



Humana People to People South Africa Accomplishments in Fighting HIV and AIDS

In 2002, Humana People to People South Africa (HPP SA) began implementing an HIV/AIDS prevention programme called Total Control of the Epidemic (TCE). TCE contributes to the South African government's efforts in curbing HIV transmission. It supports individuals and communities to fight HIV and TB through knowing their HIV status by engaging a unique one-on-one community mobilisation approach.

TCE equips individuals and communities with the tools needed to mitigate the impact of HIV and TB, as well as break down the stigma attached to both diseases. TCE is designed to reach all individuals in a given area, and instill both the knowledge and readiness, allowing them to take control of HIV and TB.

According to UNAIDS, 2018, HIV and AIDS has had a devastating impact at individual and community level across South Africa, with approximately 5.4 million people who are HIV positive - one of the highest in the world. This highlights the urgency for a national response to HIV and AIDS by all through prevention and treatment strategies.

Over the past 18 years, HPP SA has reached more than 5 million people through its HIV programming. These include thousands of sex workers through education and life-changing behaviours. At least 150,000 pregnant mothers were reached with information on Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMCT). Close to 1 million people were tested for HIV; and more than 10 million condoms for HIV prevention distributed. These interventions by HPP SA played an important role in reducing HIV-related mortality and morbidity among sex workers, reduced the prevailing stigma and discrimination linked to HIV and supported the general population of South Africa to be aware of the risks and dangers of HIV/AIDS.

HPP SA continually adapts the TCE model to reach an increasing number of most-at-risk groups hard-hit by the epidemic, especially those who are most likely to test positive for HIV. The TCE model has been redesigned to increase

access to comprehensive HIV prevention, care and treatment services for these groups. As an innovator in community-based HIV testing services, HPP SA engages different modalities to reach the hardest-hit communities.

In its drive to support HIV treatment and adherence, TCE has adopted a variety of methods to ensure HIV anti-retroviral treatment (ART) is administered immediately upon testing HIV+. It supports those undergoing treatment to remain on treatment, improving their health, reducing their viral load and ultimately decreasing HIV-related mortality rates. Strategies include smaller units of community-led support groups known as TRIOS, made up of the infected individual and two close family relatives. Follow up visits to beneficiaries by counselors take place regularly, supported by defaulter tracing in coordination with local clinics and hospitals.

The TCE project in South Africa ensures that all people who have tested positive for HIV and those screened for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), TB and non-communicable diseases are referred for treatment support with follow up in a 72-hour period. All people who test HIV positive are regularly followed up (6-8 times) to ensure successful linkage to care and treatment.

In South Africa, the TCE project operates with a network of trained Passionates and volunteers, who have various duties including condom distribution, lay counseling, leading clubs, etc. Passionates have a strong link with the communities, coming from the communities they serve and sharing the same geographic areas and cultural connections.