



HUMANA PEOPLE TO PEOPLE BOTSWANA

Accomplishments in Fighting HIV and AIDS

In 2001, Humana People to People (HPP) Botswana began implementing a large scale HIV/AIDS prevention intervention to fight the spread of the epidemic. The Total Community Mobilisation (TCM) programme was a result of government's decision to adopt the Total Control of the Epidemic (TCE) model as an integrated part of the country's national strategy to fight HIV/AIDS.

Between 2001 and 2005 more than 900,000 people were systematically mobilised and reached with prevention and counseling messages as well as referrals for testing and treatment.

TCM was conducted mainly through door-to-door outreach by dedicated TCM Field Officers and community volunteers. This network of community-based health workers imparted knowledge on HIV/AIDS, addressed stigma and discrimination, developed support structures, encouraged people to voluntarily go for HIV testing and enrolled those found HIV positive in the national HIV treatment programme. This initiative was a frontrunner for government to scale-up nationwide HIV anti-retroviral treatment (ART).

Currently, HPP Botswana links people with HIV in hard-to-reach communities with health centers for treatment support. Various approaches are being carried out, among them Index Case testing, addressing gender based violence, multi-concurrent sexual partnerships, enrolling and supporting people with HIV to remain on treatment so they achieve viral load suppression.

HPP Botswana implements the HOPE Humana programme in five districts covering over 200,000 people. HOPE Humana provides HIV prevention messages, delivers community-based HIV care and support and offers gender-based violence screening for the affected groups. The approach builds skills for communities and offers hope for people to prevent infections and to prolong and save the lives of those already infected. HOPE Humana has established a centre in the community as its base for actions with community mobilisation activities and house-to-house visits in its efforts to prevent new infections.

Since 2015, HPP Botswana has been implementing a community-based HIV initiative called "Communities Acting Together to Control HIV" (CATCH) supported by UNAIDS. CATCH promotes a people-driven approach in addressing HIV/AIDS. Communities are empowered to drive actions to create awareness of HIV/AIDS, TB and other health-related issues. In general, the project has increased the capacity of community structures, effectively complementing efforts to control the HIV epidemic.

HPP Botswana and its partners are running the USAID-funded Advancing Partners with Communities initiative, through fhi360 technical support. The programme seeks to achieve the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets of ending AIDS by 2030 through strengthening community-based testing, linkages to treatment, community HIV care and community-based integrated TB/HIV activities.

Through Community Health Workers, people are empowered to know their HIV and TB status and how to deal with it. The project conducts Index Case Testing, and screens and tests people in identified "hotspots" and hard-to-reach areas. Those who test positive for HIV are linked to health centres and immediately begin ART.