

ADPP Mozambique Accomplishments in Fighting HIV and AIDS

Since 2001, ADPP Mozambique has implemented the Total Control of the Epidemic (TCE) programme. As of 2004, the TCE programme began providing home-based testing and counseling services to the hardest hit communities in Mozambique. ADPP Mozambique has reached over 6.75 million people from 2004-2019 with HIV prevention, counseling, and referral services under the TCE programme.

TCE is a community mobilisation programme focused on preventing HIV transmission. The programme has a basic principle that emphasises: “Only the people can liberate themselves from the HIV and AIDS epidemic.” The programme mobilises people to change their behaviour, promotes health services such as HIV testing and treatment, and provides care and support for those who are infected and affected by HIV.

Mozambique has made commendable progress in the prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS. Thanks to the availability of anti-retroviral treatment (ART) approximately 2.2 million Mozambicans are currently living positively with HIV as of 2018, according to UNAIDS. However, efforts in reducing new HIV infections must be increased and sustained especially among women and the younger population. According to Mozambique’s National AIDS Council (CNCS) currently, 29% of new infections occur among female sex workers and their partners. On average, 860 young people aged 15 to 24 years are infected with HIV weekly, with a higher rate of infection among girls than boys.

ADPP Mozambique is adept at developing strategies to address the changing health landscape in different regions of Mozambique. TCE is aligned with the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets, a framework seeking to ensure that 95% of people infected with HIV know their status, 95% of those who are infected receive anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and 95% of those under treatment achieve HIV viral load suppression.

Currently, ADPP Mozambique implements HIV Index Case Testing in Mozambique, working with large-scale community-based HIV and AIDS interventions in the provinces of Cabo Delgado, Niassa, Zambezia, Gaza and Maputo. In line with the 95-95-95 strategy, the TCE programme takes pride in linking individuals to HIV testing, referrals for ART, and access to care and adherence support.

ADPP Mozambique is an important local implementing partner under the PEPFAR/USAID-funded PASSOS programme. Using the TCE approach, this intervention works with key and priority populations, particularly sex workers, in the provinces of Gaza, Zambezia, and Niassa. 246 TCE Field Officers provide counseling and testing in households with people who have tested HIV positive at the health facility (Index cases). Through home visits, the programme not only promotes Index case counseling and testing services, but is able to identify pregnant women for HIV testing as well as conducting TB screening. This project also addresses issues such as infants and children under five with malnutrition; furthermore, it encourages women and girls to deal with sexual abuse.

HOPE is another ADPP project in the Maputo Province that implements a large-scale programme reaching close to 76,000 people in 2019. The programme contributes to reducing HIV infection rates in Maputo. Through the Index case approach, people living with HIV are identified and offered counseling and testing services, ensuring that all who test positive for HIV begin treatment, as well as controlling the disease and preventing new infections. HOPE Maputo helps raise awareness and knowledge about HIV and AIDS, TB and gender-based violence. The Index-case based approach has contributed significantly to reducing the spread of HIV and TB, as target groups were reached on time, linking them to health facilities.

During 2019, the “VIVA Mais” project promoted HIV prevention among 5,800 young women and girls in two key age groups; 15-19 and 20-24. Some of its key activities include provision of youth-friendly health services, strengthening institutions that provide services for adolescents, promoting behavior change, encouraging participation in clubs, and providing vocational training for the elderly.

ADPP Mozambique has been implementing successful development projects for the last 20 years. The organisation has a wealth of knowledge drawn from community and district-level experiences in social development programming, particularly HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and nutrition.