



SWAZILAND NATIONAL AIDS PROGRAMME

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WORLD HEALTH DAY LAUNCH 2019



MEN'S HEALTH CAMPAIGN 2019



SHIMS 3 COMMISSIONING



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PROGRAMME MANAGER'S FOREWORD



**Mr Muhle Dlamini,
SNAP Programme Manager**

SNAP through the Ministry of Health (MOH) would like to thank our stakeholders and development partners for providing support in creating health seeking behavior and awareness in the month of April. This was done encouraging everyone in the Kingdom of Eswatini to Know their Health Numbers. June is recognized as a Men's month and as SNAP we took the initiative and reached over 1 500 men within a week giving health related talks, information and provided tests at the ICC Hotel at Ezulwini. During the SHIMS 2 dissemination report, there are many success stories of the HIV program. It revealed the rate of new HIV infections among adults has almost halved in the last five years. We keenly anticipate the commissioning of the SHIMS 3 survey and the information it will give us. The Ministry of Health has provided guidance on intensified efforts to reach national targets on HIV care and treatment. These efforts have been termed "surge activities" to signify the need to apply extra effort in reaching the desired targets.

During the past National Health Semi-Annual Review (NaHSAR) workshop, SNAP appreciates the good work done by regions in the reaching the 95-95-95 targets. We would like to congratulate the Hhohho region for scooping the "Overall Best Performing Region" award during the awards ceremony.

SNAP was involved in the development of IEC material for both men and women to create demand for men during their month of June. We hope for an upscale of VMMC services in the near future after the recent Back to School (BTS) campaign.

WORLD HEALTH DAY 2019 LAUNCH



Dr. Vusi Magagula making his remark during the launch.

Every April the country joins the rest of the world in commemorating World Health Day (WHD). On the 4th of April 2019, the country launched the 2019 WHD at the Happy Valley Hotel through a high-level breakfast meeting. The launch was attended by the UN Resident Coordinator- Ms. Nathalie Ndongo-Seh, World Health Organization (WHO) Representative to the Kingdom of Eswatini Dr Cornelia Atsyor, Mr Tim Rwabuhemba Head of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and Ms Phumzile Mabuza head of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). There were senior officers of the Ministry of Health led by the Director of Health Services, Dr. Vusi Magagula, other government officials, representatives of other development partners, health workers and members of the media.

Ms. Nathalie Ndongo-Seh speaking on behalf of the United Nations emphasized that health is a human right, and everyone is entitled to good health. She said, "it is, however, disheartening that half of the world's population experience limited access to health services and that approximately one 100 million people fall into extreme poverty annually due to the inability to access affordable

health services." She concluded by saying, "Universal health coverage is possible: let's make it happen!"

Dr. Vusi Magagula who was representing the Honourable Minister of Health, Senator Lizzie Nkosi emphasized that knowing one's health numbers is very vital as it allows one to take full control of their health. "As a Ministry, we are promoting a culture of championing preventative care of 'Know your Health Numbers' with a slogan of Health Access for all," he explained. He also noted that the inaugural 2018 event yielded over 3 000 people more than the projected 500 and applauded the WHD steering team for their efforts. He further urged all the people of Eswatini to keep track of their health numbers annually through the health tracker card- a card that is designed to record one's health numbers over a period of five



Members of Lutsango dancing during the launch

NATIONAL HIV HEALTH SECTOR COORDINATION FORUM

The National Health Sector HIV partner coordination forum is a forum for any organizations (national or international) that subscribe and contribute to the goals & objectives of the health sector response to HIV. The forum meets every after four months to contribute to concerted efforts towards a shared vision, goals, objectives, results against set targets, and to share best practices to halt the spread of HIV and reverse its impact on the ESwatini society.

The 4th National HIV Health Sector Coordination Forum was held at the George Hotel on the 23rd of May 2019 facilitated by the Swaziland National AIDS Program (SNAP) to provide the opportunity to facilitate strategic guidance on HIV. The workshop was themed: *"Communities Accelerating Towards the Last Mile: Ending AIDS by 2022"* and was officially opened by the SNAP Programme Manager, Mr. Muhle Dlamini who thanked all participants for coming and further gave a brief overview of the HIV health sector partners' forum terms of reference, purpose of the forum and shared the objectives of the 4th forum.

The next presentation was on prevention presented by Sindi Matse the National Key populations and Vulnerable groups Coordinator. She mentioned that new infections continue to occur in Eswatini despite major strides in the national response as annually, there are around 7,000 new HIV infections in Eswatini.

Sindi however, mentioned that successful prevention programs require a combination of evidence-based, mutually reinforcing biomedical, behavioral, and structural interventions. This therefore, means that clients need to be empowered to select a combination of HIV prevention methods most suitable and acceptable for them.

On the other hand, the HTS Coordinator Lenhle Dube in her presentation explained that the country is implementing SURGE and every facility need



SNAP officials making presentations during the workshop

to adopt and embrace SURGE as per the Ministry has commissioned. Her presentation also covered key gaps identified in HIV testing services especially targeted testing and HIV eligibility screening. These challenges included low testing rate for the contacts (index), inability to provide HTS services to all eligible clients due to human resource constraints and space, eligibility screening and risk assessment tool not being used consistently as well as lack of innovations to test the children and the youth. She therefore, urge partners to ensure that health facilities are urged to use these tools in order to ensure that only eligible clients are tested reducing the number of HIV tests done yet increasing the positivity yield.



SHIMS 2 RESULTS SECOND DISSEMINATION AND SHIMS 3 COMMISSIONING

The Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in collaboration with ICAP, in a bid to strengthen HIV services conducted the second round of the Swaziland Incidence Measurement Survey (SHIMS 2) results dissemination. SHIMS is aimed at documenting the distributing of HIV disease in eSwatini, assess the coverage and impact of HIV services and to measure HIV-related risk behaviours using a nationally representative sample of adults and children. This survey is conducted at household level necessitating interaction with the community.

The SHIMS 2 results dissemination took place at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre on 9 May 2019. The results showed many successes of the HIV program. It revealed that the rate of new HIV infections among adults was nearly cut in half in five years. SHIMS 2 results also show significant achievements toward the 90-90-90 goals, with Eswatini at 87-89-91.

Speaking during the meeting was the US Ambassador Lisa Peterson who in her remarks acknowledged the efforts put by the country in meeting the UNAIDS targets. She said, "Eswatini had now met the second and third 90 targets and was close to meeting the first 90: 87% of all HIV-positive adults knew their status, and of these, 89% reported current use of antiretroviral treatment. Among those reporting treatment, 91% were virally suppressed. These successes are the result of years of coordination and leadership by the Government of Eswatini, investment by PEPFAR and other donors, and dedicated work of the Ministry and implementing partner staff that implement HIV prevention, testing, and treatment programs." Lisa Paterson added that while the SHIMS 2 results demonstrated tremendous progress, they also showed that, despite all these gains, there is substantial work to be done to achieve epidemic control. She said the data shows that there are key



Dignitaries during the launch.

gaps in HIV prevention and treatment programming for younger people as young women and men under age 35 were less likely to know their HIV status, be on HIV treatment, or be virally suppressed compared to older adults.

As a result of the SHIMS 2 survey, SHIMS 3 was therefore commissioned on the same day. The upcoming survey, SHIMS 3 offers an opportunity for the country to once again take measure of the program's achievements. It will further document Eswatini's achievements against the 90-90-90 targets and how close eSwatini is to reaching the next set of targets, which is 95-95-95.



A handover of the document.

BACK TO SCHOOL LAUNCH CONCEPT NOTE



The Back to School (BTS) campaign is an activity targeting in-school youth during their school holidays to access the Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) service. The campaign began in 2010 and ever since that year two BTS campaigns are staged in April and August school holidays. The campaign launch is led by the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) together with the Ministry of Health (MOH).

The Regional Education Officer (REO) of the selected region together with the Regional Health Administrator (RHA) work closely with the Regional Health Office and the leading partner in VMMC in the planning of the launch. The MOET on the other hand identifies a school where the launch would take place. The launch is rotated amongst the four regions of the country.

This year's launch was hosted by the Lubombo region at ka-Shewula High School on the 5th of April

2019 and the actual campaign began on the 21st April to 3rd May 2019. The school has championed in supporting MOH and MOET in implementing the program as the Headteacher Mr. Ginindza is a champion of the program having circumcised himself and his son is also circumcised.

Events of the day included speeches from the REO and RHA and a keynote address from the Guest Speaker. All activities conducted on the day focused on demand creation which included a drama performance and a debate by other invited schools for the launch. A demonstration of how the services are provided was also done through a mobile caravan and an information stall was set up providing VMMC and other health-related information. The VMMC team was also vigorously recruiting potential clients on the day.



TB STANDARD OPERATIONAL PLAN AND IEC



The National TB Control Programme (NTCP) from the 13th to 17th of May 2019, conducted a workshop at Lugogo Sun Hotel on the development of TB/HIV Information, Education and Communication (IEC). Invited during the workshop were representatives from SNAP, URC, EGPAF, MSF, Laboratory, Ministry of Health, Health Promotion Unit, and Baylor Children's Hospital.

The five-day workshop was opened by the NTCP Programme Manager, Mr. Themba Dlamini who welcomed everyone and mentioned that the main purpose was to develop TB/HIV IEC materials that will be effective in educating and passing accurate TB information to different target audiences. He mentioned that TB remains a major public health problem in the country as well as TB/HIV co-

infection and drug-resistant TB which are difficult to treat. He said as all efforts are directed towards eliminating the TB disease in the country, information is therefore key in influencing positive behavioural change among the people, hence the same information by all health care workers is critical.

He also urged the participants to participate fully so that at the end of the week all proposed IEC materials will be developed and all the products can be ready for printing and disseminating to facilities, outreach events, trainings, and other relevant activities. He extended his appreciation to all for attending the workshop and wished them a fruitful week.



2019 MEN'S HEALTH CAMPAIGN



Men listening attentively to the health talks

The Ministry of Health (MoH), NERCHA Information Centre, EGPAF, New Start, TB Program, SNAP, The Blood Bank, SBCCN, Oral Health and CHAPS took part in a Men's Health Awareness Week from the 3rd-7th of June 2019 to create awareness providing testing and education sessions at the ICC Hotel at Ezulwini. This event saw over 1 500 men being reached in the health awareness campaign. Among those who graced the occasion was the Honourable Minister of Health, Senator Lizzy Nkosi who launched the Men's Health Month. The day started with opening remarks by SNAP's SBCC officer Bongani Masango, before Mr. Nielsen who is the Project Manager and Mr. Cornard the Site Manager.

When the Minister of Health took to the podium, she emphasized the importance of men taking the lead in ensuring that their families stay healthy and they [men] should lead by example. "An increase in health awareness on preventable health problems, early detection and treatment of diseases amongst men and boys is very vital and is our priority as a country. Men and their health issues usually take a back seat as they are perceived to be the stronger ones in society," she noted. She, however, revealed that

studies have shown that on average, men die six years earlier than their partners and further encouraged men to know their health numbers.

The services provided during the whole week included screening for non-communicable diseases risk factors (tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, physical inactivity and unhealthy diet) and measuring of blood pressure, blood glucose and cholesterol levels, height and weight as well as screening for Tuberculosis, Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection, vision, hearing and kidney injury. A lot of diseases prevention and wellness messages were also disseminated.



ICC Managers addressing men at the site

VMMC IEC MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT



HPU's Bongiwe Dlamini making her remarks.



There is a need to scale up the uptake of voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) services in the country to combat the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. This was said by the SNAP VMMC focal person Mr. Vusi Maziya during the VMMC IEC development workshop held at the Happy Valley Hotel at Ezulwini in June 2019. He added that there is a dire need to boost demand creating for the service such as the development of VMMC specific IEC material to achieve a high yield of circumcised males.

Health Promotion Unit (HPU) Manager Bongiwe Dlamini during her remarks said that the VMMC program needs guidance on working with media outlets to increase the uptake of its services and counteract myths and misconceptions about male

circumcision. She also noted that there are some challenges when it comes to accurate reporting on VMMC since most of the information about it is heavy science. "The need to communicate complex VMMC issues in a simplified manner through the development of IEC material that is targeted which will, therefore, yield the required results. It is, therefore, important to think carefully about how the messages are framed and what is communicated. Let us all see new innovations that will move people to access these services. The most important elements of a successful behavior change communication campaign are well-designed messages," Dlamini concluded.

2019 NATIONAL HEALTH SEMI-ANNUAL REVIEW (NAHSAR) WORKSHOP



Dr. Magaula during the event

As the country strives towards reaching the 95-95-95 targets set by the UN-AIDS, the Swaziland National AIDS Programme participated in the National Health Semi-Annual Review (NaHSAR) workshop held on the 12th – 14th June 2019 at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre. The workshop was attended by close to 200 delegates from the Ministry of Health and partners.

The National Semi-Annual Review (NaHSAR) is one of the forums that contribute to improving the quality of health care delivery in the country. This forum assists with encouraging facilities to work on Quality Improvement projects and setting the platform for key performance comparisons. This then promotes data ownership and data use and shar-

ing of evidence-based changes to routine HIV care provision. The three-day workshop involved data discussions on PMTCT, ART & TB, QMS and other research updates from all four respective regions.

NaHSAR would not be complete without the awards dinner ceremony where regions are awarded certificates for their outstanding performance in the different thematic areas. NaHSAR 19 saw the Hhohho region being awarded the “Overall best performing region” with 9 points (**Best Drug Susceptible TB, Best PMTCT, Best Laboratory & Quality Systems**) in second place was the Lubombo with 6 then Shiselweni and Manzini with 3 points each.

IEC materials that were distributed during NaHSAR

Title of IEC materials	Quantity Issued
Community strategy	5
HIV Guidelines (soft copies)	20 (5)
HIV Pocket Guidelines	20
Amended HIV Guidelines	15
STI Guidelines (soft copies)	5 (5)
Viral Load	10
Test and Start disk	11
Teen Club	3
Child Rights	2
SNAP website	5

TRAINING OF NON-HEALTH WORKERS-GATEKEEPERS



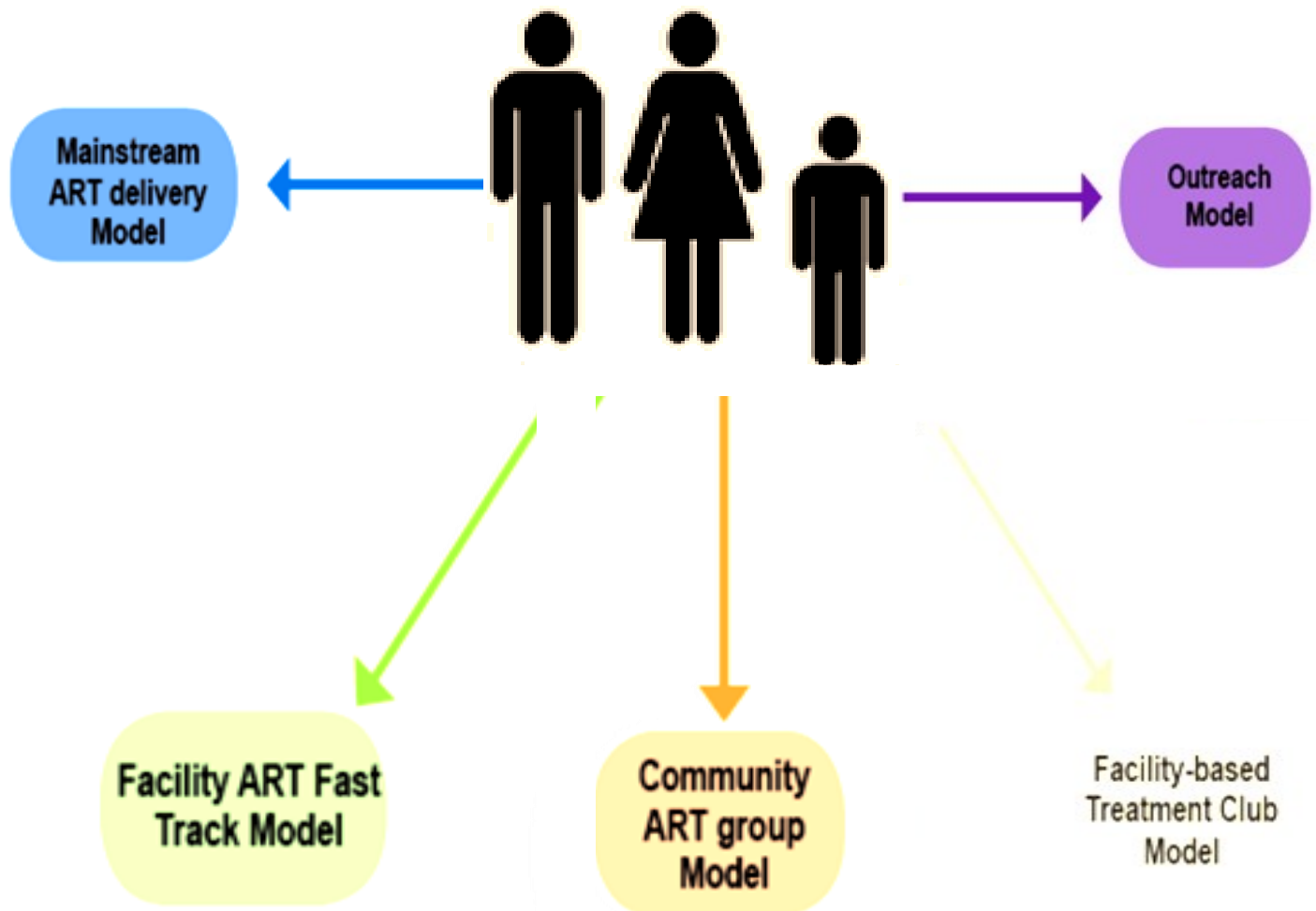
Save the Children (SC) Eswatini in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Ministry of Health through the Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR- HIV Knows No Borders program conducted a three-day training of Gate Keepers on HIV and SRHR of Migrants, Adolescents and Young people, and sex workers.

Welcoming participants including Bucopho and Tindvuna Tetinkhundla on behalf of the Hhohho Regional Administrator was Hhohho District Commissioner Mandla Mavuso who extended his sincere gratitude to Save the Children for the assistance they render in ensuring that the teams are well capacitated with information to better serve their communities. "This is an ongoing project driven by Save the Children and indeed they have to see to it that it achieves its objectives. We are all aware that following the recent national elections, some new members have joined our team hence the need to bring them on board if we definitely want to win the battle. Our main agenda is development and we cannot achieve such with sick and unhealthy people. People look to us and expect us to provide answers and solutions to their problems," he said.

The SRHR HIV-KNB project is implemented in six countries including the Kingdom of Eswatini which is supported by the Government of the Netherlands. In the Kingdom of Eswatini, the project's main focus is at two constituencies (Timphisini and Ntfontjeni) and one town (Pigg's Peak) under the Hhohho Region. The project seeks to address the plight of its target population where it has been found that they face greatest SRHR-HIV challenges including high rate of unwanted pregnancies, high prevalence rate of STI's and HIV, migratory difficulties of being neglected in SRHR initiatives.

This project aims at improving access to SRHR-HIV services and information for migrants and migration affected communities along cross-border and migration corridors in the Region; Improve SRHR-HIV related outcomes amongst migrants (including migrant adolescents and young people) as well as non-migrant adolescents, young people and others living in migrant affected communities. Other partners in this initiative include the University of Witwatersrand and the Wits School of Public Health.

DSD DESIGN



Models of ART delivery. PLHIV on treatment may choose any model of ART delivery and are free to switch from model to model for as long as they are eligible for the model of delivery.



Swaziland National AIDS Programme

Who We Are ...

The Swaziland National AIDS Program was established in 1987 to respond to the HIV Epidemic. The core mandate of the national AIDS program is to coordinate health sector interventions as they account for more than 70% of the total HIV response.

VISION

Winning the fight against HIV and AIDS through effort for an AIDS free generation.

MISSION

To improve the health of the people of ESwatini through an effectively coordinated health sector response to HIV and AIDS.

Upcoming activities in the next Quarter:

- SURGE activities
- DSD ASSESSMENTS
- QIC
- Eswatini International Trade Fair
- CQUIN

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