

# I was traced and linked back on HIV treatment



“ In April 2019, I went on a three-month work trip. The trip coincided with my clinic appointment for my regular health check-up and my HIV medication refill. I decided to just stop taking my HIV medication.”

Dikeledi Kebitsemanga (not her real name) is a 23 year old young woman living with HIV in Botswana. She was recently diagnosed HIV positive and was enrolled for early HIV treatment. Humana People to People Botswana is running HOPE Humana an HIV and AIDS support programme which tests people for HIV and supports people living with HIV to adhere to treatment.

The organisation collaborates with local health centers and community based health workers who are informed about clients defaulting on HIV and TB treatment. Defaulters are traced, found, counseled and re-integrated on treatment.

“Upon my return to Mmopane, I was afraid of going to the clinic. However, I received a call from a local staff member of HOPE Humana who identified me at the health post while checking to see who was not coming for medical check-ups and treatment refill. She made an appointment to see me,” said Dikeledi.

The meeting discussed reasons why Dikeledi stopped taking her medication and what can be done to support her to adhere to treatment. Thankfully, Dikeledi agreed to be accompanied to the clinic to resume her medication.

“We went to Mmopane clinic and the initiation was successful. I was put back on HIV treatment which I am still taking. I really appreciate the tireless efforts of HOPE Humana in locating people who have taken life threatening decisions to stop HIV treatment.”

Dikeledi receives check up visits four times a month from community health workers. This motivates her to take the prescribed medication.

