



HIV/AIDS AND TB NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER FROM THE NATIONAL HIV/AIDS AND TB PROGRAMME, PRETORIA

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EDITOR'S NOTES

For contributions, please submit contributions and suggestions to serenc@health.gov.za.

It has been a month since the last newsletter, and this is due purely to the hard work and time devoted to World AIDS Day on 1 December. Thanks to the efforts of staff in the national and provincial offices, this event was a success. Please see a small summary of this document later in this newsletter.

DIFLUCAN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

On 1 December 2000 the Department of Health entered into a partnership programme with Pfizer. This came to be known as the Diflucan Partnership Programme. Through this Programme Pfizer offered to the public health service, for a period of 2 years, the drug Fluconazole/Diflucan for the treatment of cryptococcal meningitis and oesophageal candidiasis.

However, the Department also negotiated with Pfizer that this Programme not merely focus on the provision of a drug, but that it also make provision for capacity building of health care workers in the diagnosis and treatment of these 2 opportunistic infections, as well as other HIV/AIDS related infections.

At the end of this first year, we are happy to report that good progress has been made. Please note though that the agreement was entered into on 1

December 2000, but the first patient was only treated in April 2001. This was due to some of the logistical issues that needed to be addressed before implementation could commence.

Of the 339 sites identified by the Provinces for rollout of the programme in the first year, **261 sites** are operational.

In those 261 sites, a total of **1 021 440 tablets** have been distributed, and approximately a third has already been dispensed to patients. Most patients are treated for oesophageal candidiasis.

The training aspect of the Diflucan Partnership Programme is managed by IAPAC, and to date a total of **80 training sessions** have been conducted, providing training to more than **4 000 health workers**.

Provinces have also indicated that this programme has played an important role in mobilising resources for capacity building of health workers. This training continues, and as trained health workers are available, the number of sites where the drug is available will also increase.

*For more information on this Programme, please contact the website, www.dpp.org.za or the toll free number, **0800 343 582**.*



WORLD AIDS DAY - IDC

Over the last three years the (National) Interdepartmental Committee on HIV/AIDS celebrated World AIDS day by organising an edutainment festival in central Pretoria. Whilst all of these World AIDS Day Partnership Festivals were considered a success in the sense that they attracted large crowds and media coverage, these campaigns also had significant limitations:

- The primary target group of the IDC are civil servants and mainly principally committed civil servants attended the festivals → we were speaking to the converted.
- Whilst mixing information and entertainment is widely believed to be an effective way of packaging AIDS communications, this format is limited to basic awareness messages → it is time to move beyond awareness.
- The festivals consumed budgets of between R30 000 and R40 000. In addition there were significant indirect costs in form working time of the organisers. IDC members are not event managers. Lack of experience means lack of efficiency and this increases costs → we had to ask ourselves whether we are getting value for our bucks.

For 2001 the IDC planned a fundamentally different campaign. Our objectives were to move beyond awareness, reach more white civil servants (who were largely absent at previous campaigns) and improve on our cost-benefit ratio.

For 2001 we planned an Office-To-Office campaign to engage government employees in a debate about what it means to "care" in the context of HIV/AIDS. The specific focus of the campaign was the individual: What can I do to show I care? What does it mean for me to have a caring attitude? Why should I care anyway?

By moving from office to office we assured of reaching a cross spectrum of civil servants - irrespective of their race, rank or current level of commitment. Compared to the previous World AIDS Day Partnership Festivals the campaign was cheaper and, because of its interactive nature, more likely to promote reflection and to reach beyond awareness. Further benefits of the campaign were:

- Integration with the international ("I care. Do you?") and the South African ("I care enough to act!") themes of world AIDS day.
- Integration with a similar Door-to-Door campaign organised by the Gauteng Province.
- Provision of a vehicle to promote the national lighting of a Flame for Life campaign.
- Departmental capacity building.

In preparation of the campaign the IDC held three workshops to train a total of 156 master trainers who in turn trained campaign volunteers in the departments. The IDC secretariat provided a master speech for a morning assembly in each department, special information pamphlets on care and support, a resource list for referrals, a standardised approach to monitoring, and volunteer identification stickers. The Minister of Health provided a letter of support.

A thorough evaluation of the campaign is still in progress. The IDC met for an initial review and concluded that the campaign was a great success. There was a general impression that the campaign objectives have been achieved and that in addition valuable lessons have been learned about the current status and priorities of our various departmental HIV/AIDS programmes. Critical mention was made of the fact that planning and capacity building for the campaign started late, and impeded greater effectiveness.



In conclusion an office-to-office campaign is worth being replicated at national and provincial level, in government and in the private sector. This lesson will definitely be built on for future World AIDS Day celebrations.

NEWS FROM IPAA

Swaziland mayors win Commonwealth award on HIV/AIDS

An alliance of mayors in Swaziland has received the 2001 Commonwealth Award for Action on HIV/AIDS for its innovative approach linking local action with national policy-making and international partners. The Swaziland mayors are part of a continent-wide initiative supported by UNDP and the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS): the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders HIV/AIDS in Africa (AMICAALL). Their people-oriented approach builds teams at the municipal level to promote activities against HIV/AIDS. "The alliance in Swaziland shows how AMICAALL is helping translate the vision of the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa, launched by the UN Secretary-General, into concrete action on the ground," said Mina Mauerstein-Bail, director of the AMICAALL partnership programme at UNDP.

For more information, please see <http://www.undp.org/dpa/index.html>



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