Multisectoral HIV and AIDS Response
Other Regional & Sector Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Multisectoral HIV and AIDS Response in Namibia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commissioned by</td>
<td>German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Phase II: July 2011 – September 2016 (Adapted concept from July 2014 on)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>EUR 8,540,000</td>
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<td>Partner</td>
<td>Ministry of Health and Social Services</td>
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<td>Goal</td>
<td>More young people, employees and people living with HIV use HIV prevention measures including treatment.</td>
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Background and context

Up until a few years ago, HIV prevalence in Namibia was steadily increasing. In the meantime, Namibia has made great progress and the rate of new infections has levelled off. Nonetheless, Namibia still has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates worldwide. According to the Namibian Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS 2014) 14% of the population are infected with the virus with around 40% of all new infections in the age group of 15-24 years. Many people are unaware of having contracted the virus as they do not undergo routine voluntary HIV testing. Furthermore, people are not making sufficient use of HIV prevention measures mainly due to a lack of services catering for the needs of specific target groups. Although the treatment is available for free, many people living with HIV are not making use of it mainly because of extra cost for transport and fear of disclosing their status.

To align national prevention approaches with HIV causes and target groups, Namibia has developed a National HIV and AIDS Strategy 2010-17 (NSF) which was reviewed in 2013. The reviewed Strategy has a stronger orientation on the most common transmission risks and on the most vulnerable population groups, in particular young men and women. Other key target groups include mobile populations (such as transport drivers and agricultural workers) and people living with HIV.

Approach

The Programme develops attractive HIV prevention services and mobilizes young men and women, employees and people living with HIV to actively make use of HIV prevention services which are of high quality and adapted to their needs. These services are developed in collaboration with the public and the private sector, civil society as well as key stakeholders.

The Programme focuses specifically on:

1. Young men and women aged 15-24 years in Ohangwena region.

By supporting the Youth Center of the Ministry of Youth, National Services Sport & Culture in Eenhana as well as the Ministries of Health and Education, the Programme develops adequate and attractive services for HIV prevention that meet the needs of young people in the region. Through combining sports and free time activities with education on health and life skills, the utilization of HIV prevention services is increased. The Programme strengthens collaboration between the three ministries involved, so that
HIV prevention services can be planned and tailored more to the youths’ needs making better use of available national resources.

2. People living with HIV (PLHIV)

The umbrella organization for PLHIV TONATA (meaning: “be aware”) acting in the North Central Regions is supported in their organizational development in order to reach out to and mobilize the building of support groups for PLHIV. At the same time TONATA is strengthened to advocate for the right of PLHIV to appropriate services and to fight against stigma and discrimination.

3. Private Sector Employees

The Programme, in collaboration with the Healthworks Business Coalition (formerly NABCOA) and Walvis Bay Corridor Group (WBCG), has achieved that more than 160 companies implement comprehensive Workplace Programmes. These Workplace Programmes cater for the economically most active population group directly at the workplace. For long-term sustainability of such Workplace Programmes the Programme and its partners mobilise employers to make long-term investment in their employees’ health. Health works and WBCG are strengthened to improve and market their products, increase their competitive advantage and thereby increase customer satisfaction.

4. Public Sector Employees

The Programme supports two line ministries, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the Ministry of Works and Transport on two approaches: Firstly, to improve and roll-out Workplace Programmes for the ministries’ employees by strengthening the capacities of the ministries’ wellness units. Furthermore, to bring forward the NSF proposed sector response in the sectors Agriculture and Transport with the important target group of mobile employees. This means supporting the ministries in coordination and communication efforts with the aim to increase key stakeholders’ engagement in HIV prevention activities for mobile workers in Agriculture and Transport.

Results

The programme achieved the following results during its adapted approach for 2014 to 2016:

1. Utilisation of HIV Counselling and Testing by young people in Ohangwena has increased, especially amongst young men.

2. More than 15.000 workers from the transport and agriculture sectors made use of HIV testing and counselling through workplace programmes.

3. More than 7.000 people living with HIV are organised in HIV support groups supported by the umbrella organisation TONATA.

4. Service providers for Workplace Programmes have increased customer satisfaction through offering quality services and improved marketing and communication.

5. The sectors Transport and Agriculture have increased provision of resources for HIV prevention activities in their sectors.

6. HIV prevention services at the Eenhana/Ohangwena Youth Center are used by more youth, especially young men.