Making good ‘people sense’


Introduction

HIV and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) are linked especially as the majority of HIV infections are sexually transmitted or related to pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding.

The international community agrees that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will not be achieved without ensuring universal access to SRHR and HIV prevention, treatment, care and
support. This will be achieved by ensuring SRHR and HIV related policies are linked, strengthening the health care system, and providing access to a comprehensive range of integrated SRHR and HIV services.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS), with financial support of the European Union and technical support from UNFPA and UNAIDS, is implementing a catalytic project to strengthen the linkages and integration between Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and HIV in Namibia. The aim of the project is to contribute towards the Maputo Plan of Action and in particular the goal of universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights by effectively and efficiently linking and integrating sexual and reproductive health and HIV at policy, system and service delivery levels. Namibia is one of seven countries in eastern and southern Africa that is implementing this regional level project. The other countries are Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**Objectives of the project:**

- Address barriers to enable efficient and effective linkages and integration between HIV and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights through integrated policies, planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation.

**Namibia is responding to three result areas:**

- **Result area 1**: Linkages between SRHR and HIV integrated in national health and development plans, policies and guidelines.

- **Result area 2**: Improved uptake and delivery of integrated quality services for HIV and SRHR.

- **Result area 3**: Best practice models disseminated to support strengthening of linkages between HIV and SRHR.

**Pilot Activities:**

The project is piloting SRHR and HIV integrated services in the following pilot sites: Khomasdal Health Center, Hakahana Clinic, Namibia Planned Parenthood Association (NAPPA) clinic in Khomas Region, Nau – Aib clinic in Otjozondjupa Region, Epako clinic in Omaheke Region, Okankolo Health Centre in Oshikoto Region and Kanano Clinic in Caprivi Region.

**Expected results of the project**

- Increased understanding and support of the full scope of SRHR and HIV linkages and the policy and systems barriers through sensitization and advocacy among key sectors, donors, civil society and other stakeholders.

- Current status of integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and HIV programmes in Namibia established through the Rapid assessment on SRH and HIV integration in Namibia.