contributing to 8.9% of the provincial target),
- 25,600 orphans and vulnerable children reached with care services;
- 600 Health Care workers graduated from a pre-service training institution, and
- 3,800 Health Care workers completed a SAQA-accredited in-service training program and 165 clinicians and caregivers completed a pediatric ART, TB, MMC, or palliative care course.

Provincial Highlight

FPD received PEPFAR funding through USAID to outfit and equip mobile computer labs to train and build capacity of data personnel and facility managers on Tier.net, DHIS, and basic computer skills. Also, IYDSA, a CDC-funded PEPFAR partner, trained nearly 100 pharmacy assistants at the request of the province and furnished DoH facilities they support with essential medical equipment.