

DAPP Namibia Accomplishments in Fighting HIV and AIDS

Development Aid from People to People (DAPP) Namibia established the Total Control of the Epidemic (TCE) programme in 2005. During its 15 years of implementation, the programme has evolved in order to meet the ongoing realities of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

According to UNAIDS, 2018, Namibia has an HIV prevalence rate of 12.6%. The most affected populations are the rural poor, particularly marginalised groups such as women, girls and youth. In Namibia, TCE targets people in peri-urban centers and informal settlements around towns where basic public services are difficult to access. Given these realities, the programme had a significant positive effect for people facing marginalisation.

The TCE programme is implemented in close cooperation with the government of Namibia's Ministry of Health and Social Services. DAPP Namibia has built a progressive working relationship with Namibia's government, and this collaboration has been crucial in reaching 75% of the population with HIV prevention, treatment, care and support interventions.

In 2019, the TCE programme worked with health facilities in seven regions of Namibia as follows: Zambezi, Kavango East, Kavango West, Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena, and Khomas. 1,560 individuals were tested and diagnosed with HIV and are currently linked to life saving treatment and adherence support. 2,110 HIV positive pregnant women were enrolled in Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV and Ante-natal Care (ANC) services to ensure they remain healthy, as do their unborn babies. In addition, 3,671 HIV positive people were enrolled in TRIO support groups for treatment adherence.

DAPP Namibia and the Ministry of Health and Social Services established a project to share best practices with the Ministry to scale-up facility and community-based Index Partner HIV Testing implementation in the Kunene, Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, Karas, Hardap and Erongo regions engaging the Ministry's staff.

DAPP Namibia is providing technical support to the Ministry, transferring knowledge gained through its implementation experience, acquired over the years, to help facilitate successful Index Partner HIV Testing scale-up by the Ministry. The collaboration aims to strengthen and achieve an effective increase in HIV case findings and retention in treatment of HIV positive clients in Namibia.

TCE programme activities are directly aligned with the United Nations' UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets to end HIV/AIDS by 2030. The 95-95-95 targets seek to ensure that 95% of all people living with HIV know their Status, 95% of all people living with HIV have access to anti-retroviral therapy (ART), and 95% of all people receiving ART will have viral load suppression.