

Mini-Oral Abstract Presentations 1

#26 Striving Towards HIV Epidemic Control through Reaching a Population in Correctional Facilities in Namibia

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Striving towards HIV epidemic control through reaching a population in correctional facilities in Namibia

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Introduction

Namibia is striving to reach HIV epidemic control and has made significant strides in responding to the HIV epidemic with 86% of People living with HIV (PLHIV) knowing their status, 96% on treatment and 91% virally suppressed in the general population. Despite the progress made, there are still special populations in closed settings like Namibia Correctional Services (NCS) that the Ministry of health and social services need to reach in order to attain total epidemic control

Objective:

To identify the gaps in the provision of HIV/TB care services in the correctional facilities through site assessment and implement improvement interventions

Process

- A Site Improvement through Monitoring Systems (SIMS) tool developed by PEPFAR to assess the quality of HIV care services was adapted and used
- Assessment visits were conducted between July and August 2019 to all 14 correctional facilities by a team from MoHSS, NCS and CDC
- Interviews were held with health care workers and program officers
- A review of monthly and quarterly reports and relevant records was done
- Visiting of the offenders living quarters where possible was done
- Results were used to identify gaps and implement improvement interventions.

A colour coding scheme was used to rank findings per the quality standards

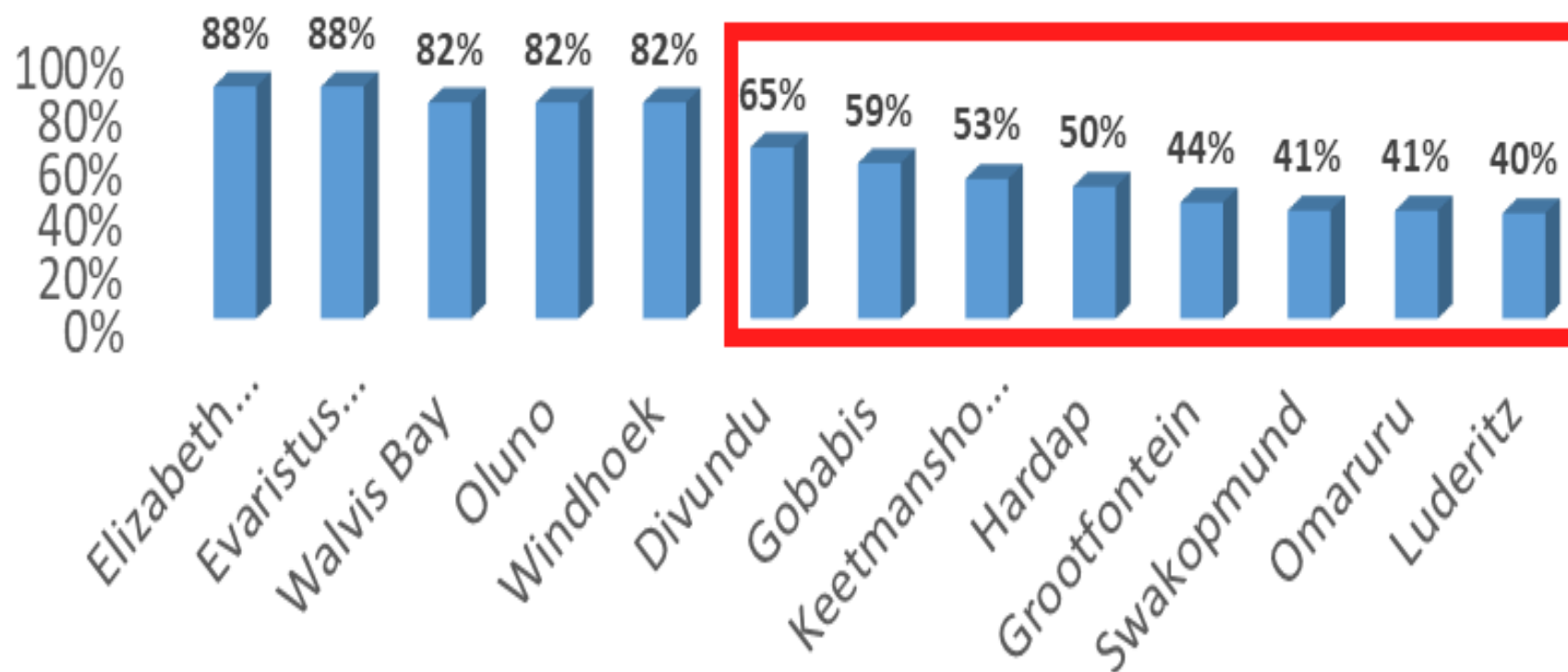
Meets expected standards (80% and above)	Need improve ment (70 - 79%)	Need urgent interven tion Below 70%
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Results

- The occupancy rate was 81% (n=4296). Of the 4296 inmates, 518 (12%) are HIV positive and on ART.
- Basic HIV and TB services are available in all 14 correctional facility either on site or through referral to near by health facilities.
- Directly observed therapy is done in 13/14 facility
- Services assessed are:
 - HIV testing services, care and treatment, services to support HIV treatment linkage, retention and viral suppression for offenders, HIV prevention services, TB prevention and control, STI screening and commodities availability.
 - Whereas there are 14 NCS facilities, two facilities in Khomas region have stand-alone facilities for males and females however their data is aggregated as one facility. The results below are for 13 NCS facilities.

Percent of service interventions available(%)

Service availability as a percentage of assessed interventions (July/August 2019)



Correctional Facilities

Conclusion

- Conducting the assessment was one of the initial steps towards identifying the gaps in the provision of quality HIV care services in the correctional facilities.
- The MoHSS in collaboration with NCS has developed and is implementing improvement plans to address identified gaps in an effort to reach the 95/95/95 and achieve HIV epidemic control in the country.

Acknowledgement

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