

KZN CIVIL SOCIETY REPORT: 5 Aug 2015



SANAC Civil Society Forum (Wed 29 July)

- **Mid Term Review of NSP (2012 – 2016)** is currently taking place. The report back was to take place on 30 July. Civil Society & Government in KZN were interviewed. Civil Society were not provided with the report ahead of time by KPMG who have been doing the MTR Report so CSF consultation would not have been meaningful. As a result, it was agreed the report would be circulated so that sectors could deliberate and then a second meeting will be convened.
- **Provincial MTR:** The PCA Secretariat will organise a 1 day consultation workshop with KZN stakeholders so that the SANAC and Provincial MTR can take place. This will be an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and successes in KZN so we can learn & adjust our strategy for the future.
- **Tracking Funding for HIV & TB:**
 - Improving reporting from Sub-Grantees for Global Fund and PEPFAR through CSF and PAC.
 - Dreams PEPFAR Programme was reported on. Further consultation workshops are planned.

District AIDS Council Strengthening

■ District Roadshow to Launch Civil Society Forums:

- Launched uMgungundlovu CSF (early 2015)
- Launched uThungulu District CSF (5 March)
- Launched Harry Gwala District CSF (3 July)
- Launched Mandeni Local Municipality (iLembe District) CSF (4 Aug)
- **Roadshows will be rolled out to districts. We will prioritise and focus on the areas that the Premier's Synthesis Report identifies:**
 - Zululand
 - uMkhanyakude
 - Amajuba
 - eThekweni
 - Ugu
 - uThungulu

■ District Road Shows will do the following:

- Induction into the role and functioning of SANAC structures
- Sharing ways to promote sector and community voice – establish / strengthen channels of communication

District AIDS Council Strengthening (cont)

■ Database for each District

- info4africa is updating the national database for SANAC
- Lists of Civil Society Organisations will be made available to all Districts via CD Rom and Dropbox
- information will be sorted by local and district municipality
- DACs and LACs can use these lists to identify civil society organisations to include in meetings and strengthen participation in campaigns and events
- All civil society representatives are encouraged to connect with info4africa to provide updated information on their organisation, partners and sector representation

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KZN PCA Civil Society Forum (5 Aug)

- A meeting was held of Civil Society Reps prior to today's PCA. It was well attended by sectors and DAC Civil Society Co-Chairs.
- **Feedback:** Sectors were encouraged to feed info / successes / challenges back to the PCA Co-Chair. This can be done via:
 - Civil Society Chairperson: **Patrick Mdletshe 072 1826833**
 - Premier's Office who house the Secretariat.
Contact person: **Thobile Yengwa 082 801 8807**
- **Meetings:**
 - Sectors also took the resolution to **meet at least 2 weeks prior to each PCA** meeting to ensure consultation with districts and sectors on key issues can take place before PCA
 - Sectors will also meet together as Civil Society on the morning of PCA to caucus.
 - We need **to ensure that invitations received from Govt & Civil Society are inclusive** – civil society to take the responsibility to spread the word about events they are invited to other relevant stakeholders as well as all areas of the community.
- **Stock outs / Treatment Shortages:** This issue was occurred in some provinces since March 15. Some districts in KZN have been affected. The situation is being closely monitored by DoH & Civil Society. We expect the MEC to address this issue.
 - There is a specific stock out line. Reporting should be encouraged at all levels:
0848 557 867 / 084 855 STOP or Vuyiswa (HAST) 083 267 1182

KZN PCA Civil Society Forum (cont)

■ Start Trial – Test and Treat:

- This was reported at the IAS Conference in Vancouver in late July 2015.
- This trial is a **game changer** which may help us to reach the goal of ending HIV by 2030 (90 90 90 principles).
- An overview of the trial was provided as it has shown that if people are tested for HIV and then **initiated immediately on treatment** there are significant health benefits
 - Suppression of the virus – significantly reduce transmission
 - Reduce opportunistic infections & ultimately decrease burden of disease
 - Prevent progression from HIV to AIDS
- There are fears of burden of cost, longer treatment for patients and fears of toxicities but the benefits far outweigh the risks.
- **WHO are revising treatment guidelines to test and treat.**
- In SA we currently start treatment at CD4 Cell Count of 500.
- **We hope that SA will be very proactive by moving to test and treat** within next 2 years and that the strategy will include **suitable additional strengthening of the health care system** (so queues and stock outs do not defeat this effort).

KZN PCA Civil Society Forum (cont)

- **Access to treatment** is still an issue in many districts
 - The environment in clinics makes it difficult to challenge stock outs of drugs
- **PEP (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis)**
 - If a person is exposed the need to get PEP. This is **essential for high risk groups**
 - The **circular is in place** but has it filtered to the facility level – **in our experience patients are not able to access PEP at facilities** when they have been exposed. They are not taken at their word.
 - There is still too little advertising of this and access is poor. There is silence on this matter. Civil Society is happy to assist with communication.
 - **We request this meeting to take a resolution that this PEP programme must be implemented urgently at all facilities.**
- **PREP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis)**
 - This is essential for high risk groups
 - It is unclear if there is implementation of Prep for high risk groups
 - We urge the government to be proactive on this matter.

World AIDS Day (WAD) 2015

- World AIDS Day Plans are developing
- **KZN will be the national focus province**
- Each district will also organise an event which will also help to advertise the IAS 2016 Conference that will take place at the ICC in Durban in July 2016.
- **What does this mean for KZN:**
 - We want meaningful engagement: Civil Society need to be involved in planning, organising and roll out of the event at province and in each district.
 - Any events planned must be relevant to the current HIV situation in SA. Messages must be relevant & communicate programmes
 - We want costs to be monitored so that money is used wisely as such events can be very costly. For preference we do not want once off events but rather events that build capacity & bring opportunities for change in lives of communities.
- **We need to prioritise for WAD:**
 - Children and teenagers
 - IDUs, MSM & Sex Workers
 - Helping men and women to have these conversations

International AIDS Conference 2016

- Civil Society is directly involved in the deliberations of **the IAS Local Organising Committee** (Patrick Mdletshe and Debbie Heustice)
- A **Legacy Sub-Committee** has been established of which civil society holds one of three co-chair positions. On the agenda are:
 - An HIV and TB Museum for SA – Based in KZN (first in SA)
 - A KZN Colloquium for high level research interaction. Discussions will help to inform the KZN PCA
- **Civil Society Representation:** We are negotiating with the IAS Local Organising Committee to ensure that civil society is well represented at the Conference (**neotiating a scholarship for 1 rep of each sector**)
- There will be **preconference awareness raising in each district** of KZN. T-shirts advertising the conference will be supplied. DAC Co-Chairs will work with the IAC Local Committee and PCA Secretariat on this.

Children's Sector

- Participated in an **African study on Foster Care** (new Foster Care Grant) and presented at the SA AIDS Conference on this.
- There is a **new Children's Bill that allows 12 – 15 years to engage in consensual sex amongst themselves**. This Bill is open to miniterpretation. There has been a number of dialogues and engagement with different govt and civil society stakeholders on this bill. Dialogues are also taking place with children to educate them on what the bill means.

Key Priorities for Civil Society regarding Children:

- SA needs to prioritise children & teens - they are a significant group of people needing treatment, care and support.
- We are not doing enough to initiate children on treatment
- We need to target districts that are not doing enough for children and find ways to proactively test
- Studies reported on at SA AIDS Conf 2015 showed that youth (particularly children and teenager) friendly services just need clinics to treat them in a friendly manner – this is not costly

Sectors Dealing with Key Populations

Key populations (LGBTI; MSM; Sex Workers; IDU) are critical and many issues overlap. As a result, we have chosen to highlight the issues of these vulnerable populations on one slide:

Key Priorities include

- **Engaging law enforcement around arrests and human rights violations:**
 - **Injecting Drug Users (IDU):** Engagement with law enforcement as carrying clean needles is being used as “evidence of intention to commit a crime of drug use”
 - **Sex Workers:** police confiscating condoms and using this as “evidence for arrest” as intention to commit a crime
 - We need to advocate to **decriminalise sex work**
 - **Underage sex work** is not defined as sex work but rather as human trafficking. More conversations are needed with DSD and DoH about support for this particularly vulnerable group. Legislating under “Human Trafficking” is a challenge as many of the underage sex workers are driven by poverty to this work, they have not been trafficked.
- **PEP** is critical for these vulnerable groups due to their increased risk of exposure
- **Prep and Test and Treat** is also critical due to the prevalence found amongst these populations. Eg Sex Workers in JHB were approx 80% HIV +
- **Psycho-Social Services and Rehabilitation facilities** are lacking for this group and need prioritization
- **Department of Home Affairs & DoH Engagement needs to focus on ID Documents:** Not having an ID document is a barrier to treatment and care – many key pops do not have IDs as they live on streets

Youth Sector

- A **Provincial Activation** for Youth Sector was held in July 2015
- We have partnered with US Consulate HIV Unit to do Ward Specific interventions around youth in eThekweni
- Tertiary based interventions at DUT and Mangosuthu Tech
- **Future Plan:**
 - “**Have you seen My Rights?**” campaign (lead by UNAIDS) is starting starting in Sept 2015
 - **Peer Education Best Practice workshop** for all Higher Education Institutions (Led by UCT) will be held in Sept 2015
 - To roll the ward specific interventions out to all other districts

Women's Sector

- **Provincial Consultative Meeting** with reps of women from all districts. Elected provincial committee for Women's Sector.
- **Chairperson** is Ntokozo Zondo (Harry Gwala District)
- **Training / Induction workshop** for all District reps
- Launched Women's Sector in eThekweni and trained them on leadership
- Attended **SA AIDS Conference** and facilitated some of the sessions in the Community Village
- Started **"Keep a Girl Child in School" Campaign** where we are giving young girls reusable sanitary pads. Last month we distributed 520 pads in Sizophumelelo High School in KwaDumisa (Vulamehlo)
 - To support this campaign please **call 073 196 3790 Lungi Mtambo**
- Future plans include a provincial **Prevention Summit (Sept 2015)**

MEN'S SECTOR

- **Task Teams have been formed in order to consult LACs and DACs to ensure a 4 pronged strategy against GBV is implemented, this includes:**
 - Prevention of GBV of all forms – campaigns to canvass men for prevention activities like MMC
 - Response – improve referral support for men
 - Care and Support – greater follow up is needed around MMC wound treatment (long queues deter men)
 - Institutional Arrangements – including monthly men's clinics; mobile MMC facilities
- Lack of funding is preventing rolling out of this strategy to all districts. It is currently active in Umgungundlovu District and 2 sub-districts of Ugu District (Vulamehlo and Umdoni).
- It was noted that a lot of work is happening in other districts but is often under-reported.
- It was noted that the relationship between Men's Sector (SANAC) and Men's Forum (Public Service Act) needs strengthening as objectives & programmes are similar.

HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR

First Things First & Graduate Alive has been scaled up to ensure students know their status at Universities & TVETS:

- ▣ **Awareness & Prevention**
- ▣ **Condoms**
- ▣ **MMC** – Soka Ndoda Programme (DUT)
- ▣ **Zazi Campaign** – being rolled out to bring greater awareness and support against GBV / sexual violence
- ▣ DOH and HEAIDS 13 August UKZN is launching Zazi, Dual Protection & new condoms
- ▣ **Holistic Health Package** – Prevent and protect
- ▣ **First things first HIV testing TB, STI's & Cancer screening** are being rolled out

▣ **Suggestion:**

- ▣ We need more regular services at each TVET – many of whom do not have dedicated clinics.
- ▣ **We ask that DoH clinic services be provided once a month and provide comprehensive service**
- ▣ We need to find ways to **mobilise civil society organisations** to support higher education institutions in their areas so there is sustained support.

FAITH BASED SECTOR INCLUDING RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP

■ **Messaging and Education:**

■ **Safe Campaign:** Safer sexual practices, access to treatment, counselling, education and empowerment are being run with partners such as TAC and Council of Churches in different districts.

■ **Summit with Religious Leadership and Govt:** A Health Summit took place and a number of issues were resolved. FBOs resolved to monitor stock outs. The Minister came to the meeting. Encouraging MMC was also high on the agenda.

■ **Engagement with Traditional Leadership** with Church Leaders has happened. Training on interventions and positive messaging in pulpit

■ **Concept paper on faith healing and treatment** has been written. Further dialogue on this will take place between PCA Secretariat and Religious Sector.

SPORT, ART AND CULTURE SECTOR

Our plan has been limited by funding with the result that condom distribution linked to local sporting events has been the main activity

Plans include:

- Mobile Clinics
- Tournaments with local sports activities
- MMC campaigns
- Condom distribution and usage – linked to sports stars who can champion use of condoms and educate on correct use

NGO SECTOR

- **Our focus areas continue to be:**
- **NGO Sector Funding Crisis**
 - Research into what domestic government funding is being made available to NGOs
 - Lobby govt to provide more domestic support to NGOs to fill the international funding gap
- **Strengthen reporting** to LACs, DACs and PCAs to improve statistics and ensure NGO activities are properly accounted for in reporting
- **Future Plans: Annual NGO Summit** is needed to strengthen NGO collaboration & linkages between Districts & Province, ensure consultation & priority development.

Business Sector

- Durban Business Chamber launched NGO membership & now have an active Ngo Forum on key issues
- Trained management in health care issues
- Peer Education mentoring and training in ongoing

PLWHA Sector

- Launched in 4 districts: Umzinyathi, uMgungundlovu since last PCA. The other 2 districts where launches have taken place are eThekweni and Umkhanyakude.
- Candlelight ceremony is happening on 14 August at Chief Albert Luthuli Hospital. This is an open invitation for all health sector workers openly living with HIV
- Office of Premier sponsored 10 PLWHA for the SA AIDS Conference. They were mandated to mentor and work with youth during the sessions.

Traditional Health Practitioners

- Launched the Sector and held a TB research literacy workshop in eThekweni
- Elected and inducted the Exec Committee for eThekweni
- Launched the Sector in Umgungundlovu