

***GABORONE, Botswana, September 14 (Infosplusgabon) - Botswana's laboratory capacity to meet the needs of people living with HIV (PLHIV) has been amplified in the country's second capital, Francistown.***

The development comes after the United States Embassy handed over a Centre for Disease Control (CDC) facility in Francistown to the Botswana Ministry of Health and Wellness.

Speaking at the handover on Thursday, Earl Miller, the US Ambassador in Botswana, said through the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Ministry of Health and Wellness found the need to increase the country's laboratory capacity.

"There was clearly a need to expand and decentralise laboratory services in areas with high HIV burden," said Miller.

Miller said the CDC worked with the Ministry of Health and Wellness to prioritise laboratory construction projects in Francistown due to the large number of PLHIV.

Francistown and surrounding areas are the districts that benefited from the PEPFAR support.

Miller said the lab has a capacity for chemistry, hematology, microbiology, serology, immunology and viral load testing, patient waiting area, a storeroom, cold or freezer room and served 18 clinics in the Greater Francistown.

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