

## 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 a 24-month period from 1 May 2022 to 30 April 2024.

The project continues to support 81 facilities, with 45 health facilities in eThekweni, 13 in uMgungundlovu, and 23 in Zululand.

The extension project remains funded by ELMA Philanthropies – mainly for the technical support & M&E. The extension phase focuses on supporting full-scale implementation of existing UB strategies, documentation of good practices, and building capacity for institutionalisations and sustainability of interventions.



Support group at Nongoma sub-district

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 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 (Moi) is implemented in facilities, and the roving team provides technical support by assisting facility staff with the completion of Moi plans, the monitoring of Moi implementation, and reporting of monthly facility Moi data.

UB support is also focusing on the implementation of the Global Alliance Pillars for ending AIDS in Children by 2030.