



Photo: James Pursey



**Elizabeth Glaser
Pediatric AIDS
Foundation**

SITE PROFILE: THE SENKATANA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AND THE BOTŠABELO COMPLEX / MASERU, LESOTHO

THE BOTŠABELO COMPLEX

The Senkatana Centre of Excellence for cervical cancer prevention and HIV care and treatment is located at the Botšabelo Complex in Maseru. The Botšabelo Complex contains several other service provision units as well, including an adult tuberculosis (TB) outpatient (OPD) department, a pediatric TB OPD department, a multi-drug resistant (MDR)-TB hospital, and a leprosy hospital, along with administrative space for the complex. The Botšabelo Complex came under single management in September 2011. There are 105 total staff members at the Complex, excluding the MDR TB hospital

THE SENKATANA ART CENTRE

The name "Senkatana" is derived from Sesotho mythology: Senkatana is the name of a brave boy who killed a giant monster that had swallowed the whole nation. In that spirit, the Senkatana ART Centre was officially launched in May 2004 to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic as the first public site to pilot antiretroviral therapy (ART) in Lesotho. Over 200 sites across Lesotho are now providing ART.

Initially supported by the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation Secure the Future project, Senkatana began as an OPD clinic complemented by community-based support, and worked in collaboration with the health service areas of Scott, Roma, and Queen Elizabeth II. Today, the MOH, with support from the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF), has further developed the Senkatana ART Centre as a national referral centre for HIV care and treatment. Services provided include HIV testing and counselling (HTC), HIV/AIDS clinical management, medication and adherence counseling, health education for patients, and capacity building for health care workers.

To date, more than 16,618 clients have received HIV testing and counseling, and more than 7,146 clients have been initiated on ART, with 122 on second-line regimens.

The Senkatana ART Centre is staffed by nine counsellors, three medical officers, seven ART nurses, one nursing assistant, three pharmacy technologists, two pharmacy assistants, one data clerk, eight assistant clerks, and one laboratory assistant. The total staff numbers 35, plus two people living with HIV (PLHIV) who serve as volunteers.

THE CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION PROGRAMME AT SENKATANA

The cervical cancer incidence in Lesotho is among the highest in the world, and it is the most common type of cancer in Basotho women. In addition, HIV-positive women are at higher risk to develop cervical cancer than those who are HIV-negative. Furthermore, cervical cancer among HIV-positive women causes more severe morbidity and mortality than in the general population.

With support from EGPAF, the MOH launched a cervical cancer screening program on 30 January 2013. Park homes and medical equipment have been procured and installed. Senkatana staff members offer cervical cancer screenings, diagnoses, and pre-cancer early treatment services, along with referrals to higher institutions as needed. Service provision with effective screening of women started on 22 January 2013.

The Centre of Excellence also serves as a national referral centre for other reproductive health needs, including breast cancer screening, family planning, and pre-conception care. In addition, this center serves as a training center for health care workers across the country in order to facilitate rapid decentralization of services.

DATA MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

EGPAF supported the development and installation of an electronic medical records (EMR) system at the centre that helps improve patient care through easy patient information collection, storage, and access. The EMR also facilitates ease of reporting and analysis. This system is in line and compatible with the national MOH EMR system that is currently being piloted and that will soon be rolled out to all the hospitals in the country.



Cervical cancer service delivery takes place in a park home at the Senkatana Centre of Excellence.

INITIAL INVESTMENTS

To date, EGPAF's project investments to Senkatana, with aid from USAID through PEPFAR, include:

- Human resource support from a PMTCT Officer, Reproductive Health Technical Advisor, and Gynecologist;
- Two park homes: one for service delivery for the cervical cancer prevention programme, and one for training and office space;
- Medical equipment and supplies including, but not limited to: sterilizer; colposcope; cryotherapy units; electro-cautery units; speculums; colposcopy set; examination couches; linen washing machine and dryer; office furniture; IT equipment that includes desktop computers, laptops, printer, and a server; and
- Development and installation of the EMR system; and trainings and data capturing.



PARTNERS

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To find out more about EGPAF's work to eliminate pediatric AIDS, visit www.pedaids.org.

Elizabeth Glaser acquired HIV in 1981 through a blood transfusion and unknowingly passed the virus on to her daughter Ariel and her son Jake. Following Ariel's death in 1988, Elizabeth joined with two close friends with one goal: to bring hope to children with AIDS. The foundation that now bears Elizabeth Glaser's name has become a global leader in the fight to eliminate pediatric AIDS, working in 15 countries and at more than 7,300 sites around the world to prevent the transmission of HIV to children and to help those already infected with the virus. EGPAF's global mission is to implement prevention, care, and treatment; further advance innovative research; and give those affected by HIV and AIDS a voice - bringing dramatic change to the lives of millions of children, women, and families worldwide.