



HIV/AIDS AND TB NEWSLETTER

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

Number 16 25 January 2002

EDITOR'S NOTES

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

This is the first newsletter of 2002, and I wish all the readers a very successful 2002. The last year has been a very busy one, and this momentum will surely continue in 2002.

With the focus on Quality Health Care in 2002 for the Health Department, the HIV/AIDS and TB programme will also play its role in achieving this goal.

One strategy to ensure quality health care is through ensuring that our public health workers are properly trained in matters relating to the management of HIV/AIDS, TB and other related infections. The efforts of the last year towards training will continue in 2002. This effort is funded from the Departmental budget, USAID and Pfizer (through the Diflucan Partnership Programme).

MEDIUM TERM DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR TB

A successful launch of the Medium Term Development Plan of the National TB Control Programme by the Minister took place in Standerton (Mpumalanga) on 9 January 2002. Besides staff from the National and Provincial offices of the Health Department, the occasion was also graced by the likes of the Health MECs of Mpumalanga, Free State and Western Cape, Mpumalanga treatment supporters, traditional practitioners, representative from USAID, WHO, local politicians and the community in general.

The launch of the plan should in itself be viewed as the culmination of a sterling effort flowing from the Cairo Agreement of

November 2002. It was here that 22 TB high burden countries represented by their programme managers committed themselves to develop a Global DOTS expansion plan incorporating the development of the National MTDP and building of partnerships.

In South Africa the process of developing the plan mirrored a collaborative effort involving all major stakeholders in the NTCP at all levels as well as key partners in research, NGO and academic communities. The assistance of Royal Netherlands TB Association (KNCV) as well as USAID is incalculable in achieving the consensus reflected in the Plan.

The plan focuses on problems and highlights areas where the expansion of the DOTS strategy is weak. It ensures that the focus from TB is not just talk, but that systems are in place to support and monitor the process of DOTS expansion in all provinces as well as in all sectors.

Adoption and adherence to the elements of the plan ensures that attention is not merely a passing phase, but a tangible demonstration of sustained commitment to improve the diagnosis and treatment of TB. It goes without saying that TB is preventable and curable and application of the MTDP framework will assist in identifying problem areas and harness support to address the specific objectives of the MDTP, which are:

- To expand our current DOTS Strategy so that all people with TB have access to effective diagnosis and treatment in all provinces.
- To adapt and expand this strategy to meet the emerging HIV/AIDS/TB epidemic.
- To strengthen the Stop TB Partnership so that proven TB control strategies are effectively applied.



- To encourage provinces to develop their province-specific plans reflective of their circumstances and prioritisation.
- To improve the management of tuberculosis control in South Africa so as to ensure the sustained improvement in raising cure rates and reducing treatment interruption rates.

If you note the above is in synch will the overall objectives of the TB Programme which are to reduce TB related morbidity and mortality as well as its ongoing transmission, prevent the emergence of drug resistant TB, establish and sustain co-ordination between TB and HIV/AIDS Programme at all levels and ultimately reduce human suffering and its concomitant social and economic costs that is borne as a result of TB

NEWS FROM IPAA

Community AIDS accounts in Zimbabwe

In order to speed up disbursement of funds and to ensure they reach their intended target groups, the resources from Zimbabwe's National AIDS Trust Fund (NATF) are now disbursed to District AIDS Committees after the National AIDS Council has approved their plans. The funds are then channelled to the Ward AIDS Committees' bank accounts. All wards have opened accounts with commercial banks to which three of their members are signatories: the district/urban councillor, traditional chief and the local school headmaster/mistress. All three signatories are people in positions of authority, who are entrusted to make sure that the NATF is given to the deserving people. *For more information, please contact George Tembo at george.tembo@undp.org.*

South African gold company forms pact with labour

South Africa's second biggest gold producer, Goldfields, last month sealed an agreement with mining unions to test and treat workers for the AIDS-causing HIV virus. The agreement was approved by the influential National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and is the first such accord between trade unionists and employers in South Africa. Goldfields

has calculated that AIDS and the management of the disease costs the company about four to five dollars for every ounce of gold they produce. *For more information, please contact Richard Delate at rdelate@un.org.za*

Update on the Global Fund

The global fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria will hold its first board meeting in January to set up procedures for allocating the US\$ 1.6 billion already committed. The fund, championed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan last June, will be an independent legal entity based in Geneva, with an 18-member policy-setting board. Donor countries and developing countries will have seven seats each. In a unique arrangement, non-governmental aid groups and the private sector will also have two seats each. The board intends to hold its first meeting in January 28-29 to adopt the framework document and issue a call for proposals. *For more information, see www.globalfundatm.org*

USEFUL WEBSITES

The following websites could be of interest to you. Please try them out.

www.health.gov.za

www.aidsdirectory.co.za

www.medadvocates.org/news/main10818.html#Week-in-Review

www.dpp.org.za

You are also encouraged to share information on other useful websites. Feedback on the Department of Health website would be especially valuable.



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

Address List for Chief Directorate

Fax: (012) 326-2891 or (012) 323-7323

Dr. Nono Simelela
Chief Director: HIV/AIDS and TB
(012) 312-0121
simeln@health.gov.za

Collen Bonnecwe
Director: HIV/AIDS & STDs
(012) 312-0137
bonnec@health.gov.za

Thami Skenjana
Director: GAAP
(012) 312-0133

Dr. Refiloe Matji
Director: TB
(012) 312-0106
matjir@health.gov.za

