



SWAZIS AND AMERICANS
IN PARTNERSHIPS TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS

PEPFAR



WORLD AIDS DAY 2015: NATIONAL & LUBOMBO COMMEMORATION

“GETTING TO ZERO”

0 New Infections

0 Aids Related Deaths

0 Stigma & Discrimination



UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CO., LLC

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Communities

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WORLD AIDS DAY MESSAGE 2015- UNAIDS

The world has committed to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. This ambitious yet wholly attainable objective represents an unparalleled opportunity to change the course of history forever something our generation must do for the generations to come.

Today we live in fragile communities where inequities can persist when essential services don't reach the people in need. To change this dynamic we must quicken the pace of action. We know that strengthening local services to reach resilient societies.

The good news is that we now have what it takes to break this epidemic and keep it from rebounding to prevent substantially more new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths and to eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

Already we have reached 15.8 million people with life –saving treatment. And increasingly we are able to refine our efforts and be more precise in our ability to reach people who might otherwise be left behind. With this attention to location and population countries are able to redistribute opportunities to improve access.

On this World AIDS Day countries are implementing the UNAIDS Fast-Track Strategy, and together with front-loaded investments we can expect to close the gaps to essential services faster. This means resources can go further to reach more people with life-changing results.

With the Sustainable Development Goals, the world has entered a new era of innovation and integration. There is a greater understanding of how the global goals are interconnected and a better appreciation for moving forward together.

Ending the AIDS epidemic means that adolescent girls and young women have access to education and appropriate HIV and sexual and reproductive health services. It means key populations, such as people who inject drugs and transgender people, have full access to health services delivered with dignity and respect. And it means that every child is born free from HIV, and that they and their mothers not only survive but thrive.

This is an exciting time in the AIDS response. We are building momentum towards a sustainable, equitable and healthy future for all.

HISTORY ON WORLD AIDS DAY

WORLD AIDS DAY: How it came to be

World AIDS Day was first declared by World Health Organisation and the United Nations General Assembly in 1988, designated to take place on December 1 every year. World AIDS Day is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection, and mourning those who have died of the disease. Government and health officials, non-governmental organizations and individuals around the world observe the day, often with education on AIDS prevention and control.

World AIDS Day is one of the eight official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health Organization (WHO), along with World Health Day, World Blood Donor Day, World Immunization Week, World Tuberculosis Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Malaria Day and World Hepatitis Day.



Figure 1: Health Ministers summit on programmes for AIDS prevention in London 1988. This was when WHO declared that they would promote AIDS awareness each year on December 1st.

(Martin Aronov/The Guardian)

The Ribbon Project

In 1991, a group of artists came together to create a meaningful symbol at the height of the AIDS crisis—to show support and compassion for those with AIDS and their caregivers. These artists were a part of the Visual AIDS Artists' Caucus and what they created was titled "The Ribbon Project", better known today simply as the Red Ribbon.

Through a series of meetings in April and May of 1991, and using the yellow ribbons as inspiration, the Red Ribbon was born. The colour red was chosen for its "connection to blood and the idea of passion—not only anger, but love..." The ribbon format was selected in part because it was easy to recreate and wear. The original instructions were to "cut the red ribbon in 6 inch length, then fold at the top into an inverted 'V' shape. Use a safety pin to attach to clothing."



Figure 2: The 6 inch (15.24cm) red ribbon folded in an inverted 'V' shape.

The Red Ribbon was the first "awareness" ribbon, later followed by many other colours and causes. In 1993 a 29cents Red Ribbon stamp was issued by the United States Postal Service. The Red Ribbon was honoured by the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) in 1992 for its design and iconic power. In 1997, the Red Ribbon was included in the exhibition "Design for Life" at Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum and "Humble Masterpieces" at Museum of Modern Art. In 2015 the Red Ribbon became part of the permanent collection at the Museum of Modern Art.

2015 WORLD AIDS

DAY THEME:

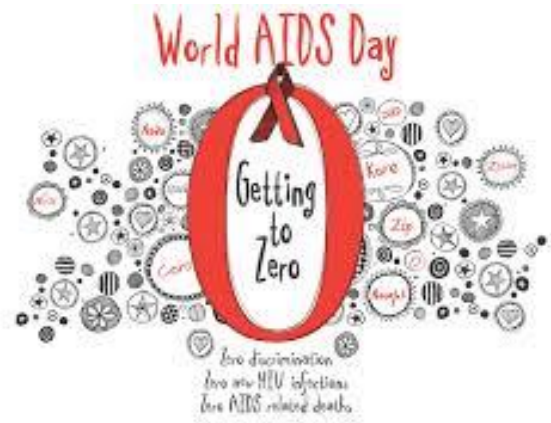
“Getting to Zero”

Swaziland from 2011-2015, has continued to mobilize everyone’s responsibility to resonate with the Global World AIDS day theme which is: *“Getting to zero: Zero new HIV infections, Zero AIDS-related deaths and Zero stigma and discrimination”* backed by the ‘no one left behind’ principle. World AIDS Day has continued to be an opportune platform for confronting key issues that remain challenging barriers to the HIV response in the country.

In 2015, the World AIDS Day build-up activities have identified specific target audiences under each zero in line with Swazi epidemic as reflected below:

Zero New HIV infections: the primary target is Adolescent Girls, Girls and Young Women with an objective of increasing comprehensive knowledge and risk perception on condom use, Intergenerational sex and HIV testing and counselling and empowerment of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW).

Zero AIDS Related Deaths: focus under the subtheme is targeting men. Local data shows that men have the highest viral loads which carries a high risk of onward transmission to adolescent girls and young women and late enrolment in ART. The key objective under this sub-theme is to increase in uptake of HIV service especially service use, HIV and TB testing and Referral to treatment and male circumcision.



Zero Stigma and Discrimination: the target populations are men, women and youth. The objective is to promote accepting attitudes towards PLHIV and encouraging PLHIV to access services without fear.

Past themes:

1988- Communication
1989- Youth
1990- Women and AIDS
1991- Sharing the Challenge
1992- Community Commitment
1993- Act
1994- AIDS and the Family
1995- Shared Rights, Shared Responsibilities
1996- One World One Hope
1997- Children Living in a World with AIDS
1998- Force for Change: World AIDS Campaign with Young People
1999- Listen, Learn, Live: World AIDS Campaign with Children and Young People
2000- AIDS: Men make a difference
2001- I care. Do you?
2002- Stigma and Discrimination
2003- Stigma and Discrimination
2004- Women, Girls, and HIV and AIDS
2005- Stop AIDS. Keep the promise
2006- Accountability- Stop AIDS. Keep the promise
2007- Leadership- Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise
2008- Leadership- Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise
2009- 2010- Universal Access and Human Rights

Latest Theme:

2011-2015- Getting to Zero- Zero new infections, Zero AIDS related deaths. Zero Stigma and Discrimination

National World AIDS Day – Pigg’s Peak, Hhohho Region

Masses gathered in their numbers at the Malanda sports ground, all geared up and ready to be a part in spreading the “Getting to Zero- Zero new HIV infections, Zero new deaths and Zero stigma and discrimination ” message to the small town of Pigg’s Peak in Hhohho region. This is where the national commemoration of World AIDS Day took place, on the set global date, 1 December, 2015.

The March

Through the small town of Pigg’s Peak, led by His Majesty’s Correctional Services band and drum majorettes, the march was the first activity for the day, which served the role of being a crowd puller. The march served its purpose as it drew more and more people to the final destination which was Killarney sports ground, where the program would take place.

AEROBICS

It was stated that regular physical activity has lots of benefits. It increases your physical strength and endurance, and it can help prevent problems that often affect people who don’t exercise or maintain a healthy weight. And the key message was that exercise is good for everyone—and the guidelines for physical activity apply, regardless of your HIV status. So having HIV does not mean you cannot exercise as the same benefits are still there.

By the time the dignitaries arrived other health activities had been done, like the aerobics that took place in the morning right after the march.

Dignitaries

The event was graced by the presences of the Deputy Prime Minister Paul

Dlamini, who was standing in for the Prime

Minister, Minister of Justice & Constitutional Affairs, Minister of Tourism & Environmental Affairs, Minister of Tinkundla & Administration, royal family and other politicians and heads of organizations.



Figure 2: URC Improvement Nurse Advisor, Zandile Mavuso explains briefly about the stall to Deputy Prime Minister, Paul Dlamini during the tour.

The Stalls

The dignitaries toured all the stalls that were set at Killarney sports ground. University Research Co., LLC had its own stall set up and it was the second stall to be visited. One of the dignitaries requested for a URC cap, which was displayed on the table. This assisted with the visibility of URC especially when a significant figure is representing the brand. URC Stall was also visited by HIV / AIDS activist Mr. Thulasizwe Hannie Dlamini who shared his life story – living with HIV for 22 years. Others who took interest in visiting the stall were RSSC employees, their main interest was to gain knowledge on diabetes and HIV. PSCHACC and armed forces were also keen to know about URC. A number of people were seen flocking the URC stall in their numbers. The numbers are shown in the table below.

Table 1: Number of people reached at the URC stall.

SERVICE DESCRIPTION	NUMBER REACHED
Male adults	166
Female adults	116
boys	25
girls	13
TOTAL	320



Figure 3: The crowds flocking the stall were captured on the day, taking interest in the health discussions.

Table 2: Some of the captured discussions at the URC stall

STALL Q&As

- **Relationship between and HIV.**
 - The co-infection rates were outlined and the immune system was explained and ultimately how HIV has resulted in high TB incidence.
- **How come diabetes hides in HIV positive people**
 - It was explained that diabetes symptoms at times look like HIV symptoms but there are additional ones specific to diabetes like frequency in passing urine as well as sores that don't heal quicker.
- **Another man shared that he lost a mother from diabetes and it couldn't show until the last day, the question was why does it hide**
 - Possibilities are that the patient died from other conditions which the affected the pancreas thus diabetes
- **A question on if oral sex was safe**
 - No, because chances of infection are still there even on though minimal. The
 - The Safer sex topic covered topics from abstaining, monogamy, condom use, use of a condom during oral sex. Dental dams used on female genitalia were also discussed in detail

Speeches

A number of speeches were delivered on the day. The speeches mostly highlighted the importance of meeting the theme, which is getting to zero. It was also highlighted that this is in line with King's vision of getting to zero new infections by the year 2022.

Swaziland was applauded for the remarkable strides that it has taken towards fighting the HIV burden. However despite the pat on the shoulders it was well stressed that the fight is not yet over, therefore the need to work together towards achieving the set goals was a key requirement.

The UN Resident Coordinator, Israel Dessalegne delivered a speech on behalf of the UN Secretary General stressed on the importance of acting now and closing the gap between needs and services. As UN they are calling for a Fast-Track approach to front – load investments.

"We need to more than double the number of people on life-changing treatment to reach all 37 million of those living with HIV."

UN Secretary General, 1 December 2015

Urging all the young people to abstain, "You are the country's greatest assets."

Deputy Prime Minister, 1 December 2015

The Deputy Prime Minister who was representing the Prime Minister whom is out of the country pointed out the partnerships that the country was engaged in to fight HIV. He noted that the government was continuing in its efforts to end the HIV epidemic and urged the communities to do the same by reduce stigma and discrimination and instead offer support.



Figure 4: Deputy Prime Minister, Paul Dlamini delivering the Prime Minister's speech.

Photo Gallery



Figure 5: The High table where all the dignitaries were seated during the national WAD proceedings.



Figure 6: URC Victoria Masuku and Janet Ongole who were representing URC in the VIP tent.



Figure 7: URC Staff going strong walked together as a team to Killarney Sports ground where the WAD event would be taking place.



Figure 8: The hundreds led by HMCS band.

Thulasizwe Hannie Dlamini

URC staff had the opportunity to meet and have an hour long talk with the first Swazi man to publicly declare his HIV status and he took us through memory lane. He accounts for his life with HIV vividly without any errors on what we know him of. He shared his life story and also emphasized that people do not take time to understand his views about HIV thus he is seen to be controversial. He has no regrets of having declared his HIV status but his only regrets is the use of experts clients as volunteers for years on end without creating permanent positions for them. He feels this is where discrimination starts. He mentioned how in 1993 they met at night to discuss HIV because of the way people were so afraid to discuss it. In 1995 he publicly declared his HIV status and still lives today.



Figure 9: Students from the schools around Pigg's Peak were also a part of the march and were in the lead after the police.



Figure 10: UN Resident Coordinator, Israel Dessalegne delivered a speech on behalf of the UN Secretary General

Regional World AIDS Day- Lomahasha

The Lubombo World AIDS Day was commemorated on the 21st of November as one of the regional build up activities for the region. The well planned event was graced by the presences of senior and public figures in the country. Some of which included the members of the royal family and the Minister of Education, whom was standing in for the Minister of Health, Sibongile Ndlela-Simelane.



Figure 1: Minister of Education Phineas Magagula, UNAIDS Nuha Ceesay and URC Dr Samson Haumba posing with the bikers.

Bikers Association

The World AIDS day was for the first time graced by presence of members of the Hyena MCC Swaziland, a Bikers Association. The bikers were aimed at being the crowd pullers for the activity. Activities done by the bikers included a mass run, bike rides and other exciting biker activates to pulling maximum crowds and sending the messages. The bikers branded in addition to the WAD/WAC messages with customized HIV prevention messages which were

- Protect her, put on your helmet. Use a condom
- No helmet, No ride, use a condom

- Wear protection before you ride.....Prevent HIV.



Figure 2: The Regional WAD march with a HIV stigma related banner.

The Programme

The programme started off with a march led by bikers which helped with pulling the crowd, to the main venue. An estimated 850 people flocked the Lomahasha Inkundla (constituency) and made it come alive after being drawn out of their homes.

A number of activities health educational activities were planned for the day which helped with raising awareness and promoting health seeking behaviour amongst the crowds. The breakaway focus group discussions were led by URC/FLAS/Modison. URC led two grows adolescents and children under the age of 10. The discussions focused on how much knowledge the children had on HIV issues, addressing some of their issues and finally teaching them on HIV issues.

Some stalls were set up with Behavioural Change Communication (BCC) materials and demonstration tools. The public was also presented with the opportunity of consulting at the stalls. At the end of the day a total of 1464 BCC materials were disseminated. Testing services were provided and a total of 26 males and 14 females tested negative. 7155 male condoms and 1139 female condoms were distributed.

The Speeches

In overall the event was a success as it was also gathered from the speeches delivered on the day. Applauding the way partners worked together in put the activity together, Nuha Ceesay from UNAIDS remarked, "World AIDS Day also gives us the opportunity to renew our commitment to work together in partnership to Fast Track ending AIDS. Our gathering here today is therefore a true reflection of that spirit." He added and said, "I wish to reiterate that Swaziland has demonstrated high level of political commitment in the response to HIV and AIDS over the years and the country is on track to ending AIDS."



Figure 3: URC Nurse Improvement Advisor, Zandile Mavuso responding to a question posed by a man visiting the stall.

"I wish to call on all of us to renew our convictions and efforts to realise the vision of an AIDS free Swaziland by 2022."

- Nuha Ceesay, UNAIDS

"Let us make every effort to overcome fear and to go and have an HIV test to establish our HIV status and if we are HIV positive let us go and take ARV's".

-The Hon. Minister of Education and the training, Phineas Magagula

The Minister of Education, Phineas Magagula during his speech remarked that this is a moment to show support for people living with HIV and remember the friends and relatives that have died of AIDS related illness. He ensured that he gathered the attention of all the children that were present and highlighted some HIV facts on how to protect themselves and others from HIV infections.



Figure 4: Focus group discussions led by URC IPC Technical Advisor, Nomathamsanqa Nldovu-Mavuso with children under the age of 10 years.



Figure 5: The Minister of Education, Phineas Magagula, and his delegation visited the URC stall.

Facility World AIDS Day- Sithobela

Lubombo region is considered one of the warmest regions in the country that is slowly developing. Within this region is a small remote location called Sithobela. As we all know World AIDS Day is celebrated globally, so even in the smallest and most remote areas it is commemorated.

The Theme

On the 2nd of December the small community health centre hosted its World AIDS Day event, under the theme "Getting to Zero" looking at the three zeros. The three zeros include:

- Zero new infections
- Zero AIDS related deaths
- Zero stigma and discrimination

The Programme

The day started off with a walk which was done by the children from the community led by drum majorettes. This walk helped with drawing individuals from their homes to come join in the WAD celebrations at the community health centre. Before the programme started the pitched tent was already buzzing with people.



Figure 11: The community that was in attendance filled up the tent before programme started.

Like every community event it is opened by a royal family member or representative. Swazis are known for respecting their leaders especially those that are from the royal family. After the royal representative spoke the audience remained attentive throughout the programme. This was especially because the representative stressed on the importance of being attentive throughout the programme as it was well planned to teach them as a community, encouraging them to live healthily.

It was a well packed edutainment programme with a number of activities lined up all of which spoke to the theme for the day. The activities ranged from traditional dances to short drama skits. The songs sung during the traditional dances encouraged HIV testing and prevention. The drama skits told the stories faced by most families ranging from irresponsible behaviour which may lead to HIV infections, PMTCT and even stigma and discrimination likely to happen in communities.



Figure 12: The Ummiso (young girls' Swazi traditional dance) who sang a song about the importance of abstinence

URC partnered with FLAS and brought a drama group to help teach the crowd on HIV issues and healthy living. Even though these young people were a new group they managed to capture the attention of those who were in attendance. At the end of the

play they each spoke on what the lessons were from the play to make sure that everyone that watched has a clear take home message.



Figure 13: The URC / FLAS drama group in action. Patient and doctor scene, teaching on PMTCT.

Also a part of the programme was a Question and Answer session. The questions were derived from the speeches and short health educations that were done. Information stalls were set up and other services were provided and the attendees were invited to visit all these services as the programme was continuing. Therefore the public could derive information from these listed centres. The session was facilitated by URC Victoria Masuku and Nokuthula Mdluli.



Figure 14: The different audiences that participated in the Q&A led by URC Victoria Masuku.

Based on the way that the crowd willingly volunteered themselves to answer questions showed that the topics discussed on the day had sparked a lot of interest in them and that they had actually learnt something. It was interesting to note that the volunteers ranged from the elderly to the youngest member of the crowd. This showed that the information was well conveyed reaching the different age groups and sex.

The Speeches



Figure 15: Lubombo Regional Matron, Khanyisile Nkhabindze delivering her speech.

The speeches delivered on the day were drafted in a motivational way which encourages health seeking behaviour. The speeches mostly covered the importance of reducing stigma and that the only way to go about this is to do it as a nation. Community support was encouraged mostly by SNAP Regional AIDS Coordinator, Gcinaphi Pateguana. She added that as the Ministry of Health's mandate is to have a healthy nation the support of a community is still needed, especially against HIV.

The Lubombo Regional Matron, Khanyisile Nkhabindze encouraged the importance of going beyond observing HIV/AIDS awareness month in just the months of December. She said if people could consider all the other months the same way, the nation would see a reduction in new infections. The matron then led the candle lighting ceremony in commemoration of the World AIDS Day.

Community World

AIDS Day- Mandleke

Community

Good Shepherd Nursing College set out to commemorate World AIDS Day at a small rural community called Mandleke, located in the Lubombo region. The event took place on the 5th of November 2015. This called for a long drive up the hills of the lowveld, which led to a school called Loyiwe.

The Programme

The programme for the day was planned out to have health talks with the community members. The turn-out was quite impressive considering the fact that the people had to travel long distances to get to the school. This showed how much people in the rural areas are keen on learning more about ways that could better their health. The talks ranged from non-communicable diseases, cervical cancer, HIV to name a few. The talks on HIV/AIDS were led by URC Victoria Masuku.

Beyond the health talks given that this was a remote location services were provided for the day. This ranged from HIV testing services, diabetes, high blood pressure, cervical cancer test and others.

The audience attentively listened to what was being taught to them and this was evident in the way they easily responded to questions during the question and answer session. Participants that responded correctly were awarded with promotional materials with messages that would count as friendly reminders.

The Attendance

The attendance at the event was exceptional, as it was already highlighted. In the group of attendees were both males and females. This shows that the males in the rural communities are also starting to show interest in their health and not leaving it to the women. In total of 58 people attended. 15 of which were males, 30 females and 13 were children.

The Speeches

A community representative, Babe Mkrestu Maziya spoke on behalf of the community. He extended his appreciation to the team for considering them out of many other communities. He stressed on the importance of the activity and urged the community to listen attentively and to learn something from what was said.



Figure 1: Community leader visiting the URC stall after the public was invited to learn more at the stall.



Figure 2: Good Shepherd Student Nurses with Sister Ntshalintshali from Good Shepherd Hospital.

Private Sector World

AIDS Day - Tabankulu

In the Lubombo region is a small community called Tabankulu. This is a close knit community with a number of seasonal workers who work at the Tabankulu Estate. The people from this community do a lot of walking as a good health practice.

The March

Embracing the common practice and to commemorate World AIDS Day on the 5th of December 2015, the community had a walk from Emaphiveni to Tabankulu Sports Ground. The URC team joined in the march and even after underestimating the distance the whole team made it to the final destination. The strong will and fighting spirit was seen during this march.

The Candle Lighting Ceremony

The programme started off with a candle lighting ceremony. This session was led by Lubombo Regional AIDS Coordinator Gcinaphi Pateguana who lit the first candle. One candle was used to light all the candles that were handed to every person who was in attendance. She then requested for a moment of silence after all the candles were lit. She explained what the lighting of the candle represented.

Candle lighting represents:

- Hope, that all is not yet lost.
- In memory of all those that died from HIV
- To those that are in the fight to ending HIV/AIDS
- Reminder of our fight against new HIV infections
- To no more discrimination as we unite.



Figure 16: The one flame lit from one candle was used to light the other candles for the candle lighting ceremony.

The Speeches

The event was not planned to be a formal event, therefore there were few remarks made. The Human Resource for Tabankulu Estate, shared during her remarks how much she was glad that they were a part of the event. She pledged that this important event they would host yearly and would start preparing for it months before. Sister Mpumie Mathonsi, Occupational Health Manager at Tabankulu Estate who was the driver for the activity spoke on the importance of staying health and leading a healthy lifestyle HIV positive or not.



Figure 17: URC Victoria Masuku delivering her remarks representing the Country Director.



Figure 18: NERCHA Lubombo Regional Coordinator, Kenneth Fakudze delivering his remark.

Basic HIV Learning Session

To ensure that the crowd commemorates the day correctly, aware of all the HIV basic information, a session was set aside for health education. The topics covered ranged from basic HIV prevention measures, PMTCT, treatment adherence and eliminating stigma.

After the short session, the crowd was awarded the opportunity to ask questions. If time was not an issue this session would have gone on for hours and hours. The way the crowd was asking questions it became evident just how much people in the region are hungry for information.



Figure 19: RAC Gcinaphi Pateguana and URC Jilly Motsa facilitating the Question and Answer session after the health talks.

As a good practice, after the health education session, a question and answer session followed. This helped with measuring how much knowledge the people grasped during the health education. Participants that answered were awarded with the produced

promotional material with the HIV messages that would serve as reminder for them.

Photo Gallery



Figure 20: All the participants that were in attendance were handed bandanas with HIV messages to show their participation at the event.



Figure 21: The long walk to Tabankulu sports ground, the URC team looking determined to walk to the end.

FBO'S WORLD AIDS DAY- GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

World AIDS Day is commemorated globally by different people and organizations. In the Lubombo region the religious sector also showed interest in taking part in the commemoration of the World AIDS Day.

Theme

Therefore the nurses' guild collaborated with religious leaders to commemorate World AIDS Day on the 29th of November 2015, under the theme "Getting to Zero- Zero new infections, Zero AIDS related deaths and Zero stigma and discrimination". The day was set to target religious sects to have influence in the above mentioned zero's.

Attendees

The event was graced by the presences of religious leaders such as Father Makama and Mabuza, nurses from the college, the blood bank, representative from Regional Administrator, and the congregants.

Highlights

Religious leaders are known to be very influential individuals. Having the religious sect as a part of the World AIDS Day would assist with convey the HIV message to the religious followers with more impact.

Another highlight from this activity were the numbers reached for this activity from the services that were provided. In attendance were about 150 people who benefited from

the health talks that were followed by question and answer sessions.

Table 3: Numbers reached at the service centres during the GSH Catholic Church WAD

Service	Numbers Reached
TB screening	37
Diabetes	37
Hypertension	37
Cervical cancer screening	5
Blood donation	6
Total # of people that received services	43

Table 4: The numbers and age groups of individuals who received HTC services

AGE GROUP	HTC SERVICES			
	MALES		FEMALES	
	Number Tested	Number HIV+	Number Tested	Number HIV+
15 – 19 yrs	1	0	1	0
20 – 24 yrs	0	0	2	0
25 – 49 yrs	3	1	9	0
50+ yrs	2	0	4	0

The Speeches

The religious leaders stressed the point of testing and knowing your HIV status. 3 aspects of a human being were highlighted, by Father Makama which include physical being, spiritual and social being. Looking at these aspects it was emphasized that taking care of one would not make sense, therefore the focus for the day would be on health wellness. He then urged the congregants to make use of the services provided for the day.

“It’s time we know, no matter how strong we are spiritually, we cannot forget our wellbeing.”

-Father Makama, GSH WAD 2015

The representative for RA Nyawo, applauded the involvement of religious leaders when it comes to such issues. He remarked that it is a sign that we are close to ending HIV. URC was introduced to the leaders by RSMHACC, Kenneth Fakudze as the regional partner and explained they will be working closely supporting facilities of the region. In conclusion Matron Luhlanga thanked the partnerships and the services provided.



Figure 2: Speaker at the church.



Figure 122: The URC team pose with religious leader and NERCHA RSMHACC, Kenneth Fakudze.

LESSONS LEARNT FROM WORLD AIDS DAY ACTIVITIES

- Role of political leaders and religious leaders influence community mobilization and sensitization towards health seeking behavior
- Great involvement and partnerships between public, private, non-governmental organizations and financial based organizations leverages resources towards successful implementation of community events and reduces duplication of services.
- Media coverage goes beyond sensitizing targeted audience at the event, instead targets a national scope.
- Males are becoming more involved in World AIDS Day activities than they did in the past.
- Coordinated effort from partners is required which assists with reinforcing one message to the public.
- Involvement of public figures and socialites assists with drawing crowds (e.g. Hyena Bikers Association, Pelepele, Shongwe neKhuphuka)
- There is a definite knowledge gap shown by the questions asked by the public at the information stalls and during the health talks. (e.g. HIV continuum of care)
- There is a demand for HIV testing in the general public as shown by the numbers gathered at the HTC sites during WAD.
- WAD events still attract older age groups and other innovative ways are still needed to attract younger populations
- Some national initiatives to engage men are done on an adhoc basis and are not sustained and yet they have a potential of transforming and addressing social barriers to uptake of services by men.
- Early planning and development of WAD calendar is important in maximizing participation and coordination of regional WAD events.

MOVING BEYOND WAD TO ADDRESS THE THREE ZERO AGENDA:

- National and regional sector-wide engagement to keep the three zero agenda alive;
- Private sector male engagement and establishment of male support group to support;
- GS Nursing college follow up to integrate WAD activities into their school calendar;
- Regional WAD calendar for 2016.

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