Ward AIDS Committees: building community ownership through local leadership, coordination, and capacitation

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Background (1)

• The eThekwini Metropolitan area (Durban) is located on the east coast of South Africa in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and is the third largest metropolitan municipality in the country following Johannesburg and Cape Town.

• It spans an area of approximately 2,555 km² and shares boundaries with three districts: Ugu to the south, iLembe to the North, and uMgungundlovu to the west.

• The metro is divided into 111 municipal wards which are grouped into 17 zones.

• The metro has approx. 3.9 million people, accounting for 34.7% of the total population of the KZN Province.
Background (2)

- An estimated 8,802 households are headed by children and young people between the ages of 15 and 19, and 42.14% of households are headed by women.

- 2.1 million of eThekwini’s residents live below the upper bound poverty line of R1,227 per person per month, and 17.1% of the population reported having no income in the 2016 Stats SA Community Survey.

- 16.8% of the population has no education while 5.8% have a higher education qualification.

- Population of PLHIV: 672,437
  - 33% of all PLHIV in KZN
  - 8% of all PLHIV in SA
eThekwini District Cluster Map

- “Zonal” areas
- Wards
- Health facilities
The Multi-Sectoral response to HIV

South African National AIDS Council (SANAC)

KZN Provincial Council on AIDS

eThekwini District AIDS Council

Multisectoral District Implementation Plan (MDIP)
- Zonal AIDS Council Implementation Plan
- Ward AIDS Committee Implementation Plan
South Africa has adopted the THREE ONES principle of coordinating the multisectoral response by all stakeholders

**One Strategy**
- One AIDS action **framework** that provides the basis for coordinating the work of all partners
- One strategic plan, operationalized at different levels: NSP, PIP, MDIP

**One Structure**
- One AIDS **coordinating authority** with a broad-based multisectoral mandate
- One structure, different levels: SANAC, PCA, LAC/ZAC, WAC

**One M&E Framework**
- One country level Monitoring and Evaluation framework
- One M&E framework, reporting with **M&E tools at every level**
Coordination Structure
Working from the bottom up…

Notice how big this foundation level is... This is where all the work happens!

Ideally...
Support cascades from the top down...
Everything gets captured and reported up...
Work is monitored at the ground...
WAC Training: Creating Awareness, Building Capacity in communities

What do we share with communities (WACs)?

• Journey of PLHIV (Conversation Map)
• HIV statistics (local area facility)
• HIV science (U=U)
• Responding to HIV (Structures, Strategies, Plans, Interventions)
• How to:
  • **Profile** community
  • **Map** partners
  • **Plan** strategically
  • **Report** on activities
Journey of PLHIV (Conversation Map)
**eThekwini HIV U=U**

- **All PLHIV:** 672,437
  - **“Unknown”** (20%)
    - Diagnosed
      - On ART
      - No VLD
    - **TOTAL:** 132,171
  - **“Transmittable”** (28%)
    - Undiagnosed: 40,077
    - Diagnosed but no ART: 109,944
    - ART but no VLS: 36,683
    - **TOTAL:** 186,704
  - **“Untransmittable”** (52%)
    - Diagnosed
      - On ART
      - VLS
    - **TOTAL:** 353,562

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Data from District health Information System (DHIS)
Ward AIDS Committee Membership

**Community Leadership**
- Chair = Ward Councilor
- Deputy Chair = Civil Society Chair (elected by sectors)
- Ward Committee Rep
- Traditional Leadership Rep

**Government Representatives**
- ALL government departments are important
- Especially key: Department of Health, Department of Social Development, Department of Education, South African Police Service

**Community Representatives = Civil Society Sectors (18)**
- Children
- LGBT
- Sex workers
- Disability
- Men
- Sports and culture
- Health professionals
- NGO
- Traditional healers
- Higher education
- PLHIV
- Traditional leaders
- Labour
- Religious/Faith-based
- Women
- Legal and human rights
- Research
- Youth
Understanding the journey of PLHIV is an important step in community awareness...
WAC Training in Action
Training in communities

- Number of Wards trained: 22 (out of 111)
- Number of Zones trained: 4 (out of 17)
- Number of trainees (total): 280
Conclusion

- Working to complete a train-the-trainer program to be able to reach more communities (WACs) over time.
- Planning to scale up and complete the training of WACs within the next 3 months.
- WAC Trainings proved to be an effective vehicle to promote Operation Sukuma Sakhe to ensure service delivery.
- Participants demonstrated better understanding of the districts role to End AIDS by 2030.
- Local Leaders such Ward Councilors and Ward Committee members showed interest and understanding of the cities response to HIV through MDIP.
- Multi-Sectoral response became more clear and better understood by supporting partners at the local level.