



Overview

Strengthening health systems since 1992



Health Systems Trust (HST) is an innovative non-profit organisation working to strengthen ongoing development of comprehensive health systems in southern Africa. Using a primary health care approach, we specialise in conducting health research, providing technical support, and information dissemination. Our strategies are designed to promote equity and efficiency in health and healthcare delivery.

Our Vision

Health for all through strengthened health systems

Our Mission

To be a partner of choice in building comprehensive and equitable health systems

Our Approach

Our approach is based on:

- the primary health care philosophy
- generating evidence-based interventions, good practice and innovations
- providing management, implementation and research support at all levels of the health system
- providing guidance, mentoring and training
- recognising the influence of the social determinants of health on the burden of disease
- tailoring our work to local contexts
- creating, sharing, storing and curating new knowledge

Our Core Values

We are a learning organisation that is:

- committed to excellence
- people-centred
- honest and transparent
- innovative
- responsive
- knowledge-driven



Our Structure

The **Health Systems Research Unit** conducts policy-relevant health systems research to strengthen the district health system, its support mechanisms and priority programmes. We focus on improving knowledge management, translating research into policy and practice, and building capacity within the paradigm of Essential National Health Research.

The **Health Systems Strengthening Unit** provides implementation support through the strategic use, analysis and distribution of health and related information to enhance evidence-based management. HST facilitators based in the districts work closely with health district management teams and healthcare workers to transfer skills through training and mentoring for sustainable quality improvement in service delivery.

Health Systems Trust's **Corporate Services** unit provides essential and specialist support services within the organisation. It delivers a comprehensive and integrated finance, human resources, information technology, administration, business development, and marketing and communications function.





Our Team

HST's staff complement comprises a wide range of professionals from mainly health and social science backgrounds.

With over 400 staff members based in 14 locations across South Africa, HST operates in both urban and rural settings and in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, as required.

Capacity-building for health systems research in Africa is undertaken by funding and supporting interns in HST and other institutions and, through extensive grant-making, supporting the work of research institutions and other non-profit organisations.

Governance

HST has established a solid reputation of good governance and sound financial management and has consistently secured funding to support the work of the organisation.

An independent Board of Trustees guides and provides oversight of HST. Board members collectively comprise a diverse group of individuals with professional standing and expertise in health systems development in and beyond South Africa.



Our Current Partners

Funders

- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- National Department of Health – South Africa
- Atlantic Philanthropies
- Department of Health - Gauteng
- Department of Health - Limpopo
- Department of Health – Western Cape
- German Development Bank (KfW)
- International Development Research Centre
- National Lotteries Board
- National Treasury
- Office of Health Standards Compliance
- Office of the Presidency – South Africa
- Palmer Development Group
- Public Health Enhancement Fund
- WHO Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research
- World Bank

Partners and collaborators

- Academy for Leadership and Management in Healthcare
- Africa Health Placements
- Africare
- ASG
- Aurum Institute
- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Continuing Education at University of Pretoria
- Department of Health – Gauteng
- Department of Health – Eastern Cape
- Department of Health – Free State
- Department of Health – KwaZulu-Natal
- Department of Health – Limpopo
- Department of Health – Mpumalanga
- Department of Health – Northern Cape
- Department of Health – North West
- Department of Health – Western Cape
- Development Bank of Southern Africa
- Khethimpilo
- Management Sciences for Health
- Medical Research Council
- Mobenzi
- NASTAD
- National Health Laboratory Services
- National Institute of Communicable Diseases
- Philanjalo
- PRICELESS
- Right to Care
- Save the Children UK
- Social Development Direct
- Soul City
- 20,000+ Partnership
- The Futures Group
- University of Cape Town – CIDER
- University of the Western Cape
- University of the Witwatersrand – Centre for Rural Health
- University Research Council
- University of KwaZulu-Natal
- University of KwaZulu-Natal – Centre for Rural Health
- VP Health



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