

POLITICAL COMMITMENT FOR AN HIV FREE GENERATION

BOTSWANA EXPERIENCE

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THE SITUATION BEFORE HIV/AIDS

- A good Primary Health Care System
 - ❖ 80% of Population within 10kms of health facility
 - ❖ Primary Health Care Workers at Community level
 - ❖ 90% access to ANC, skilled attendance at birth , PNC, domiciliary. TFR 4.3
 - ❖
 - ❖ 80% immunisation coverage for childhood illnesses
 - ❖ MMR:180 IMR: 45



HIV REVERSED ALL THE PHC GAINS

- ❖ About 275,000 people infected, Prevalence 17.3%.
- ❖ HIV prevalence among pregnant women : 32.4%
- ❖ Transmission from Mother to Child: 30-40%
- ❖ Impact of HIV on health care workers affected quality
- ❖ MMR 250-300 IMR: Over 55 (17% increase)
- ❖ Orphans:66,000
- ❖ Results: Emphasis shifted from holistic care to HIV/AIDS



THE RESPONSE: Political will and commitment

- Good governance and zero tolerance for corruption
- Prudent use of national resources
- Increase of the Health budget to about 22% (Abuja 15% target)
- Striving for Gender equality. Women hold 49 % of posts at decision making level.
- Multi-Sectoral Response, coordinated by NACA
- Collaboration with local stakeholders (civil society, media, the private sector, etc)
- Collaboration with international partners (ACHAP, BMS, PEPFAR, Botswana Harvard, UNAIDS etc).



PREVENTION OF MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV

- Started in 1999: First country to do so
- ❖ Free PMTCT Services in all health facilities in all districts (100% access)
- ❖ Uptake is 89-93%, mainly due to stigma, etc
- ❖ Transmission rate reduced to 3.5% in 2008, from 40% in 2002



PEDIATRIC TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT

- ❖ Over 9,000 Children(about 10% of population on ARV) are on treatment (about 80% of those eligible)



PROTECTION OF ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

- 54,000 of orphans are registered
- 98% receive government support (uniform, toiletries, food basket to assist caregivers)
- Other 2% , the relatives have volunteered to care & support them
- Prevention of orphanhood: ARV uptake is over 90% (60% are women)



PREVENTION IN YOUNG PEOPLE

- ❖ 78.5% (10-14yrs) and 96% (15-24) aware of HIV and AIDS
- ❖ Free schooling up to Tertiary level, with meals provided
- ❖ Life skills education available in all public primary and secondary schools
- ❖ Prevalence reduced by up to 30% in pregnant 15-24yrs olds. Pregnancy rate, from 23% to 10%.
- ❖ HIV prevalence among 15-19year olds is at 6.6%



MORE HAS TO BE DONE

Botswana continues to adapt strategies that enhance the commitment to halt new infections by 2015

Prevention is a priority: development of a National Prevention Plan

- ❖ Special attention on prevention of HIV among Youth and Women. Male involvement and promotion of Gender Equality (MDG3)
- ❖ Strengthening psychosocial support for orphans and caregivers
- ❖ Fostering Civil Society(community/ private sector) driven responses

THANK YOU...

