

SADC Parliamentarians and HIV AIDS

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OBJECTIVE OF SADC PF/NDI PROGRAM

- **To collect information on legislative actions and activities in the region on HIV/AIDS**
- **To identify best practices, lessons learned, and constraints in national responses to HIV/AIDS**
- **To develop a database with comparative information on HIV/AIDS legislation, policies, and reports**
- **To establish a regional network of parliamentarians responsible for HIV/AIDS issues**

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

- **Collection of of HIV/AIDS policies, strategic plans , legislation, and reports.**
- **In-depth interviews with MPs (32), NACs and ministries of health (14), NGOs (26), and private sector (4)**

KEY FINDINGS: SUCCESSES

- **HIV/AIDS is perceived as a serious challenge in all SADC countries**
- **Gender inequality as an overriding issue**
- **Most countries have national HIV/AIDS strategic plans with multi-sectoral focus**
- **Most have successful PMTCT programs, but many countries have not fully implemented their national HIV/AIDS programs, especially with respect to treatment and care**

KEY FINDINGS: CHALLENGES

- **Inadequate human and financial resources**
- **Few parliaments allocate 15 percent of the national budget to the health sector as recommended by the SADC plan of action**
- **Most parliaments have not enacted specific HIV/AIDS legislation**
- **Few parliaments have addressed the growing problem of orphans.**

KEY FINDINGS: CHALLENGES

- **Parliamentarians lack knowledge about the basic facts of HIV/AIDS**
- **Some parliaments have no portfolio committee on HIV/AIDS**
- **Stigma, fear, and discrimination remain major impediments to the success of VCT programs**
- **Coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of HIV/AIDS programs are often weak**

KEY FINDINGS: Parliamentarians' Recommendations

- **More parliamentary cooperation at the regional level**
- **More information sharing on best practices and successful interventions**
- **Private sector should be mobilized to play a bigger role in responding to HIV/AIDS**
- **SADC Parliamentary Forum should facilitate enhanced information sharing and joint interventions to combat HIV/AIDS**

