

PARTNERS IN HEALTH LESOTHO

ANNUAL REPORT



AUGUST 2024

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Letter from Dr. Melino Ndayizigiye

Dear Friends,

It is my immense pleasure to share our organization's annual report for the fiscal year 2024. This year has been marked by significant successes in our different programs across Lesotho. Despite facing some challenges that we overcame, which tested our capabilities and resilience, we continue in our efforts to attain excellence in our work.

Partners In Health Lesotho has prioritized enhancing health infrastructure to enhance access to quality maternal and child health services, implementing new systems like TB hunter to address poor case finding in hard-to-reach areas and Open Boxes to improve procurement and supply chain systems.

We have continued to implement comprehensive primary health care services in our rural supported health centers and supported the Ministry of Health in its various health system strengthening initiatives. This includes logistic support to the District Management Teams for supportive supervisions and mentorship of frontline health care workers, integration of mental health services in the primary health services, provision of social support to pregnant women admitted in different maternal waiting homes, and production and distribution of medical oxygen to over 20 health facilities across the country.

We have continued to provide high quality treatment and care for Drug Resistant TB, both in the acute setting at Botsabelo Hospital and at the community level with our community health team. We have successfully managed complex cases of DR TB in the hospital and supported the Ministry of Health to prepare an effective decentralization of DR TB treatment and care in the districts using lessons learned from Botsabelo MDR TB hospital.

In FY24, we have prioritized staff wellness and have established a unit fully dedicated to support our staff in difficult situations and promote overall physical and mental health.

Our partnership and support to the government of Lesotho has been expanded to include training the next generation of health professionals and leaders. Three new Basotho students have been admitted in the dual degree Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery/Master in Global Health Delivery (MBBS/MGD) program, a 6.5 years program at the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE) in Rwanda, are receiving full scholarship.

Our organization was honored to be selected to support the Right. Hon. Prime Minister's reform initiative to achieve Universal Health Coverage through a service delivery and citizen-based accountability programme. This demonstrates how the impact of our work and our advocacy for social justice in health care has been recognized at the highest level of the country's leadership.

On behalf of PIH Lesotho leadership, I thank you all for the amazing work and dedication to the PIH mission. You've demonstrated that what seems to be impossible to achieve can actually be achieved with limited resources when people put their minds and hearts together.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our donors and partners, OnePIH leadership and cross-site teams for their invaluable support. I look forward to continuing working with all of you to deliver the best care our patients and accompanying the MOH in its efforts to reach universal health coverage in Lesotho.

In Solidarity,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melino Ndayizigiye'.

Melino Ndayizigiye, MD, MMSc-GHD
Executive Director

SECTION 1

DELIVERING HIGH QUALITY CARE



Drug Resistant -TB Treatment and Care

The first community-based Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) treatment program in Africa was established in 2007, by PIH Lesotho in partnership with the Lesotho National TB program. This program has since served as a model for effective drug-resistant TB care in Africa.

The Botšabelo Hospital in Maseru, is a government hospital under full operation of PIH. Botšabelo hospital caters specifically to MDR-TB. The building is structured around the disease; glass ceiling panels let in UV light, which kills TB bacteria, and ceiling vents refresh the air 12 to 15 times per hour to prevent the disease from spreading.

Partners In Health (PIH) has been at the forefront of combating drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) by implementing comprehensive treatment and care strategies that span from community outreach to intensive care unit (ICU). In the community, PIH has established robust support networks, ensuring that patients receive consistent follow-up and adherence support through home visits and local treatment supporters. This community-based approach is crucial in addressing the social determinants of health, such as nutrition and housing, which significantly impact treatment outcomes.

128 patients enrolled in the MDR-TB program and 126 patients started on MDR-TB treatment.



Sarafina Makashane during her admission at Botsabelo hospital.
Photo by Joshua Berson for PIH.

Impact story

In 2023, Sarafina Makashane's promising careers in fashion design and software development were abruptly interrupted by a life-threatening diagnosis of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). The disease caused a blockage in her left lung, requiring complex surgery. What began as a sore throat quickly escalated, forcing her to leave South Africa and return to Lesotho for intensive care at Botšabelo Hospital. Makashane was placed on a strict 18-month course of medication that included multiple oral drugs. The side effects were harsh, with severe nausea, fatigue, and pain becoming part of her daily life. Makashane stayed at Botšabelo MDR-TB Hospital for three months. After her hospital stay, she spent an additional two weeks at a halfway home (temporary accommodation), where she was closely monitored to ensure her recovery was on track. Despite the grueling treatment and the interruption of her studies, Makashane's determination remained strong. She continued her self-paced software development course and plans to fully embrace fashion design once recovered, embodying resilience and the enduring power of the human spirit.

Drug Resistant- TB Treatment & Care

IMPROVING TREATMENT AND CARE FOR DR-TB

- **Points of Care at Botšabelo**

At outpatient departments (OPD), PIH has streamlined the diagnostic process by incorporating rapid molecular tests, ensuring timely and accurate diagnosis of DR-TB. These OPDs serve as the first point of contact for patients, providing them with personalized treatment plans to manage their condition effectively.

For more severe cases, PIH's in-patient care facilities, including High Dependency Units (HDU) and Intensive Care Units (ICU), offer specialized treatment for patients with advanced DR-TB. These units are equipped with state-of-the-art technology and staffed by highly trained medical professionals who manage complex cases requiring intensive medical intervention.

- **Post-TB Lung Disease**

Partners In Health Lesotho (PIH Lesotho) is working to address Post-Tuberculosis Lung Disease (PTLD) in Lesotho through comprehensive patient care and continuous support. PTLD is a chronic respiratory condition affecting the airways, lung parenchyma, pulmonary vasculature, and pleura, often due to prior pulmonary tuberculosis or DR-TB. The high burden of Tuberculosis (TB) in Lesotho requires skilled healthcare providers to diagnose and manage PTLD.

Many patients with PTLD have a history of TB or MDR-TB, making their lungs fibrotic and prone to complications. PIH Lesotho is committed to holistic patient care beyond treatment completion, including continuous monitoring and essential services like oxygen support for severe PTLD patients. By identifying and implementing long-term solutions, PIH Lesotho aims to mitigate risks associated with PTLD and enhance the quality of life for TB survivors.



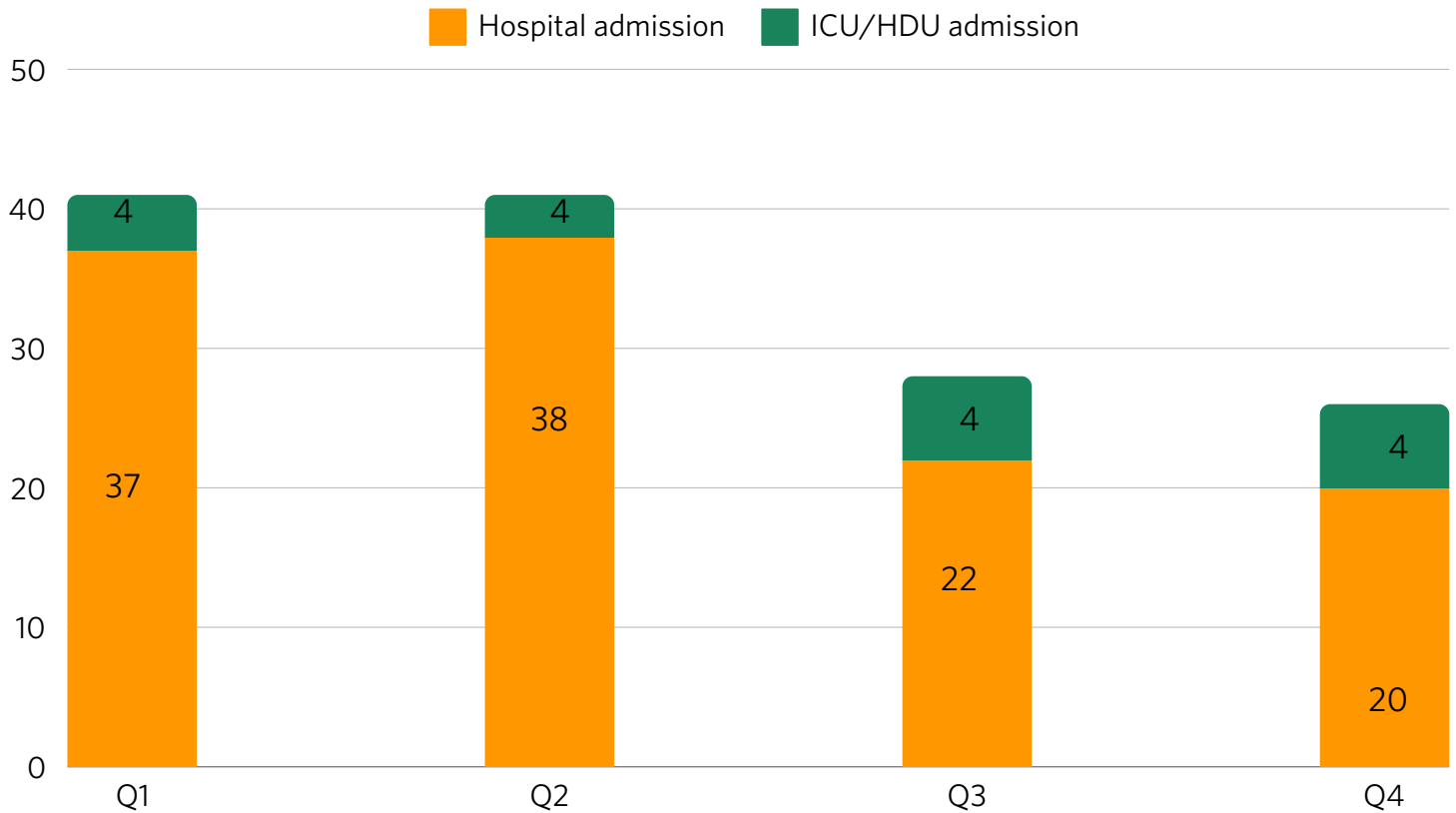
Janki Muneni admitted at Bots'abelo hospital. Photo by Justice Kalebe / PIH.

Impact story

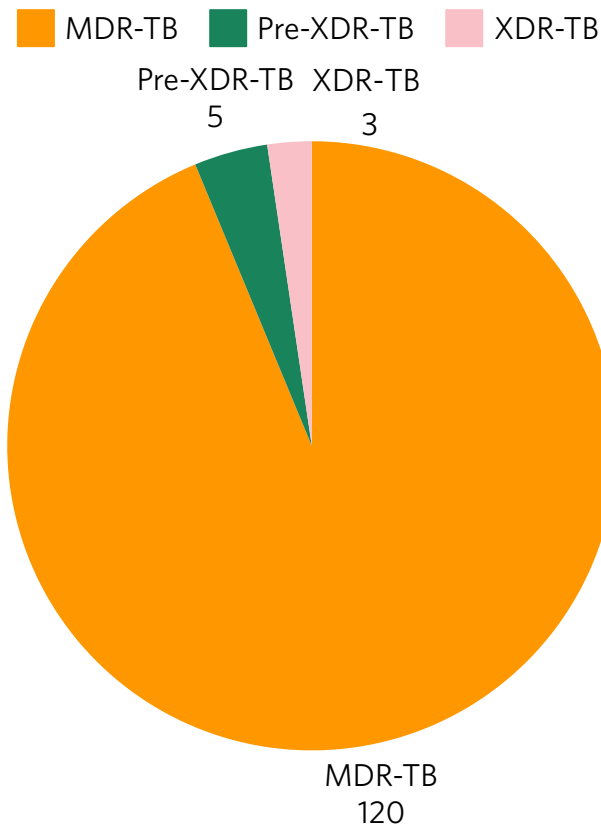
Janki Muneni, a 62-year-old man from Quthing, suffered from persistent coughing, weight loss, and inability to eat for months. Despite multiple visits to healthcare facilities, he received minimal care and no specific treatment. He was diagnosed with Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) and transferred to Partners In Health (PIH) facility. Upon further examination, the medical team discovered sepsis, a severe infection caused by TB, which had spread through his bloodstream. At PIH, doctors provided immediate and intensive care, but his health deteriorated further, leading to respiratory failure and the use of a ventilator for 37 days. PIH's dedicated care and advanced medical interventions were crucial in his recovery. After nearly six weeks, Janki was able to breathe on his own. This case highlights the lifesaving impact of PIH's comprehensive and compassionate approach to treating severe infections like sepsis and MDR-TB.

Drug Resistant- TB Treatment & Care

Inpatient Care FY24



Categories of DR-TB cases enrolled on care and treatment



***Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB):** Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (MTB) Resistant to Rifampicin and Isoniazid

***Pre-Extensively Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (Pre-XDR TB):** MTB resistant to Rifampicin + Isoniazid +quinolones or Bedaquiline

***Extensively Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (XDR TB):** MTB resistant to Rifampicin and Isoniazid +quinolones + Bedaquiline

TB Screening, Treatment & Care

Improving TB Screening and diagnosis

- **Use of AI**

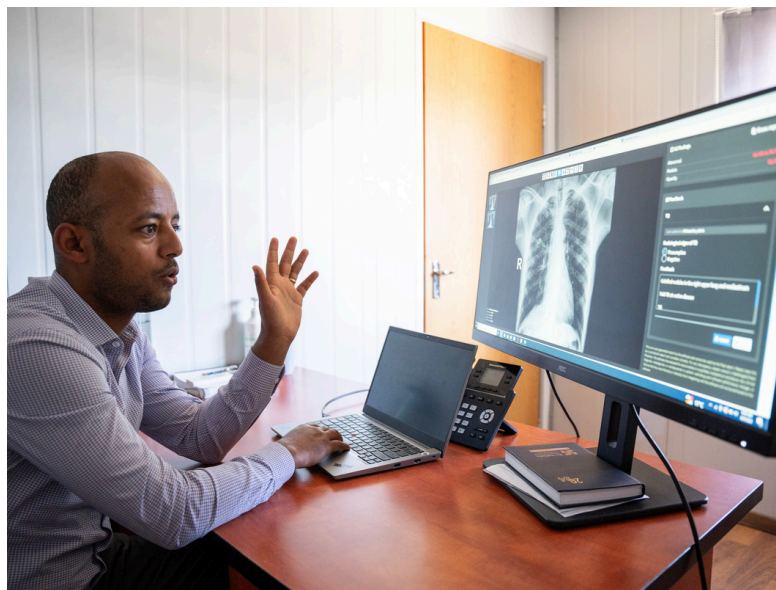
PIH Lesotho has continued to support the Ministry of Health (MOH) in bringing new medical technologies and systems to advance health service delivery in hard to reach rural populations in Lesotho. In its rural-hard-to-reach health centers or the Rural Initiative (RI) health centers of Nkau (NK), Nohana (NH), Lebakeng (LK), Bobete (BB), Methalaneng (MG), Manamaneng (RA), Tlhanyaku (TY), PIH Lesotho continued to use digital X-ray machines and Computer Aided Detection (CAD) for TB. This Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool analyzes patients' chest X-ray images and determines if the patients have been affected by TB in less than one minute. The use of the AI has helped to improve TB screening and diagnosis.



A patient being screened with a portable X-ray machine at Tlhanyaku health center. Photo by Justice Kalebe / PIH.

- **Tele-radiography**

PIH Lesotho has introduced tele-radiology system in its RI health centers and recruited a full time radiologist to review chest x ray images remotely and provide real-time feedback to the frontline clinicians. To implement this system successfully, PIH Lesotho equipped the health centers with internet which enables the digital X-ray images to upload to the cloud. There the radiologist accesses the images in real-time and provides written feedback to the frontline clinical team in less than 5 minutes. The frontline clinical team shares the results before patients leave the clinic.



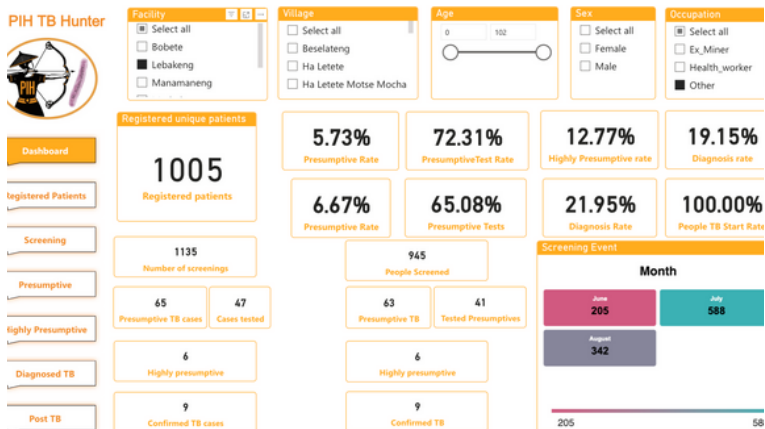
Dr. Yonathan Gebrewold, PIH Lesotho radiologist reviewing chest X-ray images from remotely from Botsabelo. Photo by Justice Kalebe / PIH.

TB Screening, Treatment & Care

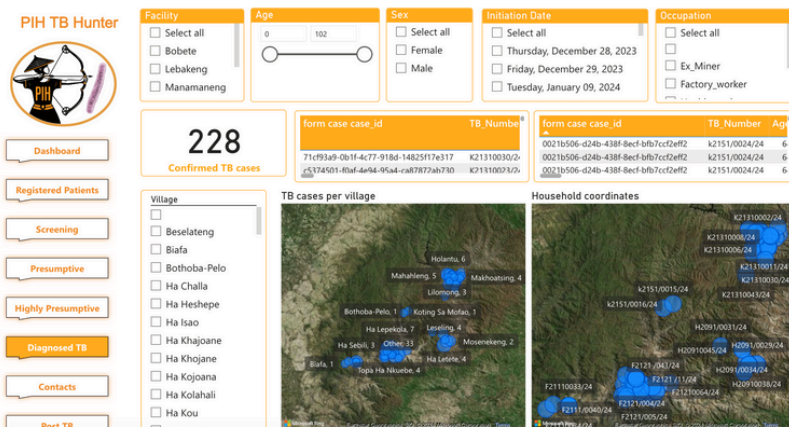
Improving TB Screening and Diagnosis

• TB Hunter System

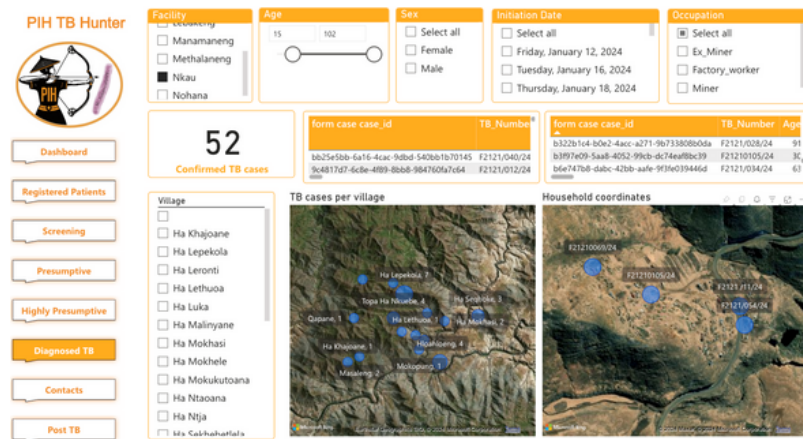
Partners In Health is revolutionizing TB screening and diagnosis in Lesotho with the introduction of the TB Hunter system, a comprehensive approach leveraging advanced technology to combat tuberculosis. This innovative system integrates AI to enhance the accuracy and speed of TB diagnoses. AI algorithms analyze chest X-rays and other medical data to identify TB cases that might be missed by traditional methods, ensuring that patients receive timely and accurate diagnoses. This not only improves patient outcomes but also reduces the burden on healthcare workers, allowing them to focus on providing quality care.



TB hunter dashboard showing TB care cascade in Lebakeng health center.



TB hunter dashboard showing newly diagnosed TB patients and their household geolocation.



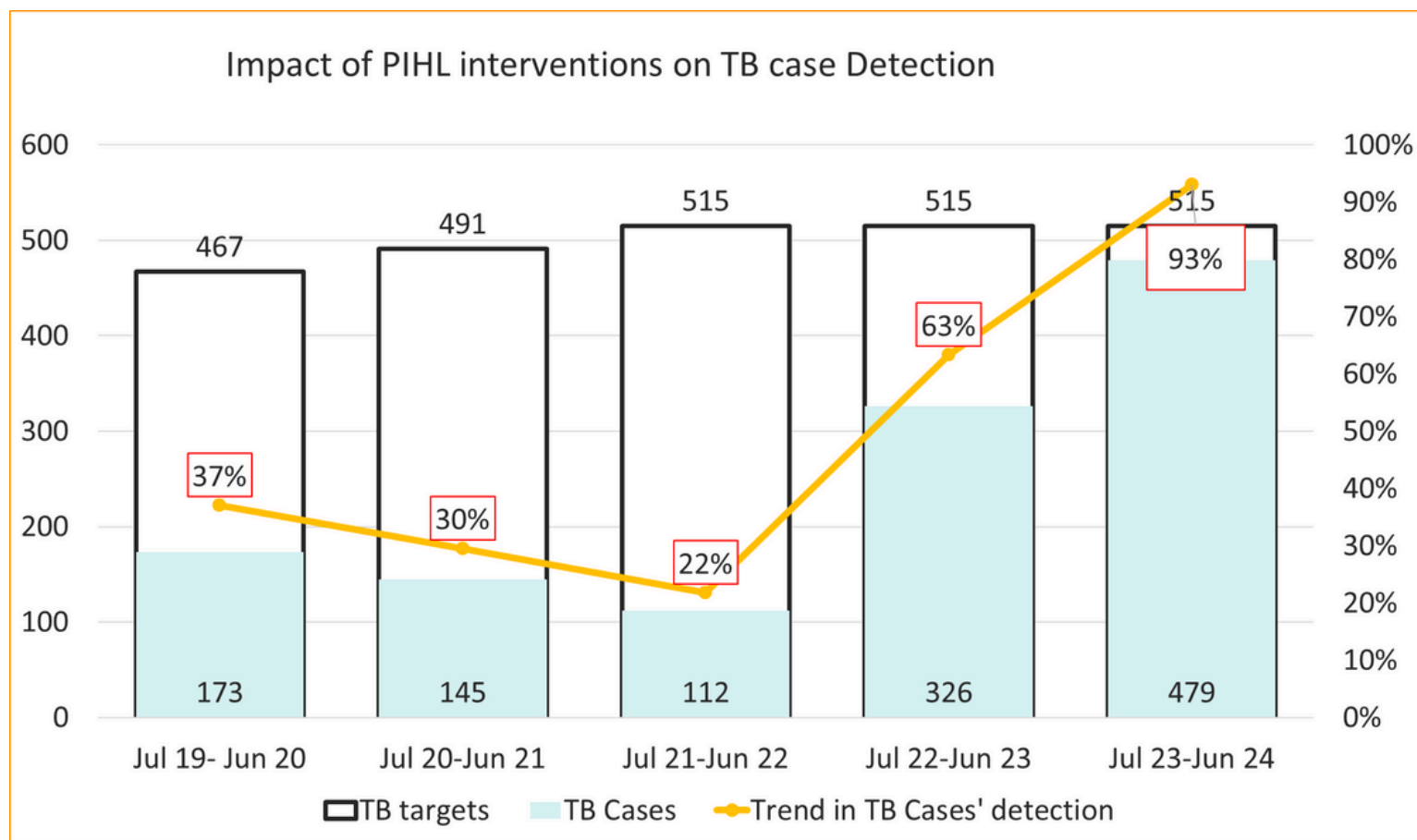
TB hunter dashboard showing high TB hotspots.



Maphosholi Phosholi, a TB program assistant at Nkau health center during a home visit. Photo by Nishant Chandrasekar / PIH

The TB Hunter system also incorporates tele-radiography and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to further bolster its effectiveness. Through tele-radiography, medical images are transmitted to remote radiologists who provide expert interpretations, ensuring that even the most isolated communities receive high-quality diagnostic services. GIS technology is used to identify and map TB hotspots, enabling targeted interventions in areas with the highest TB burden. This strategic use of GIS ensures that resources are allocated efficiently, reaching the populations most in need and facilitating the swift containment of outbreaks. Together, these technologies create a powerful framework for improving TB control and enhancing public health in Lesotho.

PIH 5S Model Impact in TB Case Finding



Lesotho has been working to improve TB treatment coverage and identify cases over the past decade. To address this, the PIH Lesotho has implemented a bottom-up approach to establish Universal Health Care targets for TB by analyzing catchment areas of each health center. The PIH 5S model (Staff, Stuff, Space, Systems, and Social support) has been implemented to enhance TB screening and diagnostic capabilities in primary healthcare facilities.

Staff: A full time radiologist, radiographers, lab technicians, TB program assistants have been recruited to support the existing clinical teams of nurses, lab assistants etc. Additionally, visiting specialists and TB clinicians have provided training and mentorship to the frontline clinicians.

Stuff: Equipped health centers with diagnostic tools including GeneXpert machines, ultrasound machines, mobile and portable digital x-ray machines etc.

Space: Established mini-laboratories and renovated X-ray rooms in each health center to accommodate the new x-ray machines.

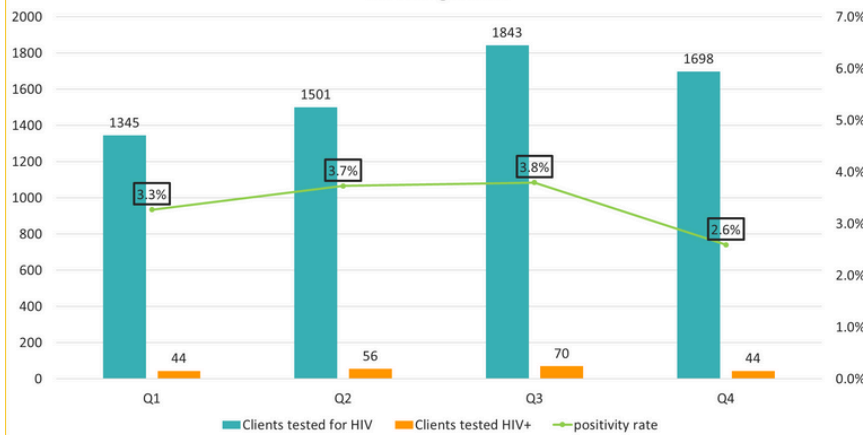
Systems: Deployed AI, Teleradiology, TB hunter system and equipped the health centers with reliable internet connection to enable use of the teleradiology system.

Social Support: Provided transport support to patients for emergency referrals whenever they need hospital admission and paid their medical bills.

As a result, PIH Lesotho supported health centers have achieved **93%** TB detection compared to 37% national average.

HIV testing, Treatment and Care

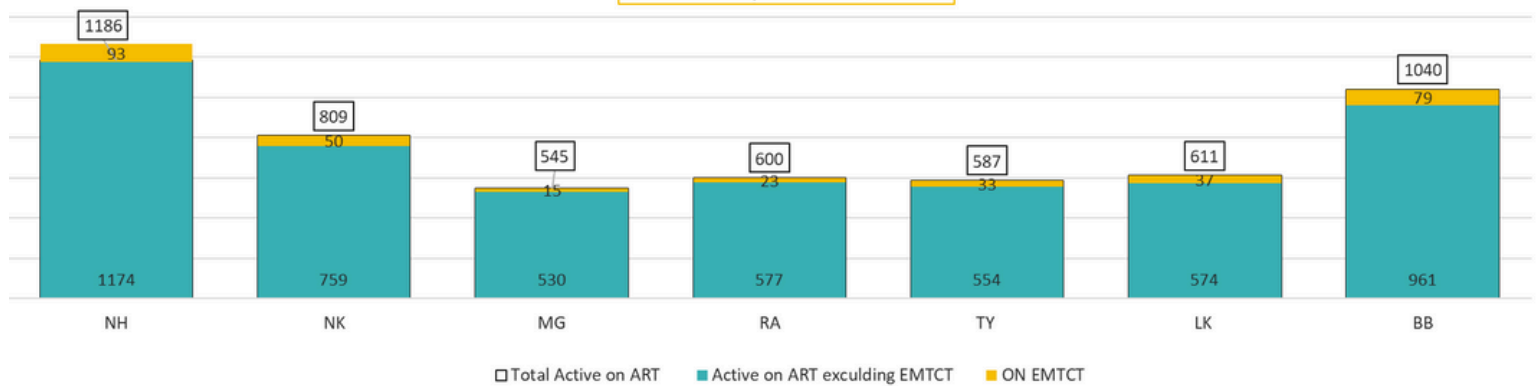
HIV testing services



PIH Lesotho has implemented high-yield HIV testing strategies, such as self-testing, index testing, and targeted testing. As a result, PIH Lesotho has an average yield of 3.35% where over 90% of people living with HIV know their HIV status. Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) and other treatments for the comorbid conditions have been initiated for all 214 newly diagnosed People Living with HIV (PLHIV).

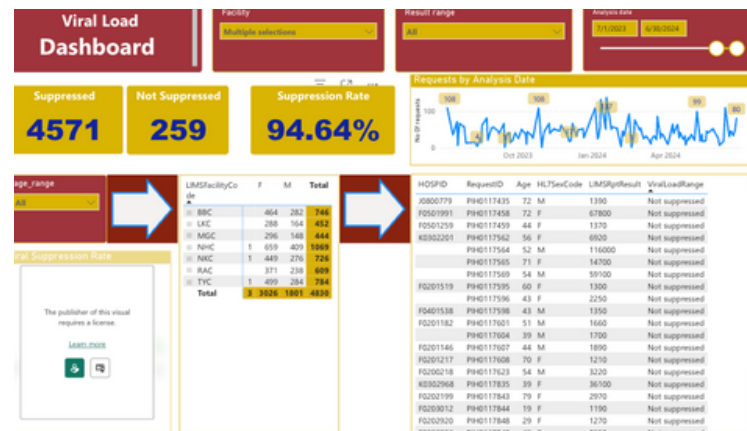
Active cohort in care per site

ART current by RI facilities, FY-2024



PIH Lesotho's objective has been to achieve a minimum of 95% viral load suppression among PLHIV in the PIH-supported facilities. PLHIV in the PIHL-supported facilities have a significantly higher viral load suppression rate of 94.6% compared to the national viral load suppression rate (91.5%). Different strategies such as the integration of mental health care into HIV services, the availability of professional counsellors, the involvement of Community ART groups and Village Health Workers, and the careful monitoring of PLHIV were implemented. A viral load monitoring system that produces live data from viral load machines, allowing for better understanding of each patient's viral load and site performance has been developed.

• Viral load suppression



• HIV transmission vertical transmission



PIH Lesotho is committed to support the MOH to achieve zero vertical transmission and have an HIV free generation. In efforts to address that gap, PIH has implemented strategies to ensure that all babies born from HIV infected mothers are being followed up and tested according to the national guidelines. Out of 131 exposed infants, 120 have been tested and among 119 babies who have got results, only one (0.8%) has been tested positive and initiated on ART.

Maternal and Child Health

Improving access to quality maternal and child health

- **Community Outreach Activities**

PIH Lesotho provides outreach services to improve healthcare access for people unable to visit health facilities due to illness or socioeconomic barriers. These efforts focus on remote villages to ensure healthcare reaches the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities. Each month, the PIH Lesotho team conducts six community outreaches, four home visits, and two overnight service visits, bringing care directly to those in need. By focusing on these areas, PIH Lesotho strives to bridge the healthcare gap and support communities with limited access to essential services.



PIH and MOH staff during a community outreach clinic day near Bobete health center. Photo by Caitlin Kleiboer / PIH

- **Maternal Waiting Homes**

Women living in remote and hard-to-reach areas struggle to access health services during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postnatal period due to difficult terrain and low socioeconomic conditions. The lack of access to health facilities often forced pregnant women to give birth at home. PIH Lesotho established maternal waiting homes to provide temporary accommodation for women who came from distant areas or those with pregnancy-related risk factors. These homes also serve women with low socioeconomic status, helping to prevent avoidable maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity by improving access to birth facilities and postnatal care. PIH Lesotho hired cooks to prepare meals for the pregnant women admitted to the maternal waiting homes and covers all associated expenses, including food, heating, and toiletries.



The newly constructed maternal waiting home in Lebakeng. Photo by Palesa Thabane / PIH

Maternal and Child Health

Improving access to quality maternal and child health

• Emergency Obstetrics Referral

PIH Lesotho supported pregnant women to increase access to facility-based delivery through skilled health professionals to prevent avoidable maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality. However, some deliveries may be beyond the level of the health centers and PIH Lesotho established an effective referral system to the next level of care. PIH Lesotho contracted three transport business owners per facility to transport the pregnant women from the health facilities to the district hospitals and cover the costs of the referrals and other hospital bills for the pregnant women.

Impact story

Maternal mortality in Lesotho is a significant issue, with 566 deaths per 100,000 live births, exceeding the regional average. PIH Lesotho is working to address this by constructing maternal waiting homes in remote areas with limited access to antenatal care and safe delivery services. The Lebakeng health facility, opened by Prime Minister Ntsokoane Matekane, is a 32-bed home that represents a significant advancement in maternal healthcare. These homes represent a transformative approach to maternal care, addressing overcrowding and space constraints. PIH Lesotho initiative is expected to reduce home deliveries and associated risks, symbolizing hope and a shift towards safer childbirth and improved maternal health across Lesotho.

RI DATA



3422
Antenatal Care
Visits



1083 Facility-
based deliveries



875 Fully
Immunized



1247 admitted
in maternal
waiting homes



829 Referrals



1290 cervical
cancer



8469 Clients on family
planning



Program Spotlight



Child Health Care Transformation in Rural Lesotho

• DreamWarmers

The DreamWarmer is a reusable, non-electric device designed to prevent hypothermia in newborns, especially in areas with limited medical resources. It uses a heat-storing material that, when warmed in hot water, holds a constant temperature of 37°C. Once placed in the accompanying pouch, it provides consistent warmth for infants, particularly premature or low-birth-weight babies. This simple and portable solution offers a lifesaving alternative where access to conventional incubators is limited, improving neonatal care in hospitals and clinics.



Newborn rests on a DreamWarmer at the Tlhanyaku Health Centre.

Photo by Justice Kalebe / PIH

• Butterfly Ultrasound

The Butterfly iQ+ is a handheld ultrasound device designed for whole-body imaging using a single probe. With advanced Ultrasound-on-Chip technology, it offers enhanced imaging speed and quality while being energy efficient. Compatible with iOS and Android, the iQ+ allows medical professionals to conduct scans using over 20 presets across various fields, including emergency medicine and cardiology. Built to withstand tough clinical conditions, it combines portability and high performance for diverse healthcare settings.



Dr. Melino Ndayizigiye performing an ultrasound scan with a butterfly ultrasound scan with butterfly ultrasound machine on a 1 year old at Bobete health center.

Photo by Joia Mukherjee / PIH

• Solar Powered Radiant Baby Warmers

A neonatal radiant baby warmer, is a medical device used to stabilize the body temperature of newborns, especially in critical care or delivery settings. It uses radiant heat to keep infants warm while providing access to medical procedures. The warmer includes features like adjustable heat settings, safety alarms, and a mobile base for easy positioning, making it essential for managing the temperature of premature or ill babies during treatment.



A radiant baby warmer at Bobete health center. Photo by Mphatso Tsoka / PIH

Importance of integrating Non Communicable Diseases in Primary Health Care

Lesotho's health system faces the dual challenge of communicable and non-communicable diseases. In response, PIH Lesotho has seamlessly integrated the screening and management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) into existing primary health services. This strategic approach aims to reduce the high morbidity and mortality rates associated with non-communicable diseases.



Nurse 'Mabatloung Mofolo doing a glucose test during nurses week commemoration at Masianokeng mall. Photo by Teboho Khofu / PIH

IMPROVING ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH CARE

Lesotho's mental health point prevalence is 20.8%, which translates to nearly one-fifth of the population experiencing mental illness. The burden of mental disorder in Lesotho increases as individuals transition from infancy to adolescence, reaching its highest point between the ages of 15 and 19. PIH Lesotho Integrated screening of mental health conditions in to the existing services at the rural clinics and MDRTB hospital.



Tseko Motsela, mental health coordinator conducting a health talk at the Maseru MDR-TB clinic for patients, caregivers and treatment supporters. Phot by Swapna Moorthy / PIH



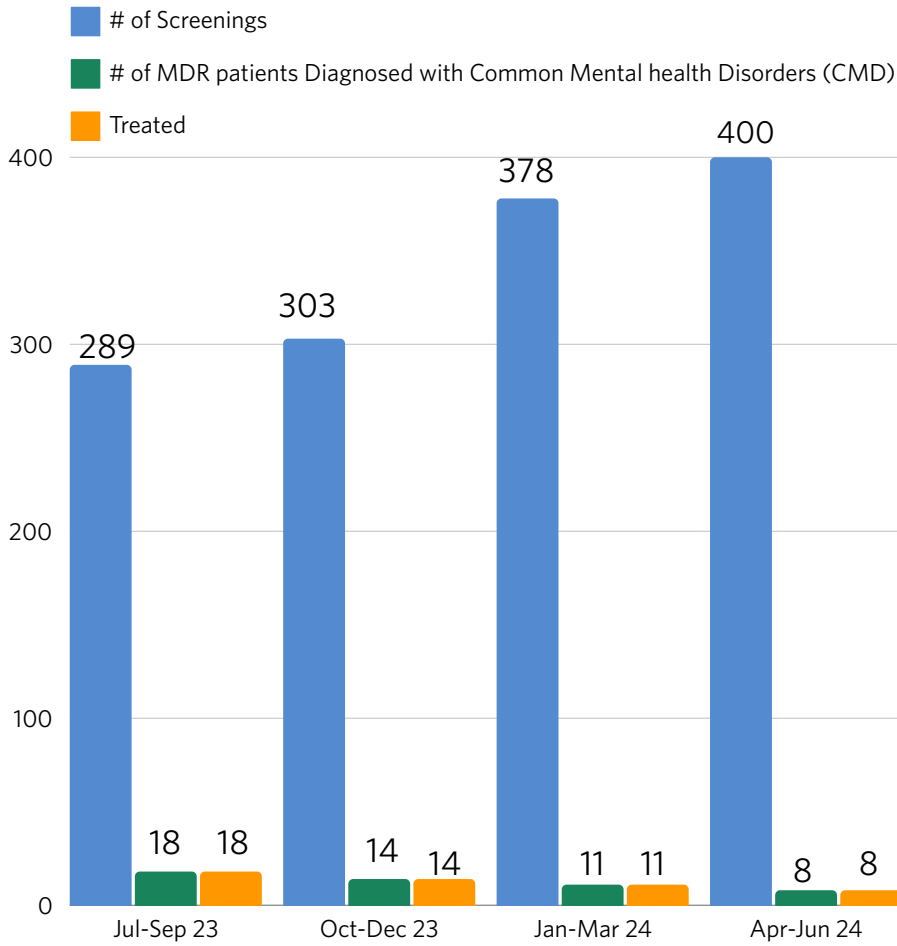
Lerato Mpholo, a mental health patient who received service at Botšabelo. Photo by Justice Kalebe / PIH

- **Problem Management Plus (PM+)**

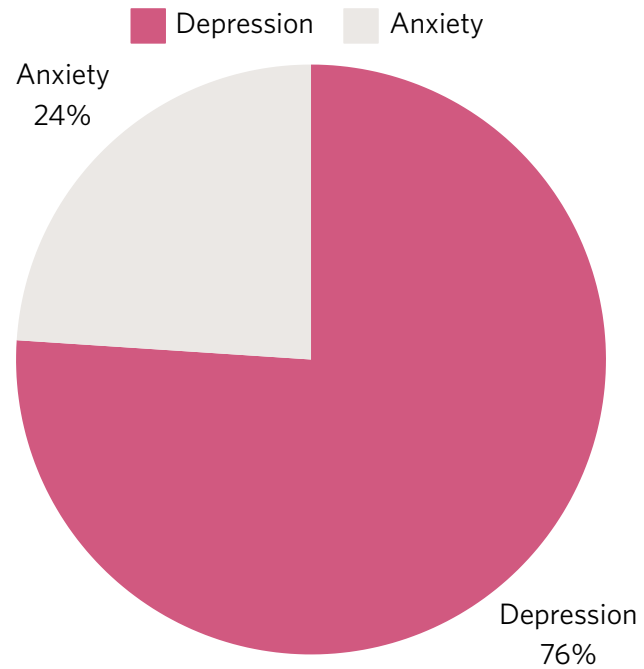
The mental health team introduced Problem Management Plus (PM+), a WHO-developed, low-intensity psychological intervention involving stress management, problem-solving, behavioral activation, social support, and relapse prevention. The goal of PM+ is to create recovery-oriented care that moves beyond simply screening for mental illness but focuses on treatment, which includes both pharmacological and psychosocial interventions.

Mental Health

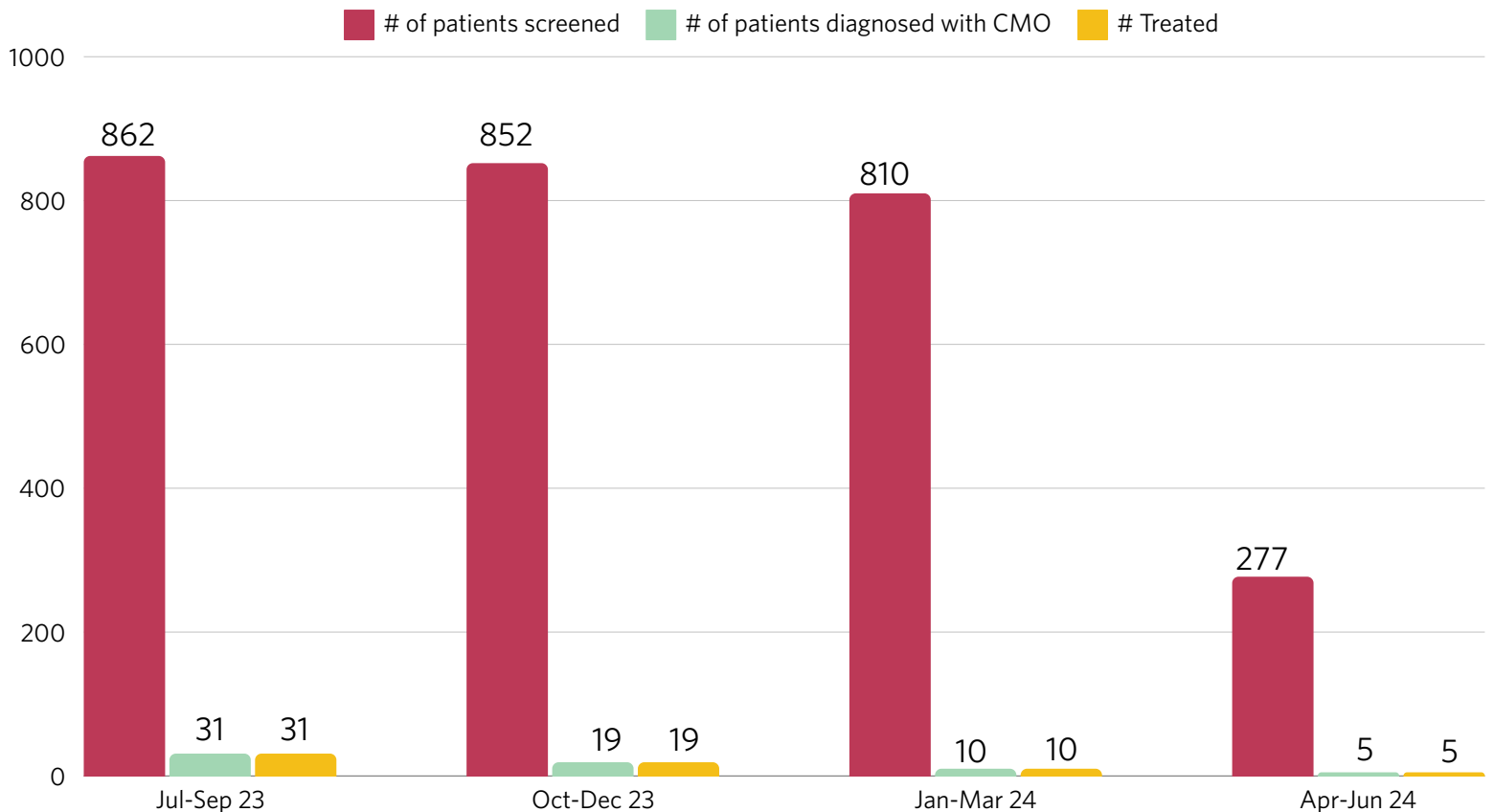
MDR-TB Mental Health, FY24



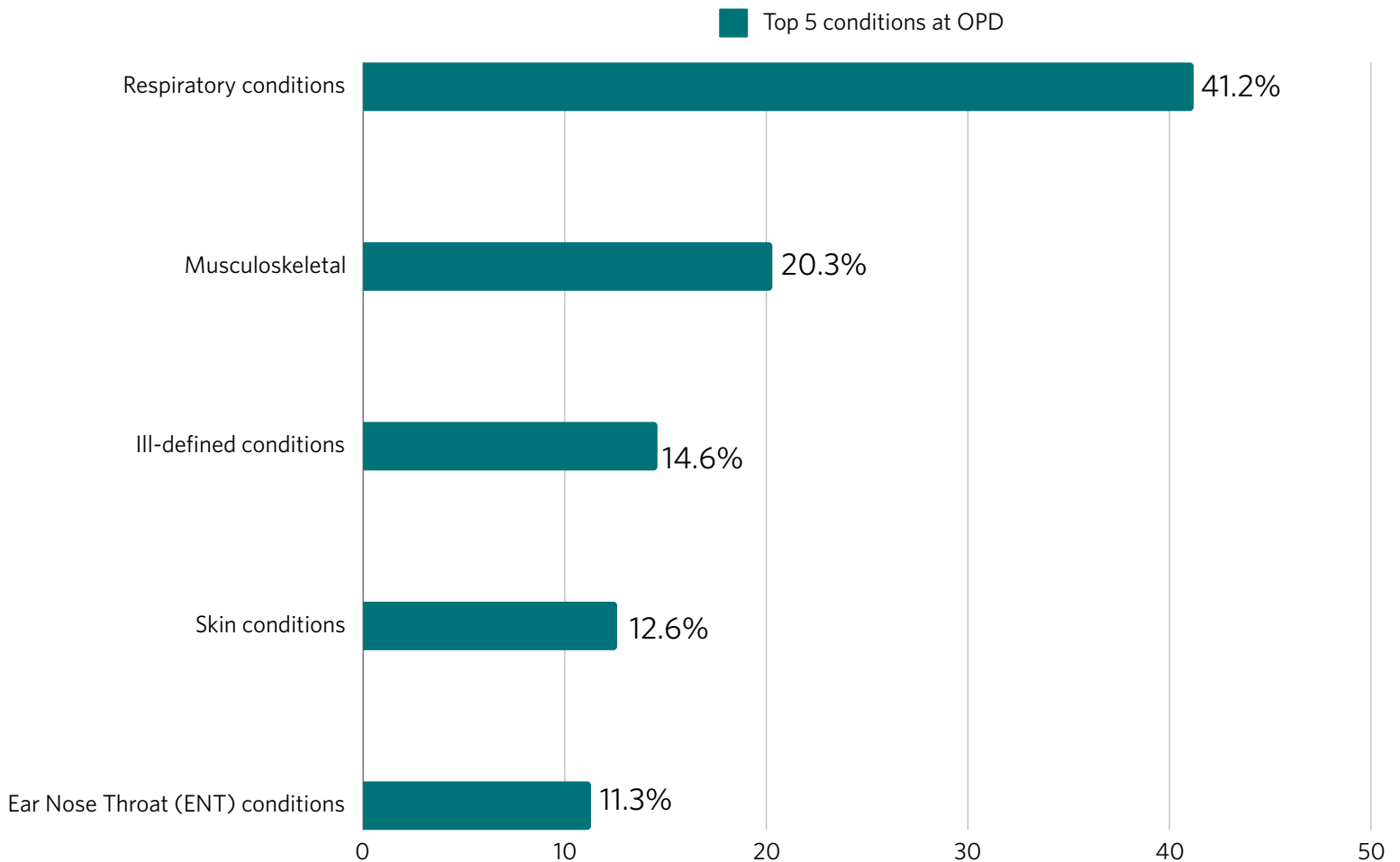
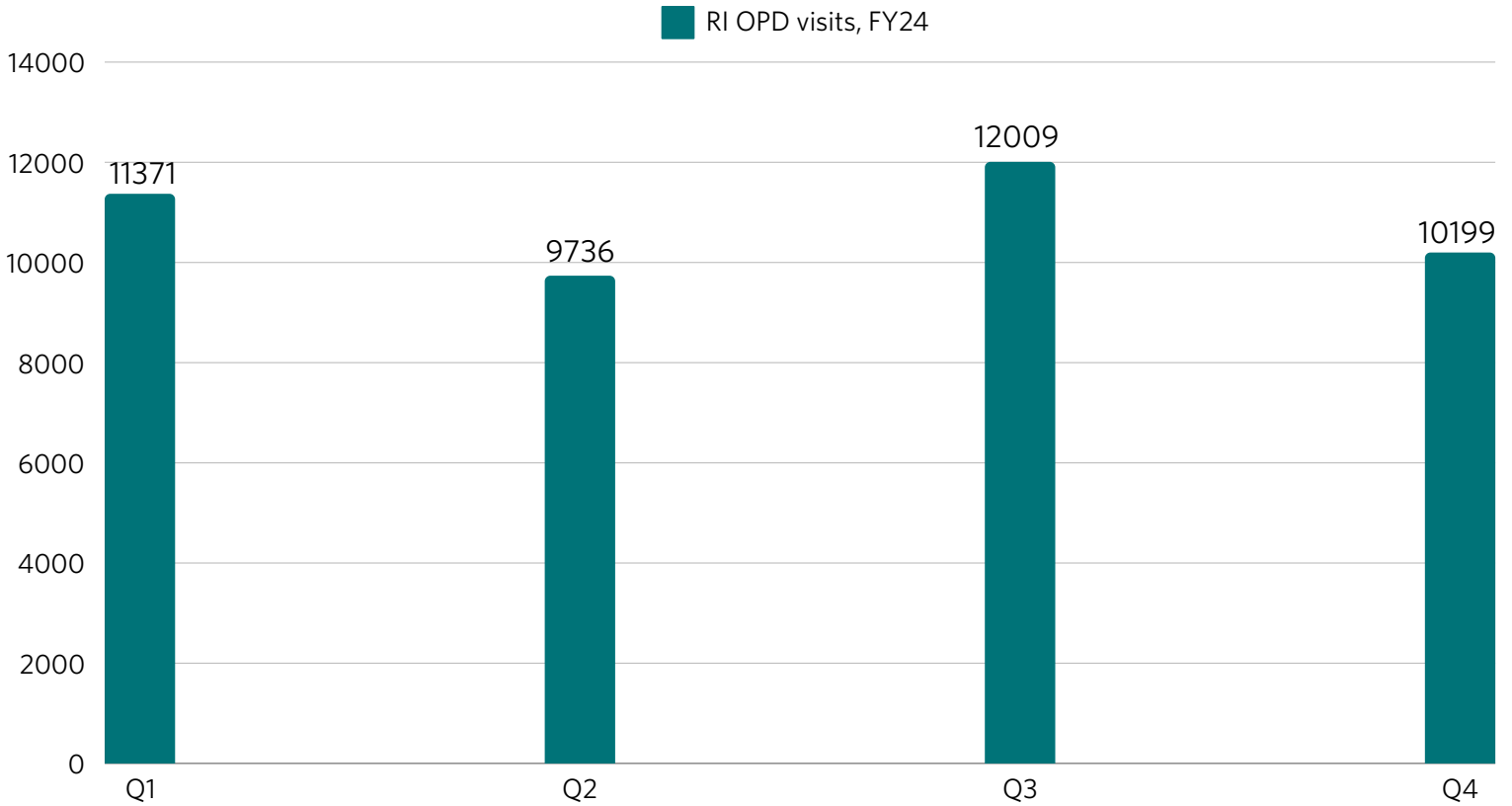
MDR-TB Mental Health Diagnosis, FY24



RI Mental Health, FY24



Outpatient Department



*Ill-defined conditons are symptomatic diagnosis.

Nursing

- **Education and Mentorship**

PIH strategy aims to support the health system through collaboration, aligning with Ministry of Health priorities. The goal is to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity. The PIH Nursing Coordination site has formed a collaboration with University of California San Francisco (UCSF) for the Global Action in Nursing (GAIN) initiative, focusing on enhancing nursing and midwifery care through a mentorship program.

- **Global Leadership in Nursing and Midwifery Executive program**

Offered by University of Global Health Equity (UGHE), the Executive Education program, lasting 9 months, includes in-person instruction, virtual learning, and a workplace quality improvement project. It aims to develop leadership skills in nursing and midwifery globally, addressing local and global challenges. In FY24, two nurses were supported to join the program, preparing them as executive nurse leaders, innovative thinkers, and expert providers, contributing to the global health agenda and universal access to care.



PIH nursing staff at Botšabelo Hospital. Photo by Justice Kalebe / PIH

- **Clinical Practice and Quality**

Striving to reduce the high maternal and neonatal mortality, PIH utilizes medical technology in Nursing and Midwifery care to improve maternal and neonatal health outcomes in the rural communities where PIH is supporting. PIH Lesotho presented the impact of medical technology in improving Maternal and neonatal health outcomes in rural communities at the inaugural Lesotho Nursing & Midwifery conference with representation from some SADC countries, aiming to influence change across all Ministry of Health Nursing stakeholders.



Nurses at UGHE attending the global leadership nursing and midwifery executive program. Photo by Vera Kabanda / PIH

- **Decent work agenda and environment**

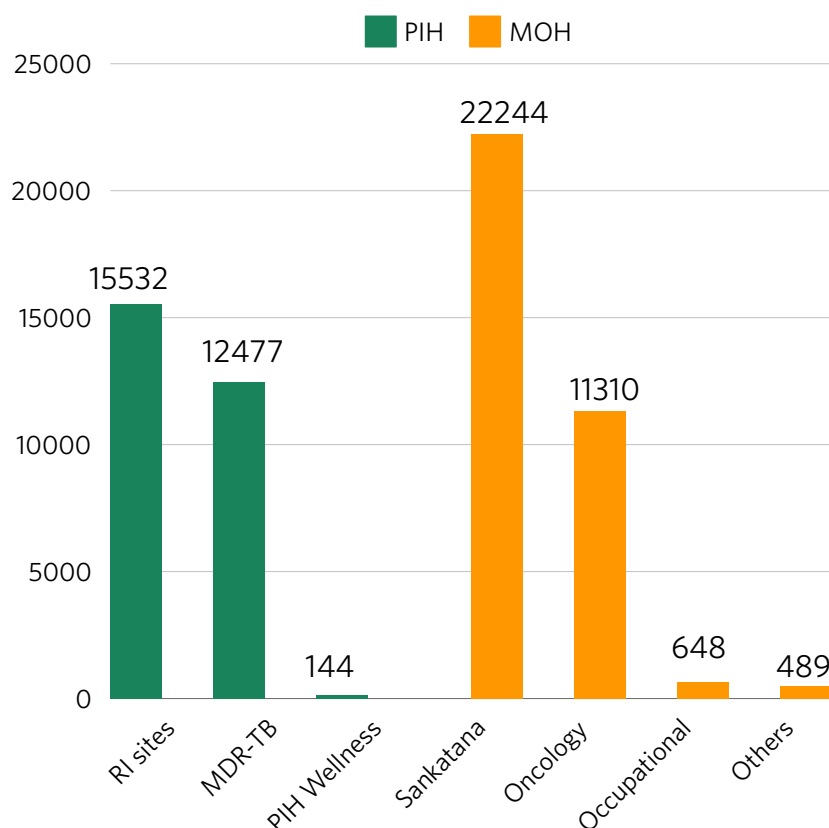
In FY24, PIH Lesotho ensured that nurses and midwives adhere to the prescribed attire as per nursing regulations to enhance the image of the profession and the organisation. Creating supportive work environments that prioritize staff well-being and professional recognition contributes to a motivated and productive workforce.

Laboratory

- **Central Laboratory**

PIH Lesotho has been working to improve the quality of patient care through building a robust, reliable, and timely laboratory system in PIH Lesotho-supported health facilities. The central laboratory is located at the Botšabelo Hospital and initially it served only the PIH Lesotho-supported health facilities; Botšabelo DR-TB hospital and the seven RI health centers. The central laboratory expanded its quality and quantity of services and included a range of tests including liver function tests, renal function tests, cardiac Therapeutic drug monitoring, HBA1c, CRP, electrolytes, Lipids, FBC, differentials, HIV viral load, MTB, and XDR. The central laboratory test services expanded to include patients from government health facilities including the Senkatana Center of Excellency for HIV and clinic, Oncology center, Occupational Health Clinic.

LAB Testing Capacity in FY24



- **Decentralization of mini-laboratories (mini-labs)**

PIH Lesotho established a fifth mini-lab at Manamaneng and an additional mini-lab at Ha-Lephoi Health Centers in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. This initiative has significantly improved access to TB services for the communities served, reducing the result turnaround time from over three days to just two hours. Additionally, PIH Lesotho uses these mini-labs to monitor the viral load of HIV-positive pregnant and lactating women and to conduct timely testing of HIV-exposed infants at PIH Lesotho sites.



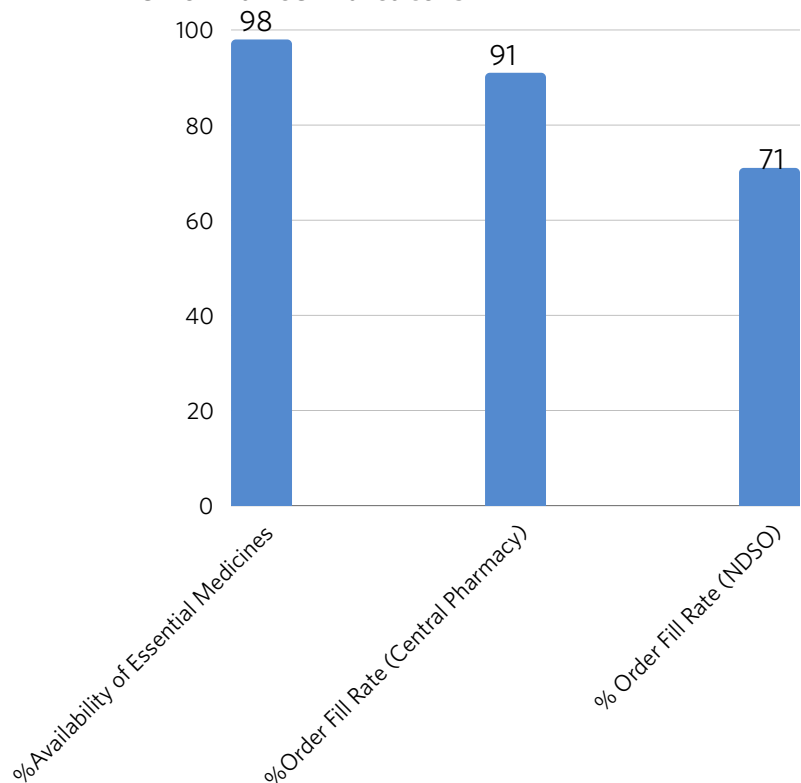
Dr. Fernet Leandre, Sr Health & Policy Advisor, Social Medicine & Health Systems talks with Ts'epang Teba, lab technologist while visiting the lab at Botšabelo Hospital in Maseru, Lesotho. Photo by Zack DeClerck / PIH

Pharmacy & Medical Supply Chain

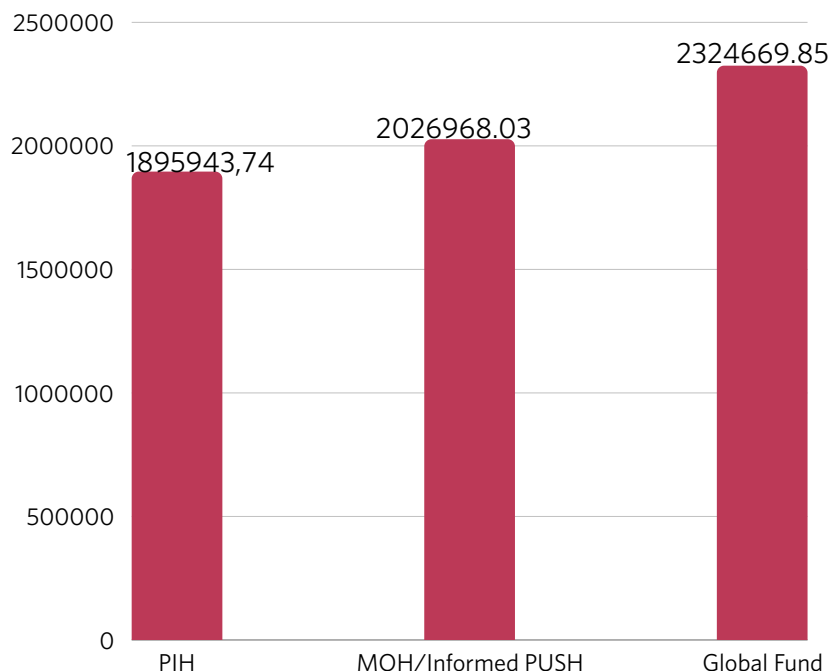
• Scope of Work

The Pharmacy department plays a vital role in the healthcare system, ensuring the consistent availability of quality medicines and medical supplies to meet patient needs. At the MDR-TB hospital, the department focuses on ensuring 100% availability of second-line MDR TB medicines and essential supplies for managing co-morbidities and adverse effects. They also form part of the clinical team, conducting daily ward rounds to observe disease progression and develop comprehensive care plans. The department supports health reform through Pharmacy & Supply Chain Officers, overseeing pharmacy and supply chain activities at the district level. At the Ministry of Health, pharmacy provides technical support to strengthen public health supply chains, national quantification exercises, and strategic plans.

Performance Indicators-FY24



Total Expenditure



Total expenditure
6 247 581.6 (LSL)

• Technology use in Pharmacy

In a time when technology is the driving force behind efficiency, PIH Lesotho uses advanced dispensing and inventory management systems to streamline operations, enhance accuracy, and minimize waste.

Systems used in Pharmacy

- **Moriana**- records all commodity, transactions, and additionally has a dispensing module.
- **OpenBoxes**- used for inventory management and records all the transactions of stock movement in and out of warehouse.
- **Informed PUSH (DHIS2)**- MOH system used for monthly requisition of commodities from the central medical store
- **QuanTB**- quantification software developed to quantify TB drugs
- **GDF Order Management System (StopTB)**- used to place requisitions for TB drugs from Global Drug Facility.

Infrastructure Improvements

Construction of Maternal Waiting Homes

PIH Lesotho received funding for the construction of maternal waiting homes at the Lebakeng and Bobete health centers in the Qacha's Nek and Thaba-Tseka districts, respectively. These waiting homes are expected to increase the admission capacity for pregnant mothers and contribute to the reduction of neonatal and maternal mortality through labour administered by trained clinical health care providers.

The project aims to enhance healthcare delivery systems by integrating the Five Ss (Space, Stuff, Systems, Staff, Social Support) into improved services. It targets pregnant mothers in Bobete and Lebakeng catchment areas, as well as newborns and their mothers post-delivery. Pregnant mothers will be admitted to waiting homes, while newborns and their mothers will be admitted to postnatal wards for monitoring.

The infrastructure milestone has improved admission capacity for pregnant mothers, reduced neonatal and maternal mortality rates through professional clinical staff, improved socio-economic conditions by providing part-time jobs and skills to villagers, and reduced home-based deliveries due to increased admission capacity.



Lesotho Prime Minister cutting the ribbon during the official opening of maternal waiting home in Lebakeng health center. Photo by Teboho Khofu / PIH

• Opening of the maternal waiting home

Partners In Health (PIH) has handed over a 32-bed maternal waiting home in Qacha's Nek, Lebakeng, to the Ministry of Health in Lesotho. The facility aims to combat maternal and neonatal deaths in the area, which is a key factor in the country's high maternal mortality rate. PIH has been securing resources to build maternal waiting homes in remote and hard-to-reach areas, providing a safe and dignified place for women in their final days of pregnancy. The new waiting home in Lebakeng represents a significant step forward in maternal and child healthcare in Lesotho.

The Prime Minister highlighted that the new facility will allow expectant mothers to stay at the clinic as their delivery date approaches and even after giving birth, thereby protecting the lives of both mothers and babies.



An aerial view of the maternal waiting home in Lebakeng. Photo by Justice Kalebe / PIH

Infrastructure Improvements

- **Power upgrades- Generator backup**

PIH Lesotho implemented a solar power solution in remote rural areas, capturing sunlight to convert it into clean, renewable energy. Large solar panels are strategically installed to maintain critical health services like vaccine refrigeration and medical equipment operation. PIH has also integrated diesel generators as a backup system, ensuring uninterrupted healthcare services in underserved areas. This approach reflects PIH's commitment to health equity and resilience, ensuring uninterrupted care for patients in remote and underserved areas.



New generator at Bobete health center . Photo by Justice Kalebe / PIH

- **Potable Water Supply Augmentation at Nkau Health Center**

Nkau Health Center had long struggled with a severe shortage of potable water, affecting its ability to provide essential services and putting patients and staff at risk. To solve this, Partners In Health (PIH) installed a high-capacity submersible pump, producing 4,000 liters of water per hour. With the new pump, the center now has a reliable water supply, improving hygiene, efficiency, and safety for both patients and healthcare workers. This intervention ensures smoother operations and better care at the facility.



Submersible pump installed into the old tank at Nkau health center.
Photo by Justice Kalele / PIH

- **Three-Compartment Septic Tank and Soak Away Pit at Bobete and Nkau**

Partners In Health (PIH) addressed wastewater management by constructing three-compartment septic tanks and soak-away pits at Bobete and Nkau Health Centers, eliminating the need for costly tanker trucks to empty flooding tanks, providing a more efficient and sustainable solution for the health centers. The treated effluent from the last compartment is safely used for tasks like irrigation and washing, though not suitable for drinking. This project highlights PIH's dedication to environmental sustainability through improved wastewater recycling practices.



New septic tank at Bobete health center . Photo by Justice Kalebe / PIH

Infrastructure Improvements

Oxygen plant renovation

- **Enhanced Oxygen Purity**

Interlocking bricks helps to significantly reduce the amount of dust and particulate matter in the vicinity of the plant. This reduction in airborne contaminants is crucial for maintaining the high purity of the oxygen produced, which is essential for medical and industrial applications. By preventing dust from entering the plant, the system can produce oxygen with a purity level above 95%, ensuring it meets stringent quality standards.



Inside the new oxygen plant at Botšabelo. Photo by Justice Kalebe / PIH

- **Reduced Maintenance Intervals**

A cleaner environment around the PSA plant means that the machinery and filtration systems are less exposed to dust and debris. This helps to decrease the wear and tear on these components, leading to fewer breakdowns and malfunctions. As a result, the maintenance intervals for the PSA plant can be extended, reducing downtime and operational disruptions. This also lowers maintenance costs and increases the overall efficiency and reliability of the plant.



Behind the new oxygen plant at Botšabelo. Photo by Justice Kalebe / PIH

- **Improved Operational Efficiency**

The interconnected cement blocks provide a sturdy and reliable base around the PSA plant, helping to support more efficient operations. This paved area can also make it easier for operators to access and move around the plant, especially when performing routine inspections, maintenance, or repairs. Improved accessibility can lead to quicker and more efficient servicing of the plant, further enhancing its operational uptime and effectiveness. Additionally, a paved area around the PSA plant can contribute to a safer working environment. The interlocking bricks create a uniform and slip-resistant surface, reducing the risk of accidents and injuries for the operators working around the plant.



An aerial view showing paving around the oxygen hub in Botšabelo. Photo by Justice Kalebe / PIH

Infrastructure Improvements

Health Facilities Renovations

Health centers' infrastructure has significantly deteriorated, with some facilities becoming unusable and others unfit for use. To address this, several infrastructure improvements have been implemented, including new ceilings, doors and door frames, window glass replacement, gate installation, building painting, re-tiled floors, and window and door frame painting at all the PIH Lesotho supported facilities. These improvements enhance the structural integrity, aesthetic appeal, safety, insulation, and overall hygiene of the health centers. New ceilings have been installed to replace damaged or missing ones, while new doors and door frames have been installed to ensure secure access. Window glass replacement has replaced broken or missing panes with new glass, while new gates have been installed for security and control access. Building painting provides a protective layer against weather and wear, while retiled floors make cleaning and maintenance easier. Window and door frame painting extends their lifespan and improves the overall look of the facilities.



The exterior painting of some buildings in Nkau health center. Photos by Justice Kalebe / PIH

Installation, repairs and maintenance

The MDR Hospital and health centers underwent immediate infrastructure repairs, including structural and roofing repairs, to ensure safe operation. Plumbing issues were promptly addressed to ensure clean water and proper sanitation. Electrical systems were maintained to restore power supply, fix wiring, and ensure safe operation of equipment. Critical components were repaired and replaced to prevent power outages and protect staff and patients. Generators, crucial for backup power, were inspected, repaired, and maintained to ensure reliable operation during power interruptions. These repairs were crucial for maintaining the safety and functionality of the facilities.

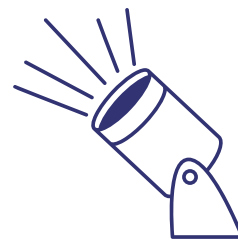


Newly installed UV lights at Botšabelo hospital. Photo by Teboho Khofu / PIH



Program Spotlight

EXPANSION OF THE OXYGEN HUB



- **Hub and Spoke**

In December 2020, PIH Lesotho, installed a new PSA plant at its hospital Bots'abelo in response to Covid 19 and other respiratory ailments. The Pressure Swing Adsorption plant (PSA) produced 8 oxygen cylinders of 50L each in 24 hours. The installation came after Lesotho had for many years relied on imported medical oxygen, since the only two PSA plants at the time, Maluti and Scott were non-functional.

Under the BRING O2 project; to improve accessibility of medical oxygen, PIH Lesotho developed a hub and spoke system in October 2022, where the Bots'abelo oxygen plant was the main distribution hub. The facilities identified as spokes at the time, based on need were Scott, St. Joseph's, Seboche, Mamohau, Tebellong, St. James and Makoanyane hospitals.

After the completion of the BRING O2 project, PIH Lesotho continued implementing the hub and spoke system using its limited budget, to ensure ongoing access to medical oxygen. Due to the growing oxygen demand, PIH Lesotho was not able to supply all the supported facilities with one plant that could only produce 8 cylinders in 24 hours, PIH Lesotho therefore requested to use Motebang Hospital Plant, Paray plant to supplement the demand. This was highly costly due to accommodation and travelling where some places operators had to spend five working days to fill 35 cylinders of 50 litres.



The new oxygen plant being installed at Botšabelo. Photo by Teboho Khofu/PIH

- **Oxygen Production**

In June 2024, a 2 x 300 lpm (liters per minute) duplex PSA plant was installed. The PSA oxygen plant can supply 350-600 lpm of oxygen directly to a piping network, depending on if the 250 lpm oxygen cylinder-filling compressor is filling cylinders or not. This 250 lpm oxygen booster compressor has a capacity of filling 50 40-liter oxygen cylinders in a 24-hour period.



Oxygen cylinders transported on a specialized truck from Botšabelo Hospital to Qacha's Nek. Photo by Zack DeClerk / PIH



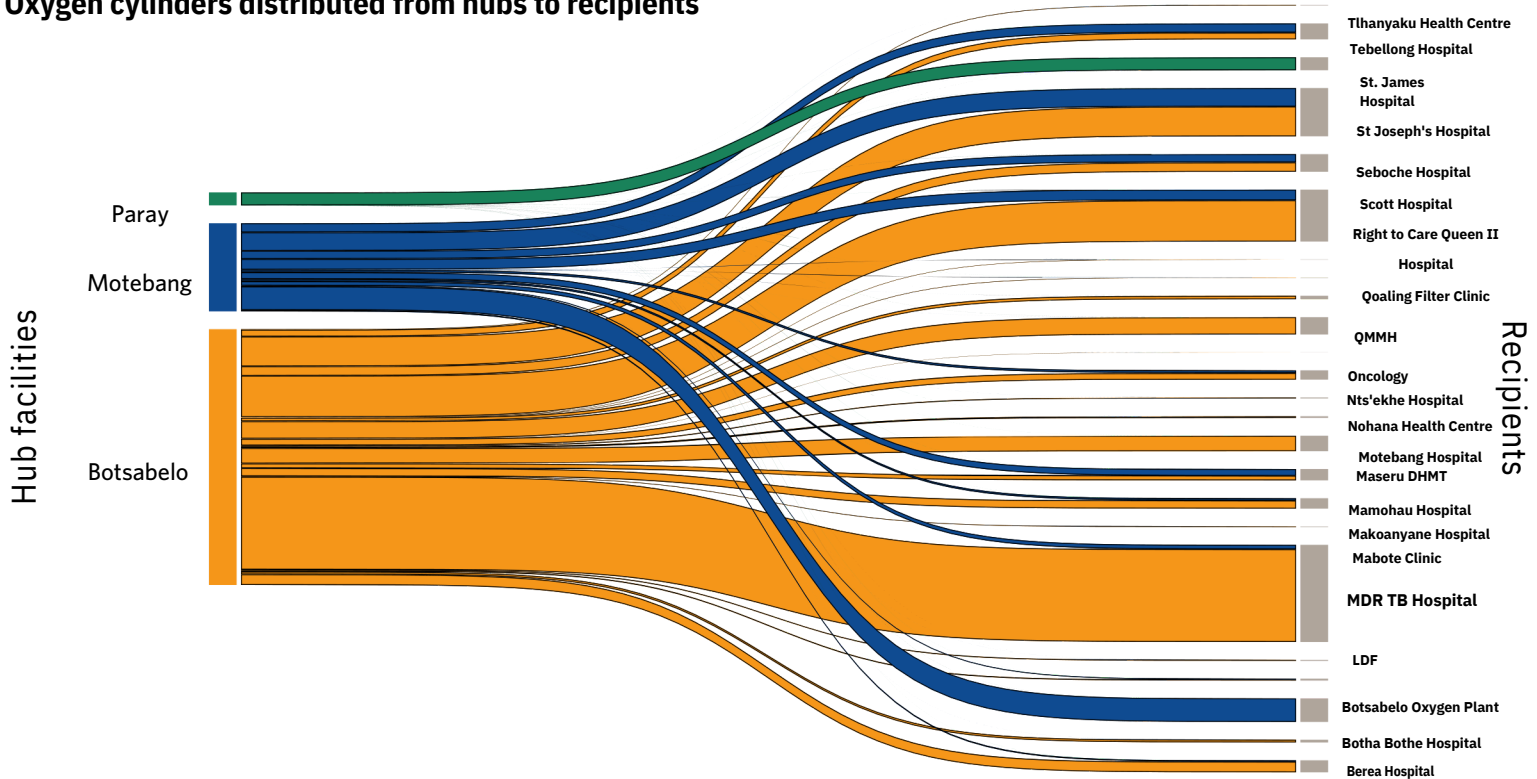
Program Spotlight



Production and Distribution of Medical Oxygen

PIH Lesotho has provided the MOH with assistance from July 2023 to June 2024 in the production and distribution of **2,612** oxygen cylinders to various government hospitals and health centres. The Botšabelo PSA plant, which is operated by PIH, has been the primary source of medical oxygen distribution, accounting for 71.7% of the total quantity.

Oxygen cylinders distributed from hubs to recipients



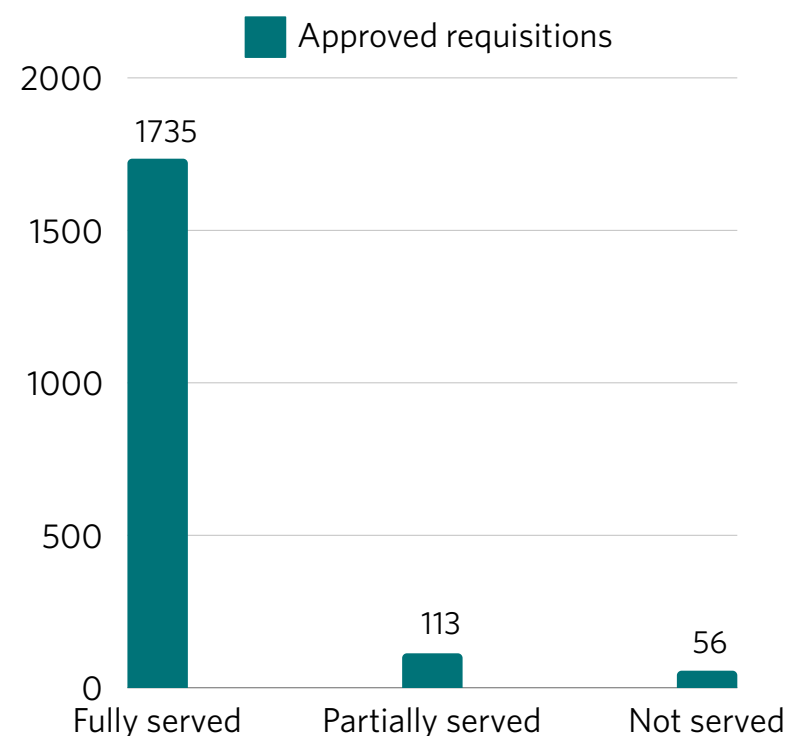
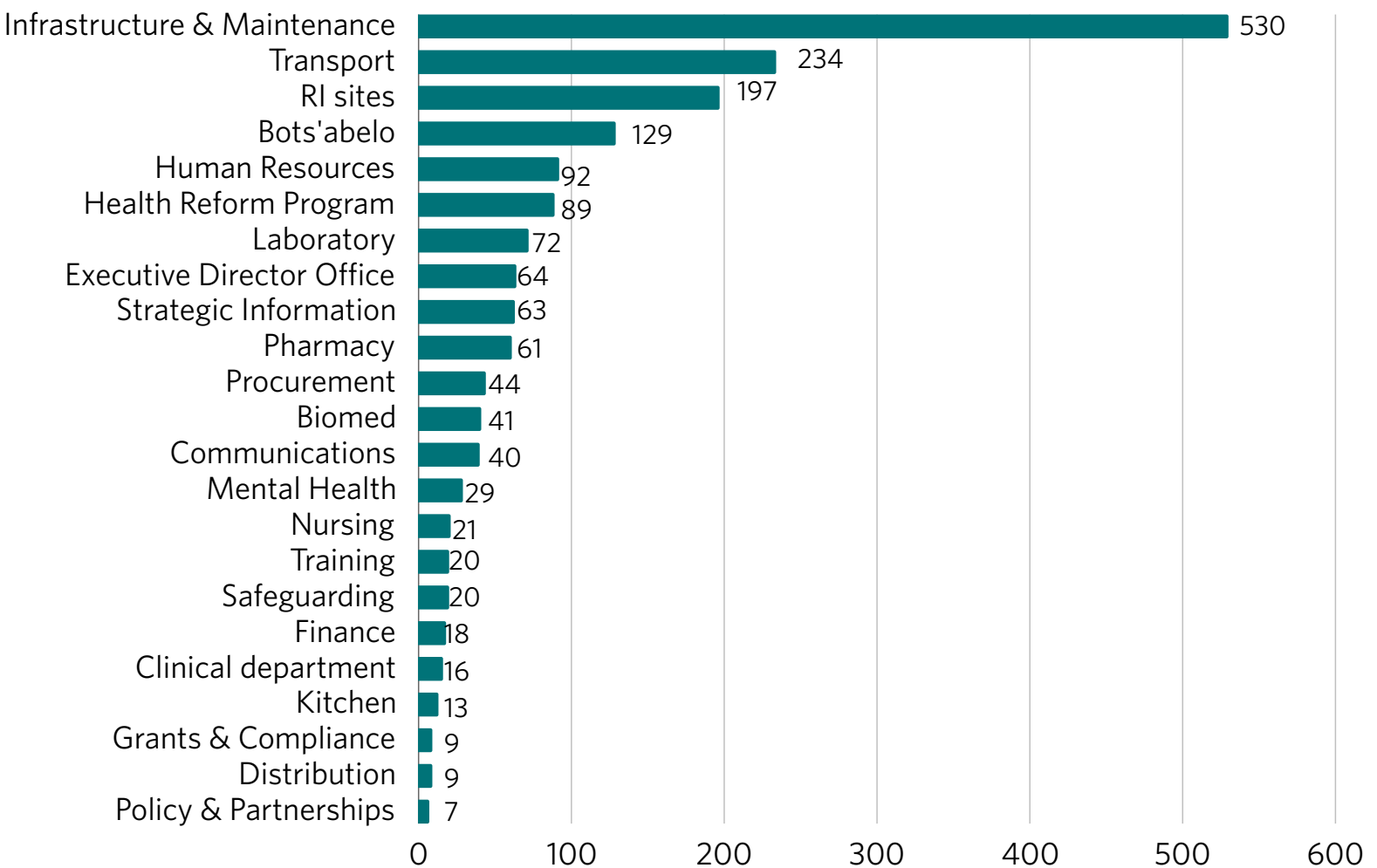
Sankey diagram demonstrating movement of oxygen cylinders from hubs to recipient facilities over the period of July 2023 to June 2024. Line thickness represents relative number of cylinders, with thicker lines indicating more cylinders.

- **Home based oxygen supply to patients with respiratory problems**

In addition to supplying medical oxygen to over 20 hospitals and clinics across Lesotho, PIH has been supplying medical oxygen to patients who are oxygen dependent. The Ministry of Health requested that PIH Lesotho provide assistance to patients with respiratory problems who require oxygen, in addition to the patients in the PIH-supported facilities. From July 2023 - June 2024, **4** patients have been receiving medical oxygen at their homes on a consistent basis. This was achieved through home assessments, training for patients and their family members on the correct use of medical oxygen and the handling of oxygen cylinders. A minimum of 5 cylinders are provided to all patients, and they are refilled whenever the minimal stock reaches 2 cylinders. Additionally, PIH Lesotho provides oxygen concentrators to all patients who have access to electricity at home and the biomedical engineers ensure that the concentrators are maintained on a regular basis.

Procurement & Distribution

FY24 Approved requisitions



PIH Lesotho Procurement Unit is a core component of the Operations Department, playing a vital role in meeting the procurement needs of various departments and programs across PIH Lesotho.

In FY24, the unit processed a total of **1,902** approved requisitions. The highest volume of these requests originated from the Infrastructure and Maintenance, as well as the Transport Units.

Out of the 1,902 approved requisitions: - 1,735 (91.2%) were fully served and completed. - 113 (5.9%) were partially served due to challenges such as supplier delays. - 56 (2.9%) were not fulfilled, primarily due to end-user cancellations, budget constraints, or year-end procurement cut-off.

Systems Highlights

Integration of openboxes with MORIANA Dispensary system

Moriana; a specialized inventory and dispensing system for the pharmacy supply chain was integrated with OpenBoxes. The integration is intended to optimise inventory control, improve dispensing processes, and provide a seamless flow of information between systems, resulting in a more efficient and transparent operation. This enables real-time tracking of stock levels, reducing the risk of overstocking or stockouts. Moriana's dispensing capabilities are enhanced by OpenBoxes' robust inventory data, reducing errors. The integration also provides comprehensive data visualization, enabling stakeholders to make informed decisions.

TB Hunter System

TB Hunter system is an innovative system combining new TB Screening and testing methods using Artificial Intelligence (AI), Point of Care Testing tools and Geographic Information System (GIS) to help frontline clinicians and program leaders to track in real time TB screening, testing and follow up pf the TB patients to assess if they develop Post TB Lung Disease

Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS)

PIH Lesotho has moved to a centralized system of equipment management which facilitates the process of maintenance operations on its medical equipment across the seven PIH Lesotho supported Health facilities and Botsabelo MDR TB Hospital. This tool is known as the computerized maintenance management system (CMMS) and it helps to keep track of equipment downtime, have an organized maintenance schedule, simplifies medical equipment record keeping, and helps our biomedical engineers and technicians with easy access to information such as key performance indicators, user manuals, and service manuals. Through this equipment management tool, equipment downtime is reduced, and the health of equipment is improved.

Integration of Scerenic

Without the integration between OpenBoxes and Serenic, potential challenges would have arisen, including increased workload due to the manual entry of suppliers and invoices into both systems. This approach would likely have led to duplicate records, inconsistencies, and errors, particularly during financial reconciliation, where discrepancies could have caused serious operational disruptions. However, the integration has delivered significant benefits by automating data transfer between the two systems. This automation has not only reduced errors and ensured data accuracy but also streamlined workflows and enhanced overall efficiency. The seamless communication between OpenBoxes and Serenic has improved the ability to manage supply chain operations effectively, ensuring compliance with financial regulations and contributing to continued success.

Halfway Home Activity Tracker

This is an App that tracks the movement of patients in the DR TB Halfway homes. It tracks the admissions activity into halfway homes and discharges either to a hospital or home. It also shows the linkage of the patients with their Treatment Supporter within the DR program, and it shows the food package served to patients while they are admitted into the halfway homes.

Lab Sample Tracker

This is a system used by PIH Lesotho central laboratory to monitor and track samples sent by PIH Central Lab to other referral labs like NRL, NTRL, Path Care and Reliance Lab for the tests that cannot be performed at PIH Central Lab. It enables the user to record the source facility of the sample (RI Facility, DR-TB Hospital, Oncology or any other facility) and it allows for tracking of the results information such as results date and results unique identifier from the referral lab. One of the benefits of this system is that it shows the availability of the referred test results and allows for estimation of financial expenditure on referrals.

SECTION 2:
ADDRESSING
VULNERABILITIES THAT
IMPACT HEALTH



Community Based care

Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC)



Lehlohonolo Khate, an OVC from Lebakeng crafting leather at Itjareng vocational center. Photo by Justice Kalebe / PIH

Orphaned and Vulnerable Children program (OVC) empowers and responds to the social needs of OVCs by providing psychosocial support including monthly food parcels, tuition fees, clothing, counselling and medical care. There are five children in the program currently, two of whom are enrolled in vocational institutions, where they pursue leathercraft and carpentry as their primary areas of study. PIH Lesotho conducts quarterly supervision in the homes and institutions where the children are housed to ensure that they are adhering to their medication. This is done in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Development's OVC department.

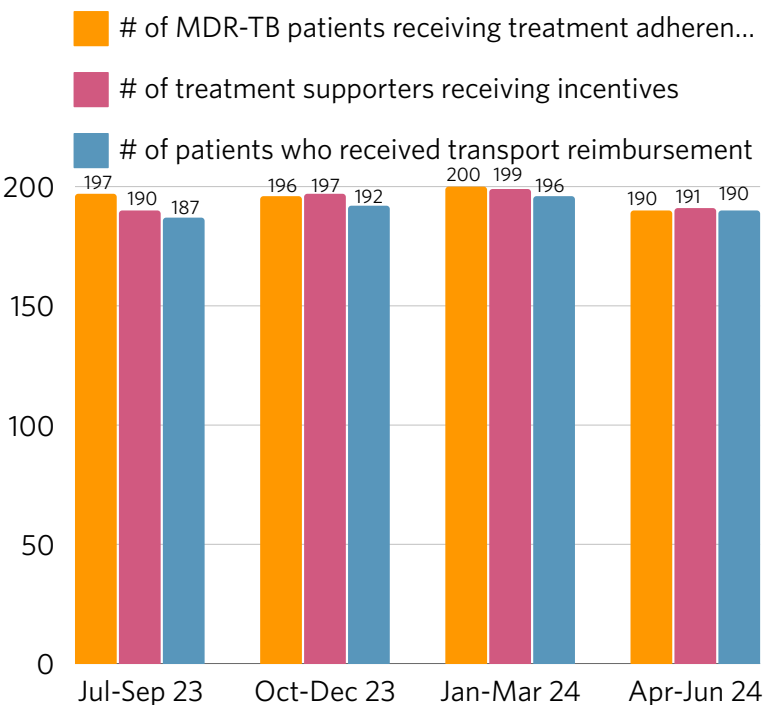


Leather bags made by students at Itjareng Vocational Centre. Photo by Justice Kalebe / PIH

MDR-TB Support

The community team contributes to the reduction of TB in the country through conducting screening in congregate settings, contact tracing, making follow-up visits, home supervision of treatment, and accompaniment. The program provided monthly food packages to 190 patients throughout their treatment. Additionally, 190 patients received transportation assistance for medical reviews. A total of 191 treatment supporters received monthly stipends, while 169 of them received transport allowances for accompanying patients to clinical sessions at district hospitals.

MDR-TB Social Support, FY24



SECTION 3: **ADVANCE THE MOVEMENT OF HEALTH EQUITY**



PIH Lesotho's Appointment of the Citizen Based Accountability Program

In a pivotal move, the Prime Minister of Lesotho has selected PIH Lesotho as a key partner in the citizens-based accountability initiative, aimed at achieving universal healthcare coverage (UHC). This selection underscores PIH's substantial impact and its unwavering commitment to improving healthcare for Lesotho's most vulnerable communities.

As part of the initiative, PIH will provide technical assistance to the Prime Minister in shaping national policies and strategies for securing UHC. This collaboration includes working with the Prime Minister's task force, the PM's accountability and delivery unit, and various government ministries. PIH will also join forces with other organizations to support the Prime Minister's vision of enhancing the lives of Basotho through coordinated healthcare delivery and accountability.

In its advisory role, PIH will help shape health reforms by introducing efficient strategies and innovations.



The Lesotho Prime Minister shaking hands with PIH Lesotho Deputy Executive Director at Lebakeng Health. Photo by Teboho Khofu / PIH

PIH Lesotho's efforts will focus on advancing health financing reforms that promote equity and social justice, ultimately improving health outcomes and addressing the nation's healthcare challenges.

PIH's success will be measured by key performance indicators (KPIs) set by the Prime Minister, which will assess improvements in service delivery and accountability within the health sector. These indicators will also track progress toward UHC.

The inclusion of PIH in this initiative is a significant milestone in Lesotho's journey toward universal healthcare. With PIH's expertise and dedication, the country is well-positioned to achieve fair and accessible healthcare for all citizens.



The Lesotho Prime Minister shaking hands with Lebakeng site director at Lebakeng Health. Photo by Teboho Khofu / PIH

Accompanying Public Sector In Resource Mobilization and Policy Development

Global Fund

PIH continued to accompany the government with the Global Fund Grant Cycle 7 Funding Request and grant making process. In pursuit of the Global Fund Grant Cycle 7, the MOH leveraged PIH, Lesotho technical expertise to develop the \$70million Funding Request. Upon approval of the Funding Request, PIH, Lesotho continued to provide technical expertise to NTP in the grant-making cycle. PIH, Lesotho continued to simultaneously support strategic document development including the National TB Strategic Plan.



Danielle Sharp, Director policy and partnerships representing PIH Lesotho at the partner meeting. Photo by Teboho Mohlabi for PIH

MOH Accompaniment- Community

PIH Lesotho has completed the validation, verification, and finalization of the village health worker (VHW) Toolkit, which includes training materials such as the VHW Handbook, Workbook, Facilitator Guide, and Facilitator Manual. The VHW Program 2024 Policy was finalized, building on the 2020 version and incorporating a broader scope to include all community health workers such as Community Based Organizations (CBOs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and other Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs). This update was complemented by a Training of Trainers (TOT) initiative designed to address new developments in the country by training District Health Management Teams (DHMTs), health centers, and community-level workers.



VHW toolkits at the PIH Lesotho warehouse. Photos by Justice Kalebe / PIH



VHWs receiving toolkits in Bobete health center. Photos by Mats'eliso Mohlatsane / PIH

Our Partners

Over the past year, PIH Lesotho has continued to rely on the strength and dedication of its partnerships to deliver high-quality health care to the people of Lesotho. These partnerships, both longstanding and new, have been critical in expanding access to care, improving patient outcomes, and accompanying the Ministry of Health to provide high quality of care to our patients.

Academic	Stakeholders	Donors
University of Pennsylvania	MOH	Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation
University of Global Health Equity	CHAI	The Primates World Relief and Development Fund
Harvard Medical School	ICAP	MCA Health System Strengthening Technical Assistance
University of California San Francisco	OnePower	KCS Foundation
	Dana Farber	Caerus Foundation
	Brigham and Women's Hospital	Cencora Foundation
	Fulbright	Whitt Family Foundation
	LFDS	Many Voices
	Qure.ai	Global Fund/PMU
	Butterfly	UCSF-GAIN
	GOPA	

Accompanying Public Sector with Health System Strengthening

Oncology Support

Laboratory investigations	Radiology services	Infrastructure improvement	Capacity building	Social Support to patients
11,311 lab tests done for cancer patients at PIH central lab.	Ultrasound services and donation of an ultrasound machine to the oncology clinic.	Installation of high speed internet at the cancer clinic.	PIH hosted a team of oncology experts, including clinical, gynaecologist, pharmacist, and breast cancer surgeons, to conduct trainings for the cancer team and Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital clinicians.	PIH has been providing cancer patients with out-of-pocket expenses for Computed Tomography (CT) scans, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), tumor markers, and Immunohistochemistry.
226 lab tests sent to Pathcare, funded by a PIH-funded project.	Cancer patients that need X-ray services get them from PIH x ray department at Botsabelo.	PIH purchased computers, printers, linen drier, lockable cabinet, aircon, infusion pumps, and Accuvein AV 500 Vein Illumination Device for cancer program team.	PIH hosted ultrasound experts who conducted two rounds of trainings on ultrasound for PIH and cancer clinical teams.	PIH provided cancer patients with transportation reimbursement for their clinic visits.
PIH purchased a pathology hood for the National Reference lab to enhance cancer diagnosis.	The PIH Radiologist has been providing assistance to the Senkatana cancer clinic, including reading X-rays, CT scan images, and performing ultrasound scans for patients.	PIH has provided a chemotherapy mixing hood for the cancer clinic.	Dana Farber hired an oncology nurse specialist to enhance the cancer program management over several weeks with the cancer team.	PIH provided snacks to patients during chemotherapy infusions.
ANNUAL REPORT FY 24				

Responding to Government Infrastructure Requests

Installation, Commissioning and Decommissioning

PIH Lesotho was responsible for installing and commissioning new equipment and decommissioning old equipment for a newly constructed hospital in Lesotho; Maseru District Hospital. They decommissioned CT scanners, X-ray machines, and dental chairs, ensuring safe disassembly and identification. The PIH Lesotho Biomed team installed and commissioned medical equipment at the new Maseru District Hospital, including ECG machines, infant radiant warmers, mobile ventilators, ICU ventilators, and patient monitors. The installation and commissioning process involved assembling components and conducting functional testing to ensure the equipment was complete, safe, reliable, and functioning as intended.



Ratanang, Monts'onyane, biomedical technician installing a neonatal baby warmer at Maseru District hospital. Photo by Mphatso Tsoka / PIH



New ICU ventilator machines at Maseru District hospital. Photo by Mphatso Tsoka / PIH



Biomedical engineering team working at Maseru District hospital. Photo by Paul Ntiee / PIH

Accompanying Public Health Sector on Training the next Generation of Health Professionals

Building Health Care Workforce

PIH Lesotho accompanied the MOH to mobilize awareness on University of Global Health Equity (UGHE) Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery and Master of Science in Global Health Delivery (MGHD), accompanied 3 candidates through the application process, with all 3 being accepted into UGHE. There are a total of 4 students at UGHE who in the next 6-7 years will return as medical doctors and serve in Lesotho public hospitals for approximately 6 years.



The three candidates studying at UGHE. Photo by Ts'epo Monakalali / PIH.



Dr. Melino Ndayizigiye and Hon. Selibe Mochoboroane with one of the candidates studying at UGHE during the signing of the MOU. Photo by Ts'epo Monakalali / PIH



Majoele Masabbatha Molu, one of the candidates of UGHE, signing an MOU at MOH. Photo by Ts'epo Monakalali / PIH

Community First Global Collaborative Program on Health System Resilience

The program is designed to give support to local leaders who are at the forefront of community initiatives that are meant to address health inequities. Its objectives include the support of these leaders in the development and execution of strategies for the resilience and recovery of health systems. Furthermore, the initiative aims to improve public health systems and establish an enduring collaborative learning network among community leaders to enable them to respond effectively to humanitarian crises and pandemics. Four candidates from Lesotho are currently participating in the program.



Team Lesotho at the in-person orientation for the health system resilience program in Rwanda. Photo by Anatole Manzi / PIH

Influence with Evidence Through Research



Rets'epile Tlali, deputy executive director addressing district administrators and councils of local government secretaries at the state house during the Prime Minister's delivery unit training.
Photo by Afom Andom / PIH

Abstracts presented in international conferences

1. Making Medical Oxygen Available in Lesotho: Lessons Learned from Partners In Health's Building Reliable Integrated and Next Generation Oxygen Services (BRING O2) Project
2. Decentralization of Primary Healthcare Management: Perspectives from Healthcare Workers' in Lesotho
3. Factors that Influence the Uptake of Routine Antenatal Services by Pregnant Women in Low Resources Settings: A Mixed Method Study in Lesotho
4. Improving tuberculosis detection through decentralized diagnostics and computer-aided detection (CAD) system in Rural Lesotho, presented at the Union World Conference on Lung Health
5. Closing gaps in active TB case-finding using digital X-ray and computer-aided detection (CAD) in rural Lesotho symposium presentation at the Union World Conference on Lung Health
6. Utilizing a health system responsive approach towards sustaining viral load quality improvement project: Addressing patient-centered care quality dimension presented at Africa Interdisciplinary Health Conference
7. Improving treatment of multidrug resistant tuberculosis: Results of the endTB randomized clinical trial

Contribution in peer reviewed publications



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Review > Int J Tuberc Lung Dis. 2024 May 1;28(5):217-224. doi: 10.5588/ijtld.23.0471.

FULL TEXT LINKS



ACTIONS

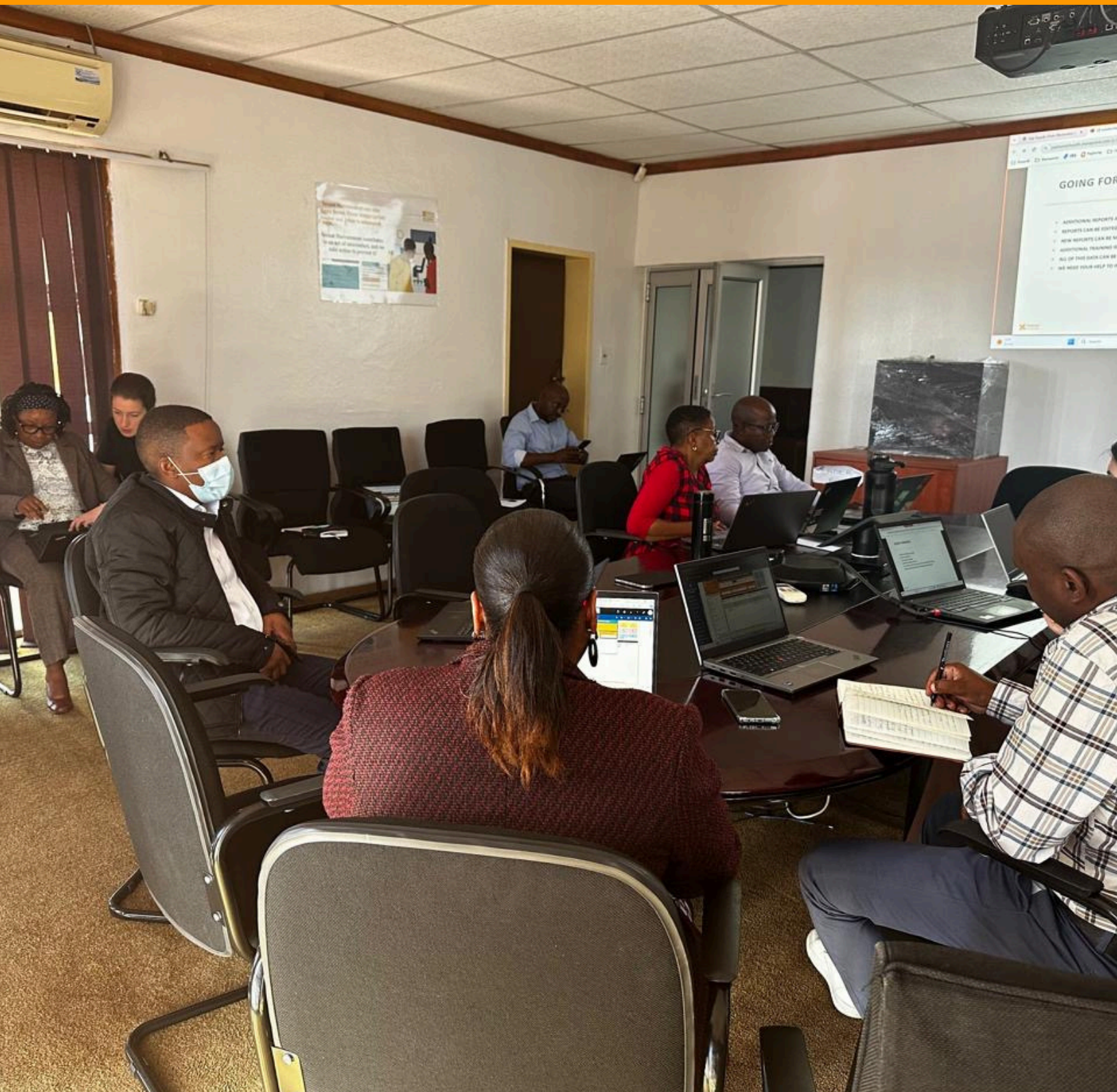
“ Cite

Point-of-care ultrasound for diagnosing extrapulmonary TB

L T Allan-Blitz ¹, C Yarbrough ², M Ndayizigiye ³, C Wade ⁴, A J Goldsmith ⁵, N M Duggan ⁵

SECTION 4:

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION



Development Records

#	Opportunity	Status	Timeframe	Awarded Amount (USD)
1	Government of Canada: Resilient Health Systems for All	Lost	3 years	
2	Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation	Awarded	1 year	\$141,310
3	The Primates World Relief and Development Fund	Awarded	3 years	\$264,705.88
4	MCA Health System Strengthening Technical Assistance	Awarded	5 Years	TBD
5	StopTB Wave 11	Lost	18 months	
6	The Global Fund: Grant Cycle 7 (with HP)	Awarded	3 years	\$1,729 544.92
7	Unitaid: Accelerate and promote responsible introduction of new DR-TB drugs and regimens	Submitted	3 years	TBD
8	KCS Foundation	Awarded	1 year	\$103,685.00
9	Weiss Asset Management Foundation	Lost	2 years	
10	USAID: Bophelo bo Botle	Lost	3-5 years	
11	Caerus Foundation	Awarded	2 years	\$100,000.00
12	Gain	Submitted	2 years	\$704,186.00
13	Cencora Foundation	Awarded	2 years	\$93,800.00
14	Whitt Family Foundation	Awarded	1 year	\$25,000.00
15	Many Voices	Awarded	1 year	\$295,187.00
16	USAID: GRAD-TB	Submitted	5 years	
17	International Foudation	Submitted	1 year	
				\$3,604,603.63
				R57,673,658.12

SECTION 5:

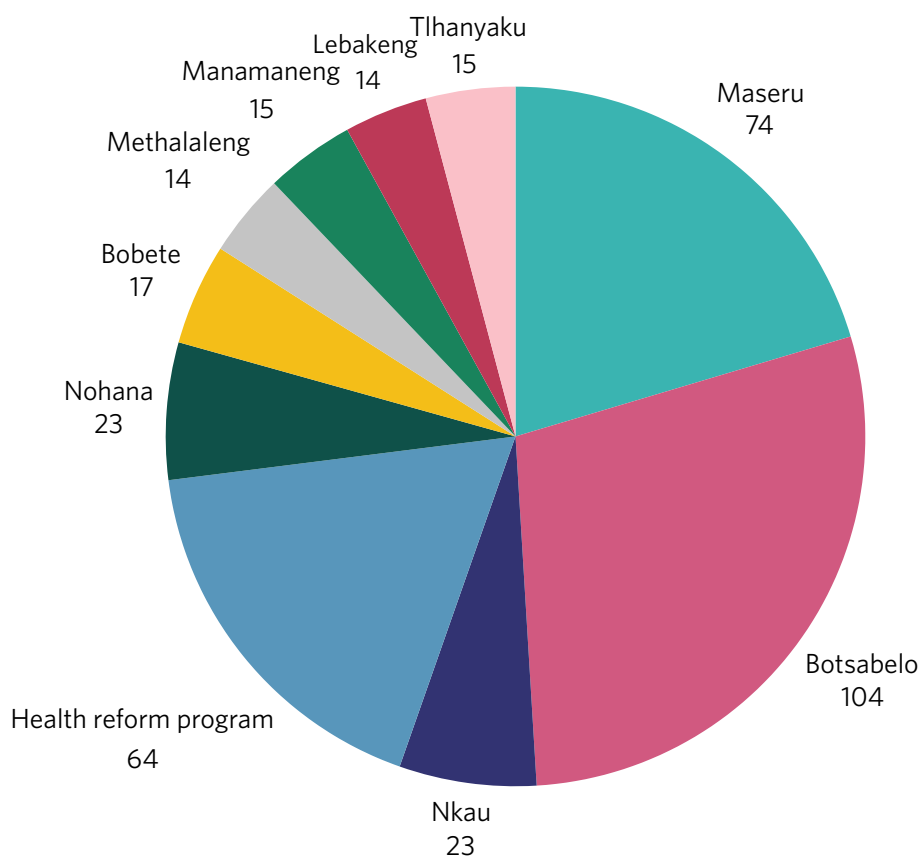
HUMAN RESOURCES



Human Resources

Proper staffing at PIH is one of the important pillars towards the achievement of its strategic intent. As a health based justice organization, PIH strives for the optimal delivery of care services and the issue of staffing serves as the backbone of effective service delivery through ensuring a continuous supply of skilled and competent individuals. These professionals are not just placeholders but motivations for success of the strategic plan realization. PIH further believes that the enhanced productivity is a direct output of proper hiring and continuous retention of proper talent. The heart of any organization's success lies in the productivity of its workforce. Staffing, beyond its recruitment essence, actively invests in the development and nurturing of human resources. Through meticulous training programs, skill enhancement initiatives, and continuous learning opportunities, staffing contributes directly to boosting productivity across diverse operational areas.

Staff Distribution Graph



New Departments

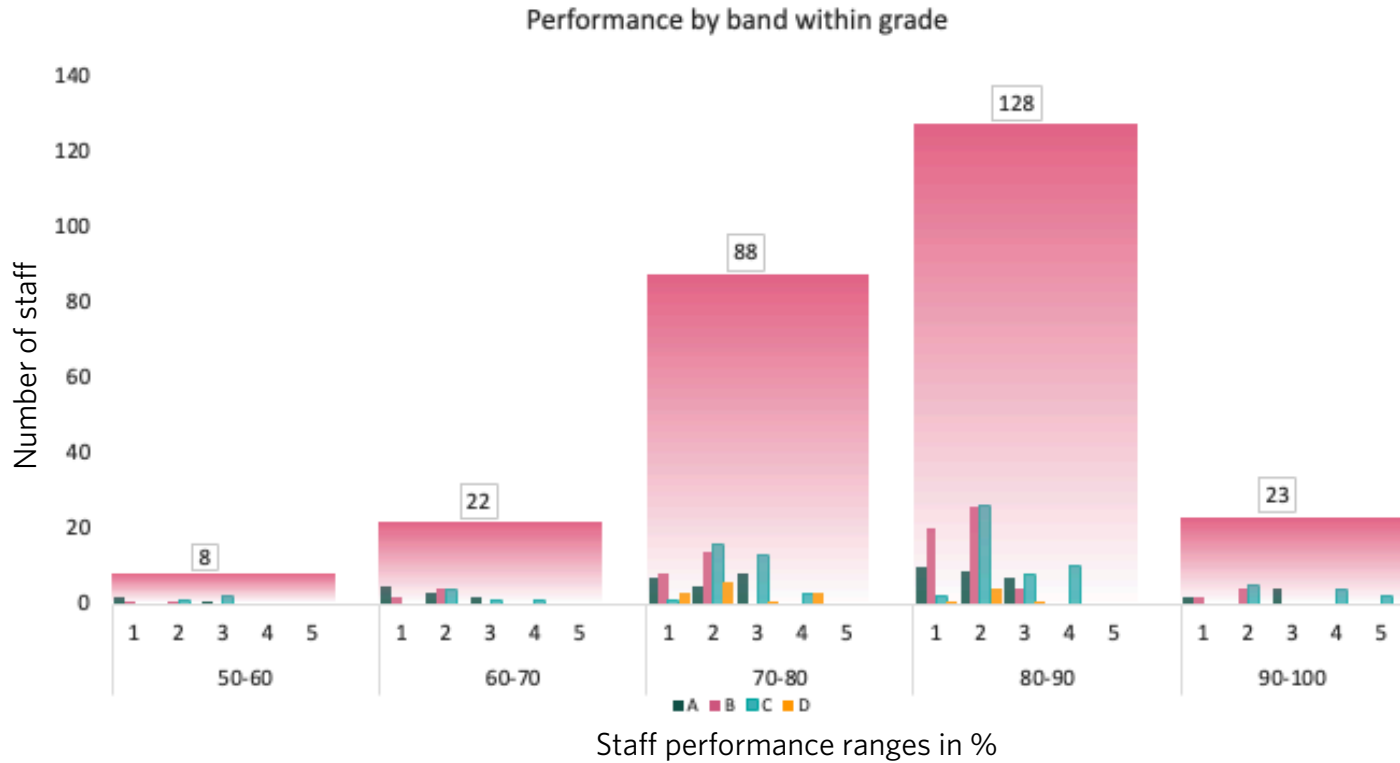
- Communications
- Internal Audit, Grants and Compliance

PIH Lesotho has a total number of **309** full time, **16** temporary staff and staff, **54** casual labourers. In FY24, **45** new hires on full or temporary engagement.



Human Resources

Staff performance appraisal is done every year and focuses on assessment of performance on set goals agreed by both staff and their supervisors as well technical competencies, work habits and conduct. The staff do self-assessment first and submit the assessment to their supervisors who also assess the performance and give feedback to the staff. The supervisor and the supervisee then discuss the feedback and agree on overall staff performance and set goals for the next fiscal year. In FY24, the average performance for all the staff was **79%**.



Staff Wellness

Staff wellness program aims to enhance team's wellbeing through holistic wellness initiatives, supporting staff health, happiness, and growth.

Accompaniment

Accompany staff during trying times due to illness, grief & psychosocial issues.

Staff accompanied:

- Medical ailments: 28
- Grief : 3
- Financial wellness: 2

LINKAGE

Serve as contact point for staff referral to external wellness vendors.

Staff linked to :

- Financial wellbeing: 2
- Medical services: 2
- Banking services: 6
- Medical aid: 3

Physical & Mental Wellness

Encourage activities that foster physical and mental wellness.

e.g sports tournaments and medical screening

External Services

Establish lasting ties with Wellness services providers to benefit staff.

Established collaborators:

- Sinai Clinic Psychiatric Centre
- Visionary Mentors (Financial Advisory entity)
- Butha Buthe Mental Health unit.
- Sunrise Rehabilitation Centre

TRAININGS

Build capacity & resilience amongst staff on Wellness.

Activities:

- Konterra Counselling Services awareness
- PIH Values in Mental Health Training
- Substance use treatment options
- Psychological First aid training
- Wellness in the workplace training

Staff wellness program

- **PIH Lesotho participation in the national soccer tournament**

Karabo ea Bophelo hosted a tournament featuring private health sector NGOs, parastatals, and civil service entities. Partners In Health participated fiercely, reaching the second leg. The objective was to reach men aged 20-49 through soccer tournaments for community norms change interventions, encouraging them to improve health services seeking behaviors and educate them about health issues affecting their lives.



20th August 2023			
Libitsi FC	3 - 0	QMMH	
Sekoting	3 - 2	Litšelo	
25th August 2023			
FC Social	2 - 1	US Embassy	
DCEO	5 - 2	Forestry	
Chali One	3 - 3	Home Affairs	
PIH	1 - 0	ICAP	
TSS FC	1 - 0	Baylor	
Thibang	3 - 3	LPPA	
27th August 2023			
QMMH	3 - 0	Litšelo	
Libitsi	3 - 2	Sekoting	
01st September 2023			
US Embassy	3 - 2	Thibang	
DCEO	3 - 3	TSS FC	
Forestry	2 - 4	Baylor	
ICAP	3 - 6	Home Affairs	

Partners In Health joins KB soccer tournament. Photo by Mojela Masupha / PIH

- **PIH Lesotho inter sites tournaments**

In effort to promote OnePIH spirit, staff physical and mental health, PIH Lesotho has organized inter sites tournaments between its supported rural clinics, Maseru office and Botsabelo MDR TB hospital teams. 8 different teams across PIHL facilities battle with mighty enthusiasm and fun, against each other in the soccer and netball categories. The games were complimented by festivities and dance, promoting connections amongst staff at PIH Lesotho.



Netball match between Maseru office and Nohana health center at Machabeng College. Photo by Justice Kalebe/ PIH



Bobete team during sites tournaments. Photo by Mojela Masupha/ PIH



Soccer match during staff wellness games at Machabeng, Maseru. Photo by Justice Kalebe/ PIH

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harrassment (PSEAH)

PIH Lesotho's Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment (PSEAH) Policy describes the organization's commitment to protecting its beneficiaries from sexual exploitation and abuse and its staff from sexual harassment. It also governs what it means by sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment and describe the standards of behavior that is expected from everyone who represents the organization. Its PSEAH policy scope further extends to individuals, affiliates, seconded employees, local and international collaborators, volunteers, independent contractors, consultants and interns and applies to every PIH care delivery site and coordination sites in all the countries in which we operate.

- **PIH Lesotho PSEAH published article in local newspaper**

The Safeguarding Office partnered with Public Eye and other local newspapers to publish periodic articles to showcase PIH Lesotho's stand on PSEAH issues, with the first article released on June 6th, 2024. this was done to make PIH Lesotho's policy and philosophy known to the public and the organization's beneficiaries.

- **Lesotho Safeguarding Network's Annual Planning Session**

The Lesotho Safeguarding Network is a new network involving government departments, NGOs, CSOs, agencies, and institutions that adhere to safeguarding principles like preventing sexual exploitation, abuse, gender-based violence, forced labor, and human trafficking. It aims to strengthen sustainability, engage stakeholders, and prevent duplication of efforts. The network is guided by the laws of Lesotho, national policies, and relevant statutes and regulations. Partners in Health-Lesotho facilitated and funded the network's Annual Planning Workshop, which included activities, leading organizations, financing organizations, targets, and indicators.



Safeguarding Network Planning Session organised by PIH Lesotho. Photo by Justice Kalebe / PIH.

Staff Capacity Building

- **Ultrasound training**

Partners In Health Lesotho has revolutionized medical imaging in Lesotho through Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) trainings. These trainings, conducted in clinical settings like Botšabelo Hospital and remote PIH Rural Initiative Sites, trained local healthcare workers to use handheld ultrasound devices like the Butterfly iQ+. These portable devices provide immediate, precise information, enhancing patient care in resource-limited environments. The trainings taught doctors and nurses to conduct detailed scans using a single, smartphone-compatible tool, where access to advanced imaging technology is limited. The Butterfly iQ+ has become an invaluable asset, enabling comprehensive whole-body scans, pregnancies monitoring, and urgent intervention detection.



Dr. Channel Fistcheti, Fulbright ultrasound specialist training nurses in Lebakeng on obstetric ultrasound. Photo by Mpho Marole/ PIH.

- **Post TB lung disease training**

Partners In Health Lesotho conducted training in Botšabelo on Post-Lung TB Disease (PTLD) for healthcare professionals from local facilities and the Ministry of Health. The training focused on equipping participants with the skills to manage PTLD, a chronic condition resulting from prior tuberculosis. Attendees learned the importance of ongoing care for TB patients, even post-treatment, to prevent long-term respiratory complications and ensure better patient outcomes in Lesotho.



*Dr. Paul Sonenthal training PIH Lesotho and MOH clinicians on PTLD.
Photo by Teboho Khofu / PIH*

- **Use of dream warmers training**

Doctors and nurses from Partners in Health were trained on using DreamWarmer, a non-electric infant warmer designed to prevent neonatal hypothermia. The training emphasized its importance in reducing infant deaths, particularly in low-resource settings. Participants learned how to prepare, use, and clean the device, which maintains a stable temperature for hours without electricity. According to the training facilitator Dr. Ann Hansen, a neonatologist at Boston Children's Hospital, DreamWarmer has shown high success in improving neonatal outcomes.



A nurse at Tlhanyaku Health Centre preparing a baby warmer for a newly born baby. Photo by Justice Kalebe / PIH.

Staff Capacity Building

- **OpenBoxes launch**

The OpenBoxes Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop at Butaro UGHE University was pivotal for PIH Lesotho's supply chain modernization. Aimed at building OpenBoxes capacity, this training was essential for the success of both the implementation and the continuous post-implementation support for users and the system. The workshop equipped the Lesotho team to lead OpenBoxes training, manage feature rollouts, troubleshoot issues, and implement process improvements. With the system having gone live, the team is enhancing inventory management, streamlining procurement, and improving data accuracy, ensuring effective and sustained supply chain operations.



Openboxes launch at the Botšabelo warehouse. Photo by Mpho Marole / PIH.

- **PSEAH Training for PIH security guards and Maintenance Staff**

The Safeguarding Office of Partners In Health (PIH) conducted a full-day training for security guards at Maseru sites, focusing on Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH). The session, emphasized by team leaders, highlighted the need for annual training due to previous gaps in PSEAH knowledge among guards. The Deputy Executive Director and HR Manager officially opened and closed the event, underscoring PIH's commitment to safeguarding standards.



Toka Senkoto, safeguarding manager training security guards at Maseru office. Photo by Rets'epile Tlali / PIH.

- **Social Medicine training**

Partners In Health professionals from Lesotho, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Malawi, Liberia, and UGHE completed a two-week Social Medicine Competencies training in Rwinkwavu, Rwanda. They trained to become educators in Social Medicine, exploring social determinants of health through community activities. Rets'epile Tlali, Deputy Executive Director of PIH Lesotho, highlighted the training as a key step in integrating patient-centered care to tackle health inequities across PIH's global operations.



Dr. Afom Andom, Chief Medical Officer and Rets'epile Tlali, Deputy Executive Director during the social medicine training in Rwanda. Photo by Iriza Grace for PIH

SECTION 7:

PRIORITIES FOR FY25

- 1. Implementation of OnePIH TB strategy**
- 2. Complete the construction of Biomedical Center of Excellence**
- 3. Support the Right. Hon. Prime Minister's reform initiative to achieve Universal Health Coverage**
- 4. Start implementation of the Global Action In Nursing project**
- 5. Provide technical support to the Ministry of Health through the Millennium Challenge Account to ensure a successful implementation of HSS/PHC/GBV project**
- 6. Strengthen internal audits, grants management and compliance department**
- 7. Start implementation of Non Negotiables Project 2**
- 8. Strengthen resource mobilization efforts and align proposals development to the 80/20 rule**
- 9. Strengthen staff wellness program**
- 10. Review and update internal policies**

ABOUT PARTNERS IN HEALTH

PIH is a global health organization relentlessly committed to improving the health of the poor and marginalized. We build local capacity and work closely with impoverished communities to deliver high-quality health care, address the root causes of illness, train providers, advance research, and advocate for global policy change.

PIH MISSION

Our mission is to provide a preferential option for the poor in health care.

By establishing long-term relationships with sister organizations based in settings of poverty, Partners In Health strives to achieve two overarching goals: to bring the benefits of modern medical science to those most in need of them and to serve as an antidote to despair.

We draw on the resources of the world's leading medical and academic institutions and on the lived experience of the world's poorest and sickest communities. At its root, our mission is both medical and moral. It is based on solidarity, rather than charity alone.

When our patients are ill and have no access to care, our team of health professionals, scholars, and activists will do whatever it takes to make them well—just as we would do if a member of our own families or we ourselves were ill.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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