

Development Aid from People to People

TOTAL CONTROL OF THE EPIDEMIC (TCE)

TCE LUSAKA

HPP Year Report 2016

January to December



To U-landshjelp fra Folk til Folk, Norge



Name of Project: Total Control of the Epidemic (TCE) Lusaka

Implementing organisation: Development Aid from People to People

Report period: January to December 2016

1. INTRODUCTION

The Total Control of the Epidemic (TCE) project in Lusaka worked in 5 health facilities namely Mtendere, Kabwata, Kamwala, Railway and Mandevu. The project reached a population of 240,000 people with HIV and AIDS prevention messages, counselling and testing services. The target for the number of people to be counselled and tested for HIV in 2016 was 100,000. During the reporting period, TCE scaled up activities to two more facilities namely Railways and Mandevu clinics. HIV counselling and testing activities were carried out through door-to-door interventions and those that tested HIV positive were referred for care and treatment. The project reached people through a person to person approach at their door steps, workplaces, schools, churches and by targeting both in and out of school youths.

The project aims to get people mobilised and empowered to take control of HIV/AIDS in their own lives and that of their families and communities in a bid to contribute to:

- the reduction of new infections;
- the increase in the uptake of people accessing HIV/AIDS services such as counselling and testing, ART and TB treatment;
- building of capacity in community members and medical personnel to deal with the consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and provide clinical care as needed.

In 2016 TCE Lusaka also provided counselling and testing services to key populations including commercial sex workers, transgender, homosexual men, and prisoners. Key populations were also reached with messages on condom use and information on STIs and other related diseases such as cervical cancer and male circumcision.

2. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

Objective 1: HIV counseling and testing

During the period January to December 2016, TCE reached a total of people 40,871(19,540 males; 21,331 females), with HIV counselling and testing services against an annual target of 80,000 people. The project did not reach the intended target due to a nationwide stock out of HIV test kits. The communities of Mtendere, Kamwala, Kabwata, Railway clinic and Mandevu are highly populated therefore when commodities are available, results are easily achieved because Field Officers do not need to walk long distances between households, and people are easily reached with counselling and testing services within a short period of time.

From the total number of 40,871 people who were counselled and tested in the reporting period, 3,409 people tested HIV positive giving 8% positivity rate. All the 3,409 HIV positive people were referred to health facilities for treatment, care and support. Information

was also given on positive living and importance of adherence to treatment. On the other hand those who tested negative were given prevention messages on how they can maintain the HIV negative status.

The project trained 35 Field Officers in supervisory counselling for them to help the counsellors resolve challenges experienced during counselling sessions. Of the 150 Field Officers that are currently working on the project, 144 Field Officers in Lusaka are working with the general population to reach every everywhere with prevention packages and HIV counselling and testing while 6 Field Officers are also specialised in key and priority populations related matters.

The project trained 48 Field Officers in SmartCare, a national Electronic Health Records system aiming at improving tracking of the HIV Testing and Counselling services and linkage to HIV care and treatment.

Objective 2: Improving health for people tested HIV Positive

TCE aims to improve the health of all people that test HIV positive. The project worked with several partners in order to improve support and care for people affected by HIV and AIDS through referral services. The 3,409 people that tested HIV positive were referred to health facilities for them to access HIV care and treatment services and adherence support.

251 support group members were trained to give full information on prevention and adherence to their peers. 50 Field Officers were trained in community comprehensive HIV childhood adherence a training package focusing on HIV treatment and care for paediatrics, and 4 TCE staff received training in the same programme, to monitor the Field Officers accordingly. The trained Field Officers and treatment supporters track children to ensure that they enrol in care and receive treatment.

Further, the project supported the community of people living with HIV/AIDS to form trios, where information on positive living, self-care and nutrition is shared among members. 4,453 Antiretroviral treatment (ART) trios were formed in the community with people who were found to be HIV positive and on treatment. Additionally, 50 Passionates were trained as ART/TB treatment supporters to support people on ART with adherence counseling.

To reduce the mother to child transmission of HIV, the project worked with health facilities to support the follow up of HIV positive pregnant women and their children, and to offer counselling and testing to pregnant women who did not know their HIV status in the communities. The Field Officers counselled and tested 188 pregnant mothers, 7% tested HIV positive and were linked to treatment and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission services. The Field Officers followed up the HIV positive pregnant women to ensure that none of the exposed infants contract infection during pregnancy, delivery and breast feeding period. After delivery, the Field Officers refer the mothers and the exposed infants to the nearest facility for testing of the infant using Dried Blood Spots. Once the infant is 12 months old, the Field Officers administer a rapid HIV test and if the infant is positive, they were referred to the health facility for care and treatment.

Objective 3: Other preventive activities

The Field Officers were key in disseminating HIV prevention messages reaching 356,202 people with abstinence and be faithful prevention messages and 311,426 people with behavioural change communication messages. 44,776 people received the full prevention Abstinence, Be faithful and Condom (ABC) use package.

111 youths from the community were mobilised and trained as youth champions to support HIV prevention activities reaching out to adolescent, youth in school and youth club programmes.

The project encouraged all men tested HIV negative to go for Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision A total of 8,434 were referred; 3168 completed the male circumcision process and the remaining 5,266 booked to undergo the male circumcision.

Objective 4: Key Population activities

TCE Lusaka mobilized and trained peer educators in Lusaka district whose role is identification of key and priority populations. The trained peer educators are also responsible for reaching the key population with HIV prevention messages as well as referring them for HIV counselling and testing services. The key populations trained as peer educators include 20 homosexual men and 40 commercial sex workers. 6 Field Officers in Lusaka were trained as peer educators as well to lead key population activities. The 6 field officers further trained 77 peer educators to reach men who have sex with men and transgender and commercial sex workers.

The Field Officers reached this population with HIV prevention interventions focused at behaviour change particularly ABC messages. The dissemination of ABC messages by the field officers was conducted through visits to target areas. This activity was integrated with condom distribution and provision of information on how to use them correctly and consistently.

During the period 1st January to 31st December 2016, the project reached:

- 1,774 Community Sex Workers, tested and counselled 870 of which 113 (13%) tested positive.
- 148 homosexual men, tested and counselled and 20 men of which 6 (30%) were HIV positive.
- 186 transgender, tested and counselled 59, of which 13 (22%) were HIV positive
- 1,194 prisoners, tested and counselled 732 prisoners of which 81 (11%) were HIV positive.

The field officers and peer educators visited target areas where this population were found such as bars, guest houses, brothels, and business areas as well as in households during door-to-door visits. All those clients who tested positive for HIV were referred for care and support services

Among the peer educators trained were commercial sex officers, prisoners, Trans Gender and homosexuals. The peer educators were also trained in implementation of income generating activities through which reformation from risky sexual lifestyles was made available. The peer educators in Lusaka are given allowances in order to boost the income generating activities of their choice. These served as incentives for some of them to reform and change their sexual behaviours.

3. EFFECTS OF THE PROJECT

3.1. Reduce new HIV Infections

The project worked with youth champions who have been supported to talk about their HIV status openly. This has led to a reduction of stigma and discrimination among the young people. It has also promoted HIV/AIDS awareness resulting in increase of youths accessing counselling and testing services and asking for condoms. These patterns are likely to contribute to a reduction in new HIV infection.

The project has also reached key and priority population including commercial sex workers, homosexuals, transgender and prisoner's. These are hard to reach and marginalized populations with higher HIV positivity rates compared to the general population; all those who tested positive, were immediately linked to treatment. The key and priority population activities are fundamental in stopping new HIV infections.

- There is decrease in risk behaviour associated with commercial sex workers , due to innovative approaches which have been developed to reach this population
- An increase in youth champions coming out to talk about their HIV status openly; re-education of stigma and discrimination in the community
- Increase of youths accessing VCT services at facility level and community at large
- There is an easy access of condoms, in the community due to Field Officers distributing and establishment of condom outlets.
- A decrease has been reported in the default rate due to treatment supporters who have been trained by the project.
- There is high uptake of counselling and testing services in the TCE operation areas. Many people have known their HIV status through door to door approach

3.2.Improve care and increase health services for people living with HIV:

The project linked people who tested HIV positive to treatment and care and support services in ART clinic, with a rate of 108% of those tested positive and the known positives successfully linked to access further services.

The Field Officers are referring clients to seven ART clinics, namely Chifundo, Railways, Kalingalinga, Chaise, Chawama, Kabwata and Mtendere. These facilities have reported that there are more clients accessing treatment for ART services after the TCE project started.

Care and support is being provided to people living with HIV by forming positive living support groups and trios.

ANNEX 1: OUTPUT TABLE

No.	Description	Goals	Result	Variance	%
1	Number of people tested	100,000	40,871	(-59,129)	41%
2	Number of people tested positive	10,000	3,409	(-6591)	34%
3	Number of Field Officers employed	150	150	150	100%
4	Number of clinics connected to the project	4	5	1	125%
5	Number of people in the operation area	400,000	356,202	(-43798)	89%
6	Number of people reached with one to one or small group discussions	260,000	356,202	(96202)	137%
7	Number of children and youth reached with Abstinence and Be faithful messages	30,000	23,688	(6312)	79%
8	Number of female sex workers reached.	1000	1,774	774	177%
9	Number of peer educators trained to reach men who have sex with men and transgender and commercial sex workers	55	77	22	140%
10	Number of peer educators in prisons trained	100	70	30	70%
11	Number of prisoners reached.	1500	1,194	(306)	79%
13	Number of trainers trained from 105 support Groups	200	251	51	125%
14	Number of treatment supporters trained including review training	75	50	(25)	67%
15	Number of Passionates trained to increase support to PLHIV and prevention activities	Goal changed from 1500 from 300	304	4	101%
16	Number of Passionates trained to carry out door to door counselling and testing	50	50	0	100%
17	Number of Field Officers and staff trained in smart care	50	48	(2)	98%

Comments to the numbers:

- 41% of the total target of people (100,000) to be tested was achieved. The project under scored on the goal because it had challenges accessing test kits that are supplied by the government.
- 34% of the target goal of people (10,000) to be tested positive was achieved. This goal was under achieved because of the limited access to test kits.

ANNEX 2: PROJECT PICTURES



150 Field Officers receiving training on rapid testing using Bioline



Field Officer, giving information using Field Officer Guide



One on One interaction with the Client



Field Officers during Troop meeting.



Review meeting with the facility and local leaders

ANNEX 3: SUCCESS STORY

Be a proud youth, know your HIV/AIDS status

In spite of the increasing information on the importance of knowing your HIV status, there are still some people that are adamant about knowing their HIV/AIDS status. An example can be drawn from Chishimba Ndawa.

“In July 2014 I started feeling tired very easily and lost weight, I continued feeling unwell for several months and I never wanted to visit any clinic. In 2015 my health worsened and I stopped schooling, my mother encouraged me to have an HIV test but to me it was just a waste of time. I knew I could not be HIV positive because I only had one boyfriend”, says Chishimba Ndawa (Not real name).

In the same year 2015, TCE Field Officer from DAPP TCE visited her house. He introduced the TCE project and explained that they conduct door-to-door HIV counseling and testing. Chishimba recalls that, this was a new thing to me because from her knowledge HIV counseling and testing was done at the clinics.

I was the only one found at home at that time, as all the members of the house were out. The TCE Field Officer shared basic information with me, on the facts about HIV/AIDS. The Field Officer visited our household many times and I was equipped with relevant HIV/AIDS information. I developed interest to test for HIV until one day I decided to get tested for HIV. My results came out HIV positive and I could not believe the results despite the officer’s encouragement on the status. The Field Officer kept on coming to visit me until I accepted and I was referred to Kamwala clinic for ART services.

Chishimba continues to explain, “At the clinic, I was told that my CD4 count was low at 103, but information acquired from the TCE Field Officer it was easy for me to start taking medication. In a short time my health improved, I gained weight and was able to walk and I was back to school until now and I will be writing my grade 12 exams this year 2016”.

“I realized that it would have been better for me to know my HIV status at an earlier stage. I would have completed my education because I could have taken precaution to look after my health and not stop going to schooling”, reflects Chishimba.

In June 2016, TCE trained me as a youth champion in advocacy, HIV/AIDS, and other health related matters. The training helped me to acquire skills and knowledge on how to reach out and approach my fellow youth on issues to do with HIV/AIDS. My TCE Field Officer has been with me always, sharing knowledge and encouragement.

As a youth champion I am also a member of the Anti-AIDS club at school and I am not ashamed to talk to people about my HIV status. I now educate my peers about HIV/AIDS and sensitize them on HIV/AIDS preventive measures.

Chishimba states that, she is a proud youth, who knows her HIV status and knows how to keep herself healthy. Further, she calls upon her fellow youths to be champions in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

ANNEX 4: RECOMMENDATION LETTER

Mtendere Health Centre
P.O. Box 50827
Lusaka.
12th October, 2016.

The Division Commander
DAPP TCE
Lusaka.
Dear Sir / Madam,



REF: - RECOMMENDATION FOR SERVICES PROVIDED
BY DAPP TCE.

With reference to the above subject matter, DAPP TCE has been providing services to Mtendere catchment area since 2015.

Whilst executing their duties they have shown a lot of interest in their work, interaction with members of staff is good. The clinic has also gone a step further in providing reagents for HIV testing in the ^{on time} community. Reports are being submitted ^A to the faculty on time.

It is really encouraging to have a dedicated team attached to our facility and we will endeavour to work hand in hand with them.

The provision of their services is greatly appreciated.

Thank you

yours faithfully

Rhonda M. Wanawi