



# HIV/AIDS NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER FROM THE NATIONAL HIV/AIDS PROGRAMME, PRETORIA

5 March 2001

## News from the Editor

This has indeed been a very busy month for the entire unit. There have been several interesting developments since the last newsletter, so it is hoped that this will be interesting to everyone.

For contributions, please submit contributions and suggestions to [serenc@health.gov.za](mailto:serenc@health.gov.za).

## Staff Matters

There have been a few staff changes since the last newsletter

Caron van Schalkwyk has joined the partnership Support Sub-Directorate as a Senior Admin Officer, and Anita Marshall is now the Coordinator: Integrated Plan. We wish them well.

Christina Ledwaba (nee Phaka) has left the Unit, as has Mercy Mancini. Nana Makhanya Mazibuzo is also leaving in this week.

## Social Cluster Priorities

The Social Cluster Directors-General have agreed to the following priorities for HIV/AIDS:

- ⌘ Condom promotion
- ⌘ Life skills in schools
- ⌘ Home-based care
- ⌘ Voluntary counselling & testing
- ⌘ Mother-to-Child HIV transmission
- ⌘ District AIDS Councils
- ⌘ Partnership Support for sectors
- ⌘ Communication
- ⌘ AIDS Vaccine

- ⌘ HIV/AIDS Impact Assessments
- ⌘ Surveillance
- ⌘ Improving HIV/AIDS knowledge of government employees

This sets a framework for the priorities for 2001/02. An important focus area will be delivery at local level, thus, strengthening local government and a district-based approach to HIV/AIDS will be important. Establishing District AIDS Councils are crucial to ensuring collaboration across sectors at local level.

## Donor Coordination Forum

The HIV/AIDS Chief Directorate late in 2000 decided to establish a Donor Coordination Forum to which all bilateral and multilateral donors are invited. This Forum allows the Health Department to interact with donors in a single platform, ensuring that all donors have access to the same information at the same time.

This Forum will now expand to include the Departments of Education, Social Development, Foreign Affairs and the National Treasury. We hope to use this Forum also as a conduit for provinces to indicate their donor funding needs.

The first meeting of the Forum is scheduled for 13 March 2001. At that meeting the emphasis will be on how donors can assist with ensuring local delivery, through programmes like home-based care and voluntary counselling and testing.

Donors have perceived the Forum as a very positive step, and we are thus keen to ensure that government, at all levels, derive the best possible benefit from the Forum.



### Update from STI Management unit

#### ***Community Ownership to be Focus for Next stage for the Mothusimpilo Project in Carletonville***

The Mothusimpilo Project is now entering the final days of its funding from the UK Department of International Development. The Project, based in the gold mining community of Carletonville commenced activities in late 1997 and recently received approval for a no cost extension until the end of March 2001.

The Project is an ambitious response to the epidemic of HIV and other STIs in South Africa. Unlike many HIV interventions, Mothusimpilo has attempted to implement a broad range of interventions that have separately been shown to have an impact on the spread of HIV. These include:

- Syndromic management of STIs;
- Periodic Presumptive Treatment of STIs in Women at High Risk;
- Promotion of condom use;
- Distribution of male condoms and
- Peer education of mine workers, Women at High Risk and adolescents including school learners.

In the last three years, the Project has distributed over 10 million condoms and established strong teams of peer educators. Substantial improvements have been made to the management of STIs in both private and public sectors and several comprehensive community surveys have been conducted. While the first phase mainly focused on HIV prevention, the next phase is expected to expand into areas of HIV-related care and support.

The Project is now about to enter its next phase with the election of a new Board of Management from the community itself. A large community workshop will be held in Carletonville in the middle of March do

select the new Board members. Future funding is expected to be provided by the National and Provincial Departments of Health as well as mining companies. This should ensure the longer-term sustainability of the Project and improve community ownership for years to come.

### Visits and trips

In the last month the unit has been travelling widely.

Celicia Serenata attended a meeting in Bangkok, Thailand under the auspices of UNAIDS in South East Asia. The topic for discussion was "Scaling up from pilot projects".

Nono Simelela, Collen Bonnecwe and Cornelius Lebeloe spent 3 days in Uganda visiting the Mildmay Centre. This is a centre of excellence, and provides specialist care to HIV/AIDS patients.

Nono Simelela, Collen Bonnecwe and Cornelius Lebeloe also visited Botswana for 3 days to view their home-based care programmes. The aim was to identify whether their successes can be replicated in South Africa.

In this week a 10-member South African delegation has left for Botswana to attend a Home-based Care Conference.

Look out for further reports in subsequent newsletters on these trips.

Also happening this week is:

- The traditional leader conference on HIV/AIDS in Cape Town
- The training for provinces on the Condom Logistics Management Information system in Johannesburg.



## Partnership Against AIDS



*Compiled by Celia M Serenata  
Deputy Director: HIV/AIDS and STDs  
Tel: (012) 312-0128 or (082) 413-2381  
Fax: (012) 328-5743 or (012) 326-2891  
e-mail: [serenc@health.gov.za](mailto:serenc@health.gov.za)*

*Any queries, comments or additions can be forwarded to this address.*

### **Address List for Chief Directorate**

Fax for all staff: (012) 328-5743 or (012) 326-2891

**Dr. Nono Simelela**  
Chief Director: HIV/AIDS and STDs  
(012) 312-0121

**Collen Bonnecwe**  
Director: HIV/AIDS & STDs  
(012) 312-0137

**Thami Skenjana**  
Director: GAAP  
(012) 312-0133

**Ria Scoeman**  
Deputy Director: Partnership Support  
(012) 312-0119

**Sonja Martin**  
Deputy Director: Youth Programme  
(012) 312-0125

**Cornelius Lebeloe**  
Deputy Director: Care, Counselling & Support  
(012) 312-0132

**Eva Gosa**  
Deputy Director: STDs, Barrier Methods, TB & Research  
(012) 312-0130

**Cecilia Serenata**  
Deputy Director: HIV/AIDS and STDs  
(012) 312-0128

