

Enabling better health

A plan to reduce under-5 mortality in South Africa

Working hand-in-hand with government and other partners, One to One Children's Fund aims to reduce under-5 mortality and morbidity rates in the OR Tambo District in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa, one of the poorest districts in one of the most impoverished provinces in the country. The Enable project will train community health workers (CHWs) to conduct high-quality home-based visits to improve maternal and child health, creating a model for government scaling.

The problem

Due to the poor infrastructure and rural nature of the O.R. Tambo district, there are extremely high barriers for women and children to access quality medical care. HIV prevalence among pregnancy women is over 35%, HIV/AIDS accounts for 17% of under-five deaths, over a quarter of children are not receiving potentially life-saving vaccines and a third of women are not attending their first antenatal clinic appointment. OR Tambo District has one of the lowest rates of uptake for HIV testing at the 18-month mark for babies born to HIV+ mothers; only 39% of children receive this test, compared to the national average of 79%.¹

The partner

One to One CF is a UK charity whose expert patient program was featured as a Top 100 Innovation for the Next Century by the Rockefeller Foundation in 2013. One to One has a history of innovation and was one of the first organizations to provide life-saving drugs to children with HIV in South Africa. One to One also has a track record of sustainability—governments, partners, and communities have adopted and are replicating One to One's projects in several countries.

The philanthropic solution

In the first phase of ENABLE, One to One recruited 'Mentor Mothers' from local communities and trained and employed them to provide quality home-based care and support for young children and their families. In the second phase, One to One sought to enhance the sustainability of the approach by leveraging the Mentor Mothers to train and equip community health workers already employed by the South African

Department of Health (DoH) to do their jobs more effectively. In this third phase of the program, One to One will integrate programming for early childhood development, adolescents and male engagement, while also deepening the existing work with the DoH to ensure that the model is taken up by the government to promote sustainable impact on child and maternal health outcomes.

The evidence

The Mentor Mother model itself has been successfully implemented in the Western Cape since 2002 (where the Mentor Mothers serve as Department of Health funded CHWs) and was subject to a [randomized control trial](#) which demonstrated its efficacy. In the Eastern Cape, One to One's approach has proven to be equally effective, including a 0% HIV-transmission rate from mother-to-child since initiation of the program in 2016.

The impact

Through this program UBS-OF will support One to One to:

- Integrate early childhood development, adolescent health and male engagement components into the Enable model
- Reach 4,000 children each year through house-to-house health interventions
- Demonstrate to the Government of South Africa that by equipping and properly training CHWs, they can provide valuable services to those most in need, and that there will be a visible and significant impact on health outcomes
- Lay the groundwork for further replication and scale up of the model across South Africa

Location	OR Tambo District, Eastern Cape, South Africa
Target	4000 women and children
Group	
Partner(s)	Philani OR Tambo District Department of Health Rural Health Advocacy Project
Co-sponsors	
Grant total	GBP 1,451,380
SDGs	3
Duration	36 months
Program ID	32200.01H, I, J

¹ One to One Africa application

All programmatic data provided by One to One Africa. The UBS Optimus Foundation is a grant-making foundation that offers UBS clients a platform to use their wealth to drive positive social and environmental change. The Foundation selects programs that improve children's health, education and protection, ones that have the potential to be transformative, scalable and sustainable as well as programs tackling environmental and climate issues.

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