

BAYLOR FOUNDATION



ESWATINI

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TABLE CONTENTS

04

Thank You

05

Network Impact At a Glance

06

Foundation Background

08

Executive Director Message

09

Areas of Operation

10

Program Highlights

20

Clinical Services

29

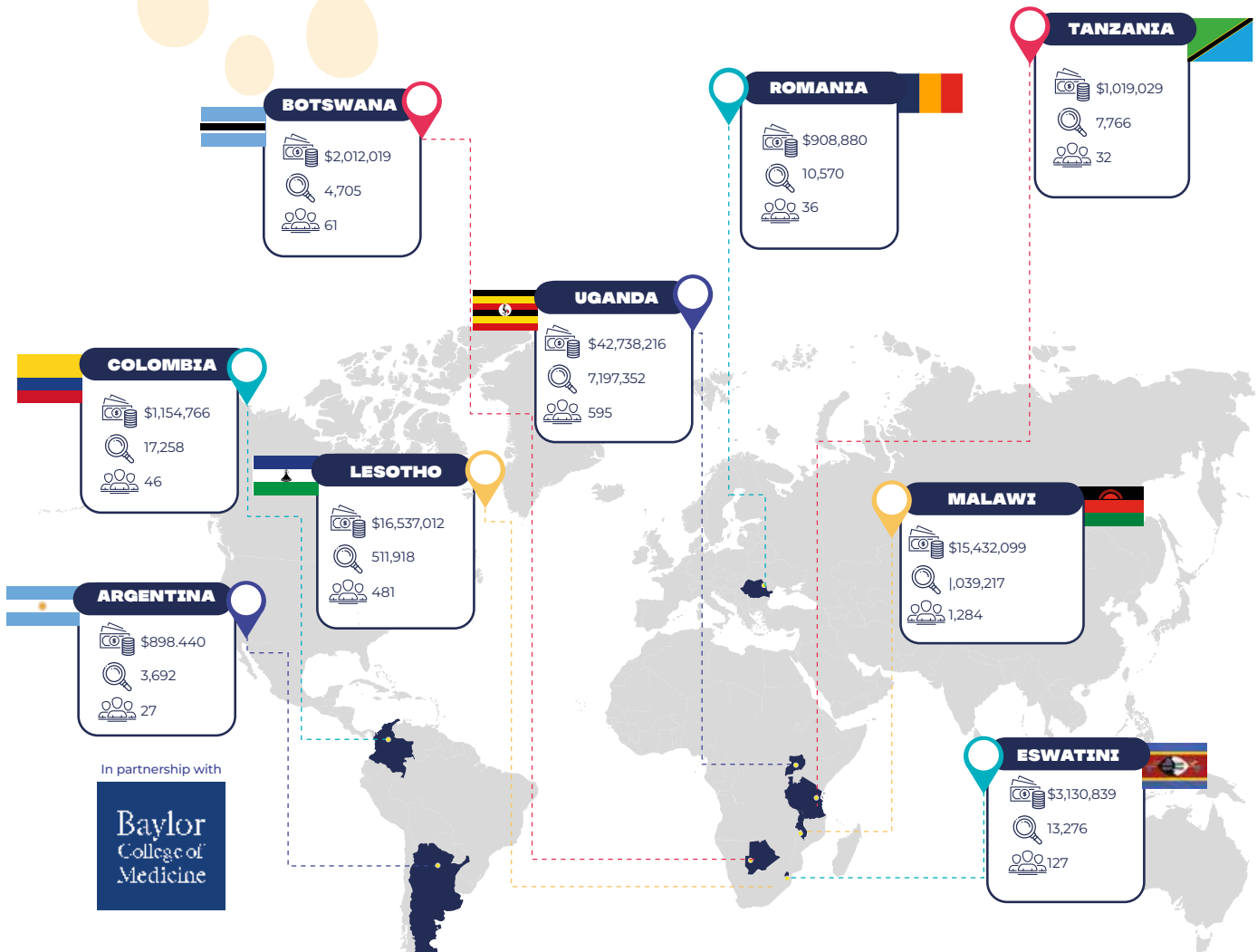
Testimonials

THANK YOU



This project is part of the
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NETWORK IMPACT AT A GLANCE



PROGRAM FUNDING



PEOPLE REACHED



FOUNDATION STAFF EMPLOYED

COLLECTIVE IMPACT



\$83,831,300
Total Network
Funding



2,689
Total Staff Employed



8,805,754
Total People
Reached



8,859
Total Health
Personnel Trained

Each foundation in the Texas Children's Global Health Network works together, sharing ideas to tackle tough health problems in their communities and around the world.

ESWATINI

FOUNDATION BACKGROUND

The Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation – Eswatini (Baylor Foundation Eswatini) is an autonomous, local not-for-profit organization established in 2005. We partner with Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, Texas, USA. Through our public-private partnership with Eswatini's Ministry of Health, Baylor Foundation - Eswatini operates the Children's Clinical Centre of Excellence (COE) in Mbabane (Hhohho region), inaugurated in 2006 to enhance HIV healthcare for children and adolescents. Two Satellite COEs (SCOEs) were subsequently opened in the Manzini and Shiselweni regions, further expanding access to pediatric and adolescent health services.

As Eswatini's national leader in pediatric HIV/ AIDS and TB care, Baylor Foundation Eswatini serves nearly half of all children receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) in the country. The Foundation's work has evolved to address a broad range of health concerns, including co-morbidities such as cancer and non-communicable diseases. Programs integrate clinical care, workforce training, and research, underscoring its commitment to achieving an HIV-free generation.





VISION

A nation with healthy, fulfilled children, adolescents, and families.

MISSION

To provide high-quality, family-centred paediatric and adolescent health care, education, and clinical research in Eswatini.

CORE VALUES

Excellence, child-centeredness, integrity, accountability, teamwork, ethical practices, and commitment to holistic service delivery.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Makhosazana M. Dlamini, M.B.A

THANK YOU FOR SHOWING INTEREST IN OUR REPORT!!!

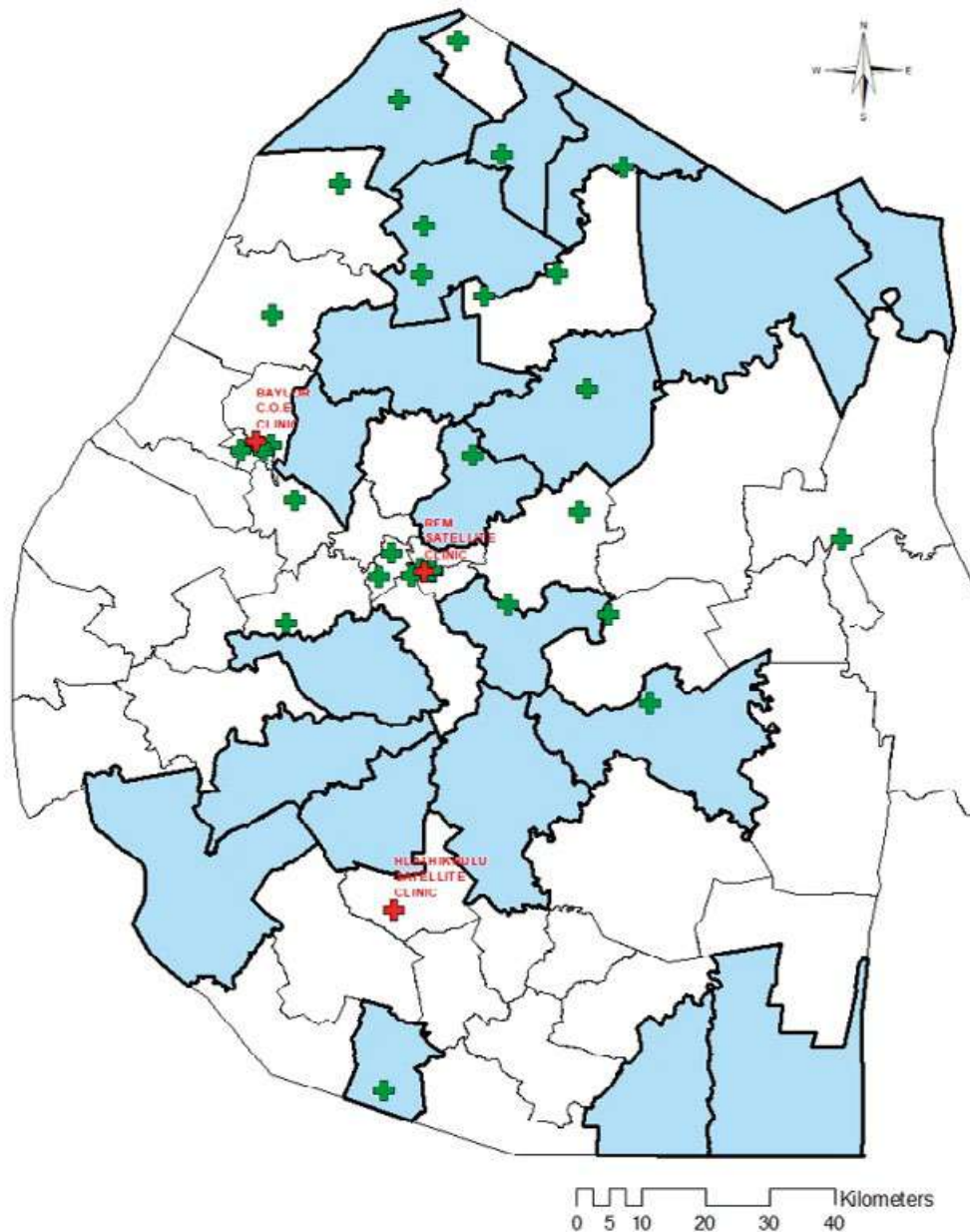
Despite national challenges in ensuring a stable commodity supply, we have succeeded in ensuring that we offer quality services to all our beneficiaries at all our sites. Baylor Foundation Eswatini works hand in glove with Ministry of Health to deliver health care services to children, adolescents and their families in Eswatini.

We have seen a high success rate in prevention of mother to child transmission, viral suppression amongst children and adolescents and improved TB outcomes. We continued to work with donors to offer innovative interventions in improving health outcomes of children and adolescents living with HIV and TB. We also do research to bring-out evidence in better treatment regimens for favorable health outcomes especially for children.

We are particularly excited to venture into new opportunities that will not only ensure comprehensive health care service delivery but also help us sustain the services that we offer at our sites. We shall evaluate our Strategic Plan to include detailed issues of service delivery and sustainability.

We look forward to meaningful partnership and collaborations, development of our experienced staff and engagement of more children and adolescents in all areas of health. This report shall give you an overview of our achievements for the year. These achievements would not be possible without the enormous support received from the Board of Directors, staff, donors and stakeholders. We look forward to continuing to work with our partners and beneficiaries in the coming years.

AREAS OF OPERATION



Baylor Foundation - Eswatini clinics



Community Clinics Coverage



Constituency Coverage



TINKHUNDLA

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



SUPPORTING ADOLESCENTS LIVING WITH HIV

Adolescents in Eswatini experience alarmingly low ART adherence rates due to stigma, lack of support, and complex psychosocial dynamics. This has led to suboptimal viral suppression and increased HIV transmission risks. To address this, Baylor Foundation-Eswatini collaborates with key partners and stakeholders to strengthen HIV prevention, treatment and care for children and adolescents. Several interventions have been initiated to ensure children and adolescents receive the clinical and psychosocial support they need to reach viral load suppression and have positive health outcomes.

Projects targeting adolescents have been rolled out beyond facility level to communities over the years, an approach which directly and positively impacts an adolescent in the rural community who lacks access to resources and psychosocial support services. We started implementing a treatment literacy and support project titled “Halting the spread of HIV and reversing its impact in Eswatini” in July 2021. The project is aimed at providing ART treatment literacy for people living with HIV, including adolescents and adults, in 21 community health facilities spread across 14 Tinkhundla (constituency) centers.. We have adopted two service delivery models, each targeting a specific age group. The first model focuses directly on adolescents living with HIV. With this model, we deliver HIV literacy services through a cadre known as Community Adolescent Treatment Supporters (CATS). The CATS help establish, decentralize, and maintain Teen Clubs in community clinics. The second model focuses on the adults living with HIV, who are mostly caregivers to the targeted adolescents. With this model, we deliver entrepreneurship services through Community Expert Clients (CECs) who establish community-based support groups in selected communities.

- 710 Adolescents living with HIV were supported through the CATS model with interventions aimed at improving their adherence to ART, ensuring viral load suppression, improving mental health and providing PSS services. This was delivered through teen club intervention which focused on providing ALHIV with treatment literacy education, adherence monitoring and support, viral load monitoring, PSS, peer to peer support on positive living with HIV, disclosure support and education sessions on TB, nutrition, mental health, SRH among others.
- Home Visits were also conducted to enable individually tailored discussions with the ALHIV and their caregivers. CATS conducted 1,107 home visits to deliver treatment literacy sessions, adherence support and the provision of psychosocial support to ALHIV, their parents/ caregivers and their families.
- Parents and caregivers were supported to disclose to their children to ensure that children take full ownership of their health and treatment journey as well as improving their adherence to ART. Full disclosure also qualifies ALHIV for membership into teen clubs.
- 49 young mothers living with HIV were provided with treatment literacy education in three health facilities. This initiative supports PMTCT initiatives ensuring that a HIV free generation is achieved. Monthly peer support meetings were held in these young mothers in the different health facilities to provide peer to peer education and support.
- To indirectly address economic welfare of ALHIV, an economic strengthening initiative for caregivers was initiated. 30 support groups of caregivers were formed and capacitated on business development and entrepreneurship and provided with seed capital to start small businesses. This initiative benefits 786 PLHIV and their families. Through this initiative the support groups made a gross income of E285 435.00 and a net profit of E176 112.00 in this period.

710 adolescents living with HIV supported through treatment literacy programs



EMPOWERMENT OF ADOLESCENT MOTHERS LIVING WITH HIV



93.3% viral
suppression achieved
among HIV-positive
teen mothers

Despite advancements in education and healthcare, teenage pregnancy remains a significant public health concern in Eswatini. In 2022, 68 out of every 1,000 girls aged 15-19 gave birth in Eswatini, leading to numerous social, economic, and health-related challenges for both the young mothers and their children.

We established Teen Mom Club, a support group for HIV-positive pregnant and lactating teenage mothers. Establishment of this support group was necessitated by poor health outcomes for the children of teen mothers because of the many psychosocial challenges the teen mother undergoes during the pregnancy and lactating periods. The overall goal of this initiative was to integrate psychosocial, clinical, and community-based interventions into a holistic package of care to improve long-term health of teen mothers living with HIV and their children in Eswatini.

With this project, adolescent mothers are provided support through monthly sessions in mental health, sexual reproductive health and family planning methods, navigation of stigma and family dynamics, and entrepreneurship skills. Through home visits, adolescents are provided with psychosocial support and caregivers

are capacitated with skills for strengthening positive parenting and parent-child communication, partners are educated on specific and appropriate GBV prevention and social norms driving GBV through sessions at Facility and Community-level. The ultimate goal is to support pregnant and lactating teen mothers to ensure viral suppression, prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV and financial independence through capacity building on income generating skills and provision of seed capital.

Key achievements include:



Development and Growth of Support Groups

As of June 2024, we had an incremental coverage of 53 health facilities around the country where we provide this support, an additional 13 health facilities from the previous year. We reached 276 pregnant teenage mothers living with HIV with our services between the period July 2023 - June 2024 either through sessions in their respective health facilities or home visits or both. Our viral load management focus led to 93.3% suppression, with only 23 teenage mothers unsuppressed. Our focus on viral suppression with this group allowed us to learn that lack of viral suppression is likely attributed to disclosure issues with partners. To address this complex issue, we have implemented one-on-one sessions and ongoing psychosocial support for these young mothers.



Mental Health Initiatives

To address mental health issues amongst our teen mothers, we conducted depression screening for 85 participants. From these screenings, we identified and addressed depression in 62% of participants. We are channeling resources to tailored mental health support for these teens, including counseling and peer-group support, to alleviate these distressing symptoms and enhance their wellbeing.



Promotion of Contraceptive Use

Initially, 151 (62.4%) eligible teens were on contraceptives. Through our ongoing education and advocacy efforts, we've seen this number increase to 272 (78.4%). While we have seen significant progress in contraceptive uptake, there are still 22% of our participants who are not on contraceptives due to a variety of circumstances.

Some are utilizing condoms or abstaining, others are in the postpartum period where they are not yet eligible for certain contraceptives, and some are in the process of transitioning to alternative methods like the IUD due to adverse reactions to the implant. We continuously monitor this aspect to ensure that our participants have adequate access to contraceptives.



Entrepreneurial Empowerment

In our entrepreneurship program, 249 teens have successfully completed business assessments and received seed capital to commence their business ventures. Sharing & Learning events are also held on an annual basis for teen mothers from various sites to share their experiences. This peer-led interaction has enriched their understanding of business management, family planning, and HIV status disclosure, resulting in an improvement in both their business acumen and personal growth.



Financial Literacy and Accountability

A standout success has been our savings and lending groups initiative across different facilities. What makes these groups unique and empowering is that they are governed by a constitution crafted and agreed upon by the teens themselves. This constitution sets the ground rules for their financial transactions and the accountability is teaching our teens the value of commitment, responsibility, and the fundamentals of finance. Given that the formal banking system does not grant loans to these young mothers, the importance of these groups cannot be overstated. Our ultimate goal is to ensure these teens can operate these savings groups independently, fostering financial independence and stability.



Nurturing Career Development

Understanding the teens' aspiration for business growth, we have been proactive in assisting them in identifying relevant grants. We provide guidance and support during the application process, encouraging them to leverage these opportunities to advance and sustain their entrepreneurial dreams.



150 mother-baby
pairs supported,
boosting child viral
suppression rates



BABY CLUB – A LIFELINE FOR HIV-POSITIVE MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN

Viral suppression in children under the age of 5 years has been a challenge in Eswatini, and this mostly result from psychosocial challenges that the mother goes through as they provide care for their HIV positive baby. We hence launched a support group called Baby Club in 2017. Baby Club offers developmental support for mother-baby pairs. Attendance has grown significantly, with over 150 pairs participating during the period July 2023 – June 2024. Sessions provide education, play-based developmental activities, and transport support for clinic visits. Since the launch of this support initiative, these mothers are able to support their children through lessons from experiences they share in the clubs and the support that Baylor Foundation Eswatini provides. They express increased confidence in managing their children's health and accessing care. We are observing a steady increment in viral suppression rates amongst these children, a desirable outcome.

TOWARDS ELIMINATION OF CERVICAL CANCER IN ESWATINI

Cervical cancer stands as a formidable health issue in Eswatini, the most prevalent cancer among women, claiming a significant toll on the country's public health landscape. Moreover, a striking feature in the landscape of cervical cancer in Eswatini is the significant overlap with HIV incidence. Baylor Foundation Eswatini is supporting the Ministry of Health National Cancer Coordinating Unit (NCCU) in implementing Towards Elimination of Cervical Cancer in Eswatini by 2030. The project's primary goal is to reduce cervical cancer incidence in Eswatini by 2030, through establishing a sustainable, comprehensive, and innovative cervical cancer intervention program at the Tinkhundla (constituency) level, utilizing a novel roving cervical cancer model to bring services directly to the populations most in need. This project is in its second phase of implementation, with phase one having provided support to 9 Tinkhundla and for this current 3-year phase support will be rendered to 59 Tinkhundla of Eswatini.

Implementation is still at its initial stages in this phase, having started in December 2023 and successfully strengthened government/public, private and community partnerships through creating awareness and education in all four regions in Eswatini. The project triumphantly sensitized and educated the country's traditional leaders at regional level strengthening community ownership and sustainability of the project activities, reaching 109 chiefs, 49 constituency headmen, regional administrators/secretaries and regional health management teams.



In the first 7 months of implementation:

- 17 community outreach mobiles were completed reaching 2,597 community members with cervical cancer prevention services through awareness and education;
- 516 clients received cervical cancer screening services during outreach mobile services, showing a 3% (17/516) precancerous lesion positivity rate with 7 clients treated onsite using thermocoagulation and 10 referred for further clinical attention;
- 87 health professional and administrators were trained by Baylor Foundation Eswatini on cancer; and
- The country's first ever pediatric non-communicable disease seminar covering cancer prevention and treatment knowledge was supported.



17 community outreach mobiles were completed reaching **2,597** community members with cervical cancer prevention services through awareness and education. **516** clients received cervical cancer screening services during the outreach mobile services



SELF-HELP GROUP PROGRAM

Baylor Foundation Eswatini is a host organisation for the Self-Help Group (SHG) program in Eswatini, supported by Kindernothilfe. It focuses on empowering marginalized women in rural and peri-urban communities around the country. The program aims to foster sustainable development by organizing women into small, self-managed groups that work together to improve their socioeconomic status.

Women form small groups of 8–20 members based on mutual trust and shared socio-economic conditions. To date, a total of 824 members have been enrolled into the Self Help Groups program in the four regions of the country. Groups meet regularly, typically weekly, to discuss issues, contribute savings, and plan activities. Members contribute small, consistent savings to a common fund. These funds are used to provide loans to group members for income-generating activities or emergencies. Baylor Foundation Eswatini provides subvention and manages seven organizations to provide training in financial literacy, leadership, entrepreneurship, and life skills to these groups. Group members gain knowledge about rights, social accountability, and community development. Multiple SHGs often form federations to amplify their voices and address broader community issues collectively. Federations also help members access external resources and markets. The program places emphasis on improving the status of women, fostering decision-making abilities, and reducing gender inequality.

Members often start small businesses, improve household incomes, and achieve financial independence. Increased access to financial resources reduces reliance on exploitative lending practices. Women also gain confidence, leadership skills, and community respect through these SHGs. By participating in the group meetings, women often tackle social issues, such as domestic violence, child education, and health. SHGs often initiate community-driven projects like water supply schemes, sanitation improvements, or school renovations. Women learn to manage risks, save for future challenges, and create sustainable livelihoods, contributing to long-term resilience.

The SHG program, coordinated by Baylor Foundation Eswatini is a model for inclusive development, focusing on empowering the most vulnerable members of society to take control of their lives and contribute to their communities.



824 members have been enrolled into the Self Help Groups program in the four regions of the country



CLINICAL SERVICES



GENERAL CLINICAL SERVICES

Baylor Foundation Eswatini collaborated closely with the MOH to enhance clinical services and patient care. A key achievement for the year was supporting the MOH in developing and rapidly adapting new guidelines, ensuring that clinical practices remained aligned with evolving global standards. This included the revision of the Teen and Youth Curriculum, aiming to better address the unique health needs of young people in Eswatini, focusing on their holistic well-being and engagement in their care.

The Foundation also provided specialized pediatric technical assistance within various working groups, sharing expertise in child health to influence national protocols. Our contributions extended to supply chain management and forecasting support, ensuring the availability of essential medications and supplies for vulnerable populations. This proactive approach minimized stockouts, enhancing service delivery at clinical sites.

As part of our ongoing commitment to the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Baylor Foundation Eswatini played a pivotal role in the National Validation Committee (NVC) for the triple elimination of HIV, Hepatitis B, and Syphilis. This effort aims to certify Eswatini's progress towards eliminating these conditions as public health threats, reflecting our dedication to public health goals.

Capacity building for healthcare workers remained a priority, with our team delivering Integrated Management of Adolescent and Adult Illness (IMAI), NARTIS, and psychosocial support training. These sessions equipped healthcare providers with the skills necessary to deliver quality care and address the multifaceted needs of their patients, ensuring continuity of care throughout the country.



BASELINE AUDIOLOGY SCREENING FOR SCHOOL-GOING CHILDREN

During the period July 2023 – June 2024, we integrated baseline audiology screenings into routine clinical visits for school-going children, enhancing early detection of hearing impairments. Adolescents participating in Teen Club were also included in these screenings, ensuring broader reach and support for those in critical developmental stages. This initiative was complemented by our active involvement in the national deaf awareness training for parents with deaf children, a significant event attended by the Deputy Prime Minister and key stakeholders. This engagement underscored our commitment to supporting families and fostering inclusive communities.

We further amplified pediatric deaf awareness through a dedicated interview and Q&A session on the Eswatini Broadcasting and Information Services (EBIS) news network, raising public awareness and advocating for the needs of deaf children. Our commemoration of the United Nations' deaf awareness events on our social media platforms provided an additional channel to highlight these important issues and reach a broader audience.



53 pediatric patients
actively managed
through decentralized
3rd-line HIV care

DECENTRALIZATION OF THE PEDIATRIC 3RD LINE PROGRAM

In an effort to bring life-saving care closer to patients, Baylor Foundation Eswatini initiated the decentralization of the Pediatric 3rd Line HIV treatment program. This program focuses on closely following up with clients who require advanced treatment regimens. Currently, 53 pediatric patients are actively managed at our Foundation clinics, with patients successfully decentralized to their nearby facilities, improving their access to care.

Our efforts have expanded the number of 3rd line management centres to 14, including the 3 Baylor sites, 4 regional hospitals, 5 regional health centers, and 2 large facilities. This initiative has been supported by a 3rd Line Committee, which includes an expert panel of social workers and clinicians who provide thorough case reviews and genotype assessments as needed. The 3rd line regimens include genotype-guided ART with a backbone of two nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) plus protease inhibitors Darunavir/Ritonavir (DRV/r), with some clients receiving an additional HIV integrase inhibitor, Dolutegravir (DTG), for optimized treatment.

INTEGRATION OF QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INTO CLINICAL CARE

During the period July 2023-June 2024, we also reinvigorated our Quality Improvement (QI) Committee, aiming to integrate QI into every aspect of clinical care. A new QI tracker was developed, marking the first of its kind within our network, and Baylor Foundation Eswatini mentored other sites on its usage. This tool has enabled us to effectively monitor progress and measure outcomes. Currently, 7 active QI projects are ongoing, targeting various clinical care gaps.

Our QI initiatives have garnered recognition, with 6 abstracts accepted for presentation at the 25th Texas Children's Global Health Network Meeting. These projects focus on addressing gaps identified during quarterly review meetings, emphasizing our commitment to continuous improvement and data-driven approaches.

CLINICAL SCOPE EXPANSION

The Foundation has made significant strides in expanding our scope of services, particularly in the area of cancer screening. We developed and included new modules for paediatric, breast, cervical, prostate, and lung cancers in our data management system. These modules support the MOH's cancer screening initiatives by tracking screening and treatment cascades, along with treatment outcomes. This initiative aims to improve early detection and provide timely interventions for patients, thereby enhancing the overall quality of cancer care in Eswatini.





DEVELOPMENT OF A TUTORING, COACHING, AND MENTORING INITIATIVE FOR SCHOOL- GOING CHILDREN

Our commitment to holistic patient care extends beyond clinical services. We launched a tutoring, coaching, and mentoring initiative for school-going children, spearheaded by our Global Health Corps Pediatrician, Dr. Jaime Petrus. This program focuses on supporting the educational needs of our clients through targeted fundraising efforts, enabling access to tuition, and establishing linkages with top-performing schools. These partnerships have facilitated peer-to-peer coaching in subjects such as mathematics and sciences, fostering academic excellence. Our team also attended parent-teacher association (PTA) meetings and closely tracked students' progress, ensuring a comprehensive support system for their success.

HOSTING OF THE FIRST-EVER PEDIATRIC NCD SEMINAR IN ESWATINI

In alignment with the World Health Organization's PEN-Plus objectives, Baylor Foundation Eswatini successfully facilitated the first-ever Pediatric NCD seminar in Eswatini. This groundbreaking event was possible through a collaboration between the TB/HIV/NCD Clinical team, MOH NCD team, and a diverse group of specialists including pediatricians, public health specialists, nephrologists, neurologists, clinical psychologists, and infectious diseases specialists. The seminar attracted over 87 attendees, marking a significant milestone in pediatric healthcare in Eswatini.

The agenda was designed to cover critical topics, including the screening and management of childhood obesity, congenital heart disease, rheumatic fever, childhood seizures, asthma, autism, childhood cancer, substance abuse among adolescents, and pediatric mental health. Each topic was presented by experts in the field, ensuring that the content was both comprehensive and of high quality.

Through these initiatives, Baylor Foundation Eswatini has continued to advance pediatric care and strengthen health systems, focusing on innovation, collaboration, and community-centered approaches. As we look towards the 2024 fiscal year, we remain committed to building on these successes and addressing the evolving needs of children and adolescents in Eswatini.



87 attendees participated
in Eswatini's first-ever
Pediatric NCD seminar



ADVANCEMENT OF CLINICAL RESEARCH THROUGH THE TB PROGRAM

Working together with Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine Global Tuberculosis (TB) Program, Baylor Foundation Eswatini remains at the forefront of enhancing pediatric TB care.

The foundation delivers top-notch combined TB/HIV treatment and adopts a family-focused strategy to support not only patients with TB but also their relatives who may be at risk. Our TB Center of Excellence wing offers a one-stop shop for treatment and diagnosis of all drug-susceptible, drug-resistant, and preventive care—decreasing the time to diagnosis and treatment for patients.

In collaboration with the Global TB program, Texas Children's Global Health Network foundations in five countries are implementing the TB GAPS project, funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The study, initially started at Baylor Foundation Eswatini, will provide critical actionable data to improve TB care for children and adolescents living with HIV.

Baylor Foundation Eswatini works hand in hand with the Global TB program to implement multiple other research projects, with funding through the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the European Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership, focused on improving the diagnosis of TB in children and people living with HIV using stool diagnostics. We also partner with the Global TB program on studies to understand the immune response to tuberculosis and the potential role of wastewater-based epidemiology on the public health response to TB and HIV.

We are also working with the Global TB program to implement a multinational project designed to identify clinical prediction tools that support differentiated service delivery in children and adolescents living with HIV. Such tools will allow patients to receive more intensive care when needed, and also to focus on other things in life when they do not. Further, we continue to work with the Global TB program and our colleagues from the WHO supra-national reference laboratory in Borstel, Germany to establish TB sequencing

capacity in Eswatini. This initiative was implemented to address a common, but difficult to detect, resistant TB strain in Eswatini. It helps provide information that allows doctors to identify and appropriately treat people with drug-resistant TB.

The EpiScars project is working to clarify epigenetic mechanisms that negatively impact TB survivors' immune systems and increase TB survivors' risk of post-TB mortality from other diseases such as HIV, cardiovascular disease, cancer, or schistosomiasis, among others. The information gleaned will have practical applications, such as identifying mechanisms and drugs that can reverse detrimental epigenetic impact of TB, restore immune systems, and decrease post-TB mortality.

Other collaborations include partnership with the Global TB program, University of Texas School of Public Health, University of Eswatini and Ministry of Health to operate a training program for young emaSwati clinical and public health researchers. The program has supported three PhD candidates at University of Texas School of Public Health and is implementing a comprehensive training program for 45 young scholars in Eswatini. Training remains a focus of Baylor Foundation Eswatini. We continue to serve as the lead partner for education on pediatric TB, conducting national trainings and mentorship for both nurses and doctors.





CONCLUSION

The Baylor Foundation - Eswatini's successes are driven by innovative, community-based solutions and a relentless commitment to equity in healthcare. Yet, challenges persist. To sustain and expand our impact, we need strategic partnerships and funding to:

- Expand adolescent-focused health services to underserved communities.
- Invest in cutting-edge diagnostic technologies.
- Scale economic empowerment programs to reach more vulnerable families.

By partnering with us, you are investing in a healthier, brighter future for Eswatini's children and families.



TESTIMONIAL 1

Empowerment of Adolescent Mothers Living with HIV

“I am no longer just a statistic — I am a symbol of hope and possibility for teenage mothers everywhere”

“I discovered I was pregnant and HIV positive at 17 years of age. I was initiated on ART and started attending antenatal care. During one of my clinical visits, I was introduced to the Teen mothers support group project at Baylor Clinic, a beacon of hope for teenage mothers like me. I started attending sessions that provided invaluable guidance on various aspects of life as a young mother living with HIV. From learning about adherence to medication to receiving psychosocial support and childcare advice, these sessions equipped me with the knowledge and confidence to face life’s challenges head-on. The economic empowerment sparked a flame of ambition within me. With the unwavering support of the project team, I was provided with a flock of chickens as a startup investment. Suddenly, I was not just a teenage mother — I was a budding entrepreneur. As my poultry business flourished, so did my dreams. With a desire to expand my horizons, I invested a portion of my profits into pursuing my passion for fashion design. Enrolling at Sebenta Institution, I immersed myself in the world of design, emerging as a top student upon graduation.

Today, I stand as a testament to the power of resilience and determination. Through hard work and unwavering perseverance, I have transformed my life. I am no longer just a statistic — I am a symbol of hope and possibility for teenage mothers everywhere. I am grateful to Baylor Foundation Eswatini for believing in me”

Teenage mother from Baylor Mbabane support group.



TESTIMONIAL 2

Clinical support services to HIV positive individuals

“The staff at Baylor, especially the social workers, provided me with love, hope, and a sense of family”

I am a 27-year-old man living in Bahai, raised by my mother and now working at Baylor Clinic as an Expert Client while pursuing a Diploma in Social Work and Community Development. My journey with HIV began in 2006 when, after losing my mother, my grandmother took me for HIV testing, and I was diagnosed HIV-positive. Despite being severely ill as a child, the care and support I received at Baylor Clinic transformed my life.

The staff at Baylor, especially the social workers, provided me with love, hope, and a sense of family. Teen Club support group showed me I wasn't alone, and their unwavering support inspired me to become a role model for young people and offer them the same hope.

While adhering to lifelong medication was challenging, it was rewarding, as it restored my health and gave me a new lease on life. My family, supported by social workers at Baylor Foundation clinic, played a crucial role in overcoming stigma and discrimination. I aspire to join the social work field to give back and make a difference in others' lives.

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