



Southern African HIV Clinicians Society 3rd Biennial Conference

13 - 16 April 2016
Sandton Convention Centre
Johannesburg

**Our Issues, Our Drugs,
Our Patients**

www.sahivsoc.org
www.sahivsoc2016.co.za

Sex Workers programme focuses on key population

- There is high HIV prevalence amongst sex workers compared to general population
- HIV prevalence amongst SW 40%-60% compared to 13% general population
- Key population lack access to health services due to various reasons
- Sex workers contribute 20% to new infections
- HIV prevalence very high with 72% from unpublished SAHMS 2012

Background

- Started in 1996 as a microbicides study in response to sex worker's unmet sexual and reproductive health needs and barriers to access health care
- Partnered with CoJ and DoH in 2000 to start brothel-based and clinic services
- Currently providing services to 22 brothels in Hillbrow and outreach services beyond
- Recently expanded services to Ekurhuleni, Pretoria and National
- Programme aims to reduce the rate of STIs and HIV transmission by providing HIV prevention services and other related diseases to sex workers and their clients



We have three sex work specific sites

Cities:

- **City of Johannesburg**
- Inner-City
- Southern Suburb
- **Ekurhuleni**
- Germiston
- Benoni
- Boksburg
- Springs
- Kempton Park
- Nigel
- **City of Tshwane**
- CBD
- Hammanskraal
- Bronkhorstspuit
- Olievenhoutbosch
- Winterveldt



National sites

- Establish wellness clinic for Sex Workers and Truckers
 - Pomona (Gauteng)
 - Phongolo (KZN)
 - Cato Ridge (KZN)
 - Ngodwana(Mpumalanga)
 - Bloemhof(North West)
 - Upington (Northern Cape)
 - Mussina and Hoedspruit (Limpopo)
 - Bloemfontein(Free State)



Approaches used

- Provides comprehensive clinic-based services from
- Esselen Street Clinic Monday to Friday from 08h00-11h30
- Brothel-based comprehensive services from Tuesday to Thursday from 12h30
- Mobile Clinic Services to street-based sex workers on Fridays (Mnyamandawo: dark place, bushes)
- Peer Educator programme



Peer Educator Led Outreach

- Peer educators current and former sex workers have been trained to provide HIV prevention services
- Peer educators undergo intensive in-house training that covers health topics
- In addition some are trained as human rights defenders and to perform HIV finger prick testing
- Peer educator works in a small location among their social networks making systematic and regular contact with sex workers—both one-to-one and in groups



Peer Educators crossing the river





Condom distribution: caution



Red Umbrella condoms

- Clinic attendance has increased
- Sex workers change wigs to get more condoms
- A physical fights amongst sex workers was reported
- Sex workers charge more money
- Good feedback from clients



Peer Educators preparing for outreach



Creative space feedback

“To attend Creative Space is whereby you distress yourself by sharing problems e.g. police harassment, getting more information on STIs, HIV/AIDS, treatment, condom use by demonstrating how to use condoms properly”.

“I like the fact that everybody was competent, everything was educational in regards with infections and STI`s. We wish to come back again. The facilitator is very good and patient”.

“The topic about human rights was splendid, fun and interesting it made everyone feel special, confident and safe about their bodies and most importantly it inspires”.

“The Facilitator did not Judge me, it was clear what services are available. I like the Fact that most of us Sex Workers access Health knowledge during the Risk reduction workshops , I did not like that Sex Workers come late to attend the workshop and end up not receiving transport stipend due to higher number of Sex Workers who attend the workshop . I have learned about the risks of Alcohol and substance abuse when doing sex work because it can lead into unsafe sex”.

“By attending Creative Space we learn the importance of doing HCT and always practising safe sex by using condom, we also learn why is important to treat STIs ”

“We also like the fact that it is a psychosocial support, we learn and share our experiences and challenges and the facilitator is understandable, friendly and approachable”

Sisonke news letter



Izwi Lethu:
Our Voice

May 2015

A NEWSLETTER BY SEX WORKERS FOR SEX WORKERS

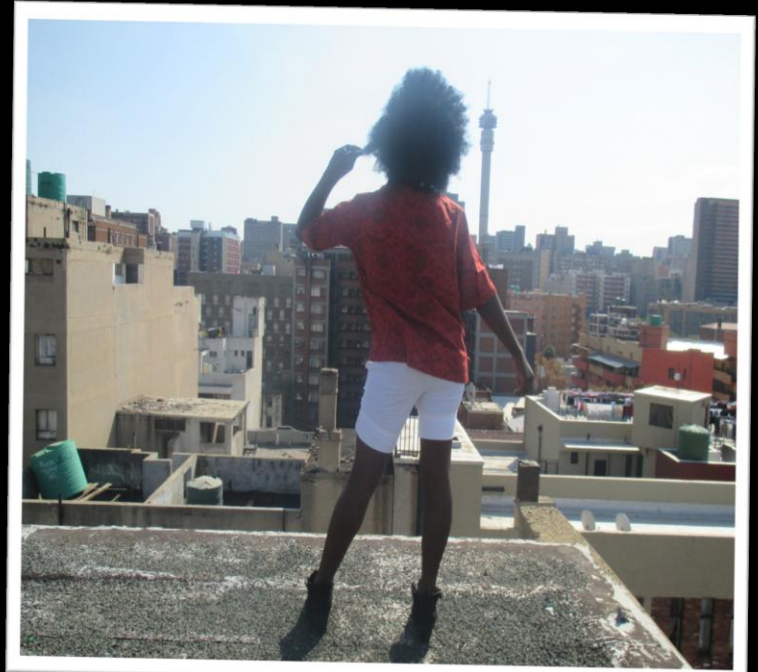
IN THIS ISSUE



Sisonke news letter

- It has got guest column
- Features sex workers stories
- It has got legal and health tips
- Its distributed through outreach, creative space, to DoH, other partners.
- Future plan is to translate African languages

IZWI LETHU: OUR VOICE



Gauteng Legislature involvement

- Sex Work dialogue was held in December 2014
- About 300 sex workers attended the event
- Follow up with sex worker parliament day on the 10th December 2015
- More than 100 sex workers attended the event



Engage with Religious groups

- City of Tshwane Desk of Religious Leaders
- 19 Pastors from different denominations attended sensitization training
- One of Trans Gender sex work was invited to talk about SW in church
- The Manager has a draft of SW and religious group work plan
- **Aim is to de-stigmatise and offer SW; spiritual, emotional and psychosocial**



Close partnership with DoH



- National Sex Workers Plan launched 11th /03 by Deputy President
- Introducing new flavoured condoms



What is the TAPS Demonstration Project?

Expanded use of ARV for Treatment And
Prevention for female Sex workers in South
Africa



Will FSWs use PrEP and Immediate Treatment?

The TAPS Demonstration Project is an implementation study to assess whether it is feasible, acceptable, safe and cost effective to roll out oral PrEP as part of a combination prevention package, and immediate treatment (IT $>500\text{cells}/\text{mm}^3$) as part of an HIV care intervention, to female sex workers (FSWs) in two urban sites in South Africa.

- DoH supported the project and learning from it

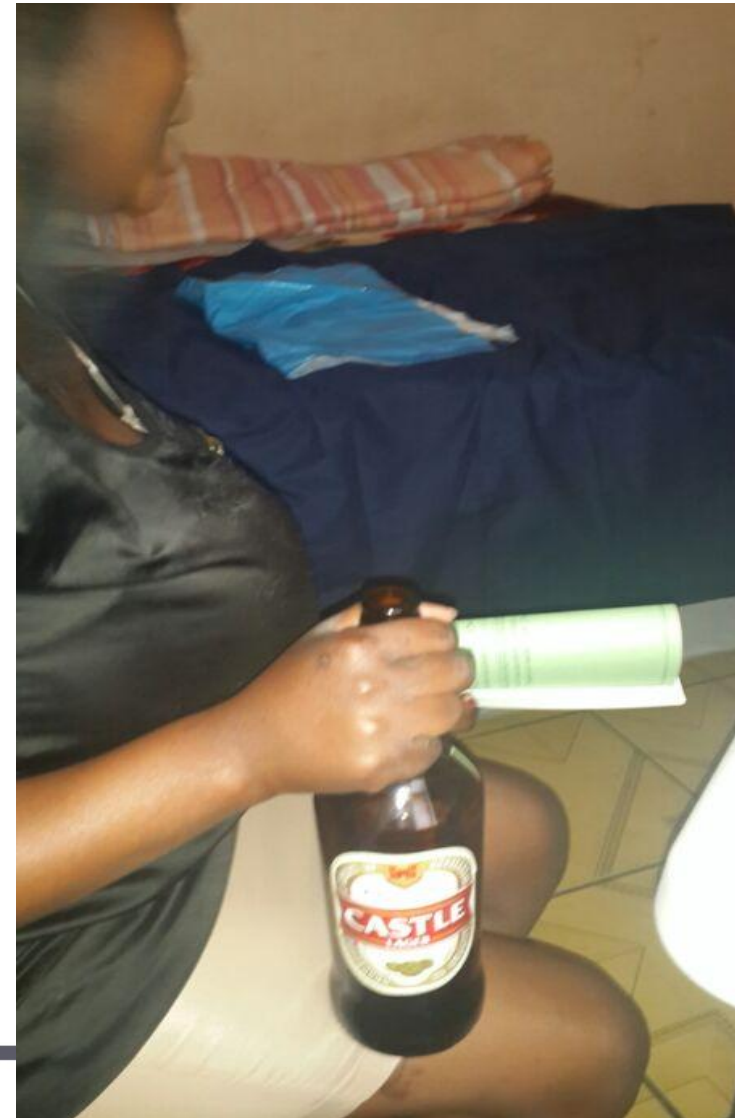
Best Practises

- NiMART- started 2010
- Provision of mobile clinic services to brothels
- Provision of services to street based-sex workers using mobile van
- Creative Space
- **SAPS sensitization- to build healthy relationships between sex workers and police**
- **Collaborating with SWEAT and Sisonke**



Lessons Learned

- Sex worker oriented service delivery – **Drop in centres???**
- Non judgemental attitude (open minded)
- Flexible to deal with the dynamics of sex workers (nudity, vulgar, violence, intoxication)
- **Render services quickly because time is money**
- Strategies to be able to deal with brothel managers



What are the challenges working with sex workers?

- Lack of privacy and confidentiality –due lack of space at the brothels
- Less than optimum working conditions for the Sex Work Team
- Safety and security of staff (swimming)
- Parking problems in some brothels



Acknowledgements

- CoJ
- DoH
- SWEAT
- Sisonke
- WLC
- Sex Work team
- Brothel managers
- Global Fund
- PEPFAR
- Prof Rees

