

AIDS

Example: Turning the tide: Comprehensive AIDS control in Mbeya Region, Tanzania

The GTZ-supported Mbeya Regional Programme in Tanzania has shown that even in regions with advanced epidemics, these can be halted and reversed through sustained capacity development and technical support to regional and district health services. The programme illustrates how a comprehensive multi-sectoral approach can contribute to an effective national AIDS response and to the gradual realisation of universal access to prevention, treatment and care in Tanzania. Acknowledging that putting a halt to AIDS is indispensable for effective poverty reduction and sustainable development, the Mbeya programme has begun to mainstream the response to HIV as a cross-cutting issue from national to local level. Concerted action of the public and private sectors and the involvement of those affected by HIV have contributed to this success.



GTZ's approaches and their results

Comprehensive programming: The Mbeya regional AIDS programme is unique in Tanzania in that it encompasses all major elements of a decentralised, comprehensive multi-sectoral AIDS response as recommended by UNAIDS and WHO.

Multisectorality: Advocacy and promotion among the relevant district, regional and national authorities beyond the health sector have achieved wide political support and prepared the foundation for a broader involvement of other sectors, such as education and community development.

Health system development: The region's health system has been strengthened and enabled to fully implement the Tanzanian Health Sector HIV Strategy.

Coverage: More than 5000 condom sales points in the region cover even remote rural areas. The programme reaches more than 80% of the population with sexually transmitted infection (STI) control and health promotion activities.

Prevention: As a result of wide-ranging preventive measures, knowledge about HIV, AIDS and other STIs has increased and the number of new infections in the project area has demonstrably dropped. Young people become sexually active later, and there is less discrimination against people living with HIV.

Treatment: With the arrival of antiretroviral (ARV) treatment in the region, the demand for counselling and testing has increased substantially and is met by the Mbeya programme. The programme has become a pioneer in the scaling up of antiretroviral therapy (ART) and of prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services, which are provided in all districts.

Capacity development: Through sustained capacity development of key actors at the regional, district and

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community levels, the Mbeya programme has succeeded in decentralising its AIDS response: now 95% of the HIV, AIDS and STI activities in the region are planned and implemented by regional and district staff. Training programmes for council multi-sectoral AIDS committees (CMACs) have improved their ability to plan local responses to AIDS and to mobilise resources locally.

Monitoring and evaluation: The Mbeya programme conducts annual sentinel surveillance, operational research and behavioural surveillance to closely monitor its HIV and STI epidemics. GTZ support has enabled the Mbeya AIDS programme to use these data for the planning and fine-tuning of their interventions.

Centre of excellence: Based on the results it has achieved and on the wide range of tools it has developed, the Mbeya programme has become not just a national but a regional centre of excellence for the training of service providers and of district AIDS committees. Tanzania's AIDS Council and its Ministry of Health today apply the experience and lessons learned in Mbeya in many other parts of the country. Documented in the UNAIDS Best Practice Collection, the Mbeya programme has made an important contribution to the international discussion of how to respond to AIDS in countries with advanced epidemics.



GTZ'S service package

In full support of the Three Ones principle and of the global initiative to reach universal access, GTZ aims to contribute to effective responses to AIDS by strengthening country-led processes and by working towards harmonisation between development partners and alignment of all contributions to the partner country's national AIDS programme. For each of our partners and clients, we offer customised service packages that can meet their specific needs.

Policy advice: We work with ministries of health, national AIDS councils, and country coordinating mechanisms on the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of comprehensive multi-sectoral responses to AIDS. Our policy experts provide decision-makers with the knowledge and the tools to build policy frameworks through which prevention, treatment and care, and impact mitigation can be established nationwide.

Capacity development: For over 30 years, GTZ's key tasks have included developing its partners' potential and capacities, and moderating the concomitant processes of learning and change. GTZ sees capacity development as the process of strengthening the abilities or capacities of individuals, organizations and societies to make effective and efficient use of resources in order to achieve their own goals on a sustainable basis. This is done by investing in people, organizations, institutions and policies within the framework of the national development strategy of the respective country.

Participation and stakeholder involvement: GTZ supports broad involvement of all sectors of society throughout the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of an AIDS response. In doing so, we involve all political decision-makers, major stakeholders and the people living with HIV in the planning and implementation of all our interventions.

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