LCS HIV programming

SACC P. Scout
HIV & TB situation

• Lesotho’s population is estimated at 1.8million (census 2006).
• She has 2\textsuperscript{nd} Highest adult HIV prevalence of 23% (DHS 2009), however still awaiting the publication of the latest DHS report.
• Inmates population estimated around 2438.
  – Males 2376  Females 62
  – Female juveniles 5 and 33 male juveniles.
  – Proportion of females to males is around 1:38
• HIV prevalence among male inmates is estimated at 31.4\% and 69\% among female inmates (LCS survey 2011). Thus supporting international reports that HIV prevalence is higher in prison settings than in the general public.
HIV & TB situation Cont.....

• National TB incidences: Lesotho remains the highest at TB incident rate of 916 cases per 100,000 population, placing the country 1st among 15 countries of the world with the highest incidence (Latest TB Statistics).

• Even though there has not been a study to investigate the extent of TB infection within Lesotho’s correctional facilities, it is however been reported there are generally much higher levels of TB incidences in prison population compared to the general population (WHO ICRC: 2000).

• Lesotho has reported that 74% of newly detected TB patients are co-infected with HIV.
Risk practices predisposing inmates to HIV infections

• Consensual and non-consensual sexual Practices. LCS Survey 2011 reveals sexual behaviour among the male inmates after incarcerations as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Total inmates respondents (512) n= Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Note- 35 of the male inmates respondents said it was consensual, only 9 used a condom, 14 do discuss HIV, AIDS and STI’s with their sexual partner.
Summary: HIV Sero-prevalence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>HIV -ve</th>
<th>HIV +ve</th>
<th>Indeterminant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male Staff</td>
<td>76.4</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Staff</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Inmate</td>
<td>68.4</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Inmate</td>
<td>69.2</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Interventions

Management and coordination

- Health section established in 2005
- Health personnel deployed across the country since 2006
  - One nursing sister per institution (12 Institutions)
  - At regional level (3 regions)
    - Nursing officers
    - Health inspectors
    - Nutrition officers
    - Pharmacy technologists
- Services are still mainly targeted at inmates but there are some members of staff who are now receiving ART packages inside.
- Support from global fund and UNODC for equipment and training
- HIV Sero-prevalence and behavioral survey report released in 2011
- Survey on the extent of treatment defaulters among ex-inmates completed
- Database for inmates on TB treatment and ART also developed
- LCS infrastructure improvement plan approved by the Ministry of development planning
- Legal and policy framework review carried out through support from UNODC
Prevention

- Inmates have access to HTC
- *Condoms and lubricants also accessible to inmates*
  - **Review coming up soon**
    - *Is the programme working?*
    - *What are the gaps? etc*
- Inmates and members of staff trained as peer educators
- Training of master trainers (UNODC support)
- Collaboration with non-governmental organizations
  - Sesotho media
  - LPPA
  - ‘Mantsopa coms
    » Drama
  - ADRA
  - LENASO
- PMTCT for all pregnant inmates
- Training of Juveniles on HIV & AIDS and life skills through support from [Kick for life](#) and [Phela](#).
- Health Education
- Access to PEP
TB/HIV collaborative activities

• Mass TB screening is done every six months
• All TB patients are offered HIV testing
• All HIV positive inmates are screened for TB
• M/hoek has started initiating anti TB drugs
• World TB day to be commemorated on 30\textsuperscript{th} March
  – MCCI TB clinic to be launched
• Working in close collaboration with the NTP in the Ministry of health
  – All clinics supervised by district TB coordinators
  – IPT rollout started in M/hoek correctional institution
• Minimum health package developed with assistance from ICAP
• Database of inmates on ART and TB treatment developed.
Condom programming

- It is important to note that, the law prohibits men from having sex with other men (MSM or WSW)
- However, being in possession of a condom is still not a contravention of any law in the country regardless of whether one is in a heterosexual or homosexual relationship (legal review report 2013)
- Having considered all the avenues and based on the conviction that the law is promulgated in good spirit to enhance the wellbeing of the entire citizenry, in 2004 the department followed a **public health approach** and took an administrative decision to make **condoms** available in correctional institutions as part of a **comprehensive HIV prevention package**.
Way forward

• A follow up sero-prevalence survey
• What is driving the epidemic in correctional facilities?
• Are the interventions having any impact?
• Review of the condom programming
  – Are condoms being used?
  – Are there any gaps?
  – How can we improve?
• Are people really getting infected inside?
• Treatment defaulting among ex-inmates, how bad is it?
• Is health promotion in prisons adequate?
• Is the epidemic in the general population influencing the epidemic in correctional facilities in anyway?
Khotso Pula Nala