

SANAC NEWS



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World AIDS Day 2016 – It is in our hands!

- *Comms Team*



1 DECEMBER 2016
WORLD AIDS DAY
IT IS IN OUR HANDS TO END HIV AND TB

While South Africa has over 3.7 million people on HIV treatment, SANAC Chair, Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa raised concerns about the rise in new infections and called on all South Africans to get involved during his keynote address at the 2016 World AIDS Day commemoration held at Sinaba Stadium in Daveyton, Ekurhuleni.

“As we applaud our remarkable achievements in expanding antiretroviral treatment to more than 3.7 million people, as we celebrate the dramatic reduction of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, as we welcome the marked increase in average life expectancy, we must be alarmed that the rate of new HIV infection remains stubbornly high,” he said.

Last year, an estimated 266 000 South Africans became infected with HIV. Each week, there are about 2 000 new HIV infections in adolescent girls and young women aged 15 to 24 years. Deputy President Ramaphosa warned that unless the country acts now to reduce new infections, gains made in the struggle against AIDS will be eroded.

“Unless we act now to reduce new HIV infections, the health and lives of millions more South Africans will be put at risk. Unless we act now to reduce new HIV infections, millions more will be vulnerable to tuberculosis. Unless we act now to reduce new HIV infections, we will struggle to sustain our antiretroviral treatment programme,” he said.

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"We must stand up for the rights of all people to information, support, health and dignity."

SANAC Chair, Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa

Prior to delivering the keynote address, Ramaphosa received a Memorandum of Understanding from the Treatment Action Campaign, which called for accelerated efforts on HIV response.

Ramaphosa also engaged with adolescent girls and young women during an exclusive session where they could voice their concerns to government in a safe and open space. He commended six girls for talking about the challenges they experience, including pregnancy and the issue of a lack of sanitary pads. "We want sex education not only in school, but we also want parents at home to educate their children on sex. Sex education must be spread out in the school curriculum," he said at the dialogue.

He added that the youth must feel empowered to abstain from sex until they are ready. In addition, young people must have the confidence to insist on using condoms. "They must have the

confidence to say: One condom one round," he said. The deputy president urged men to get tested for HIV and go on treatment as soon as they are diagnosed HIV positive. "We must challenge the unequal power relations between men and women, particularly older men and younger women."

The deputy president also spoke out about the victimisation of vulnerable groups like sex workers and members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex (LGBTI) community. "We must stand up for the rights of all people to information, support, health and dignity."

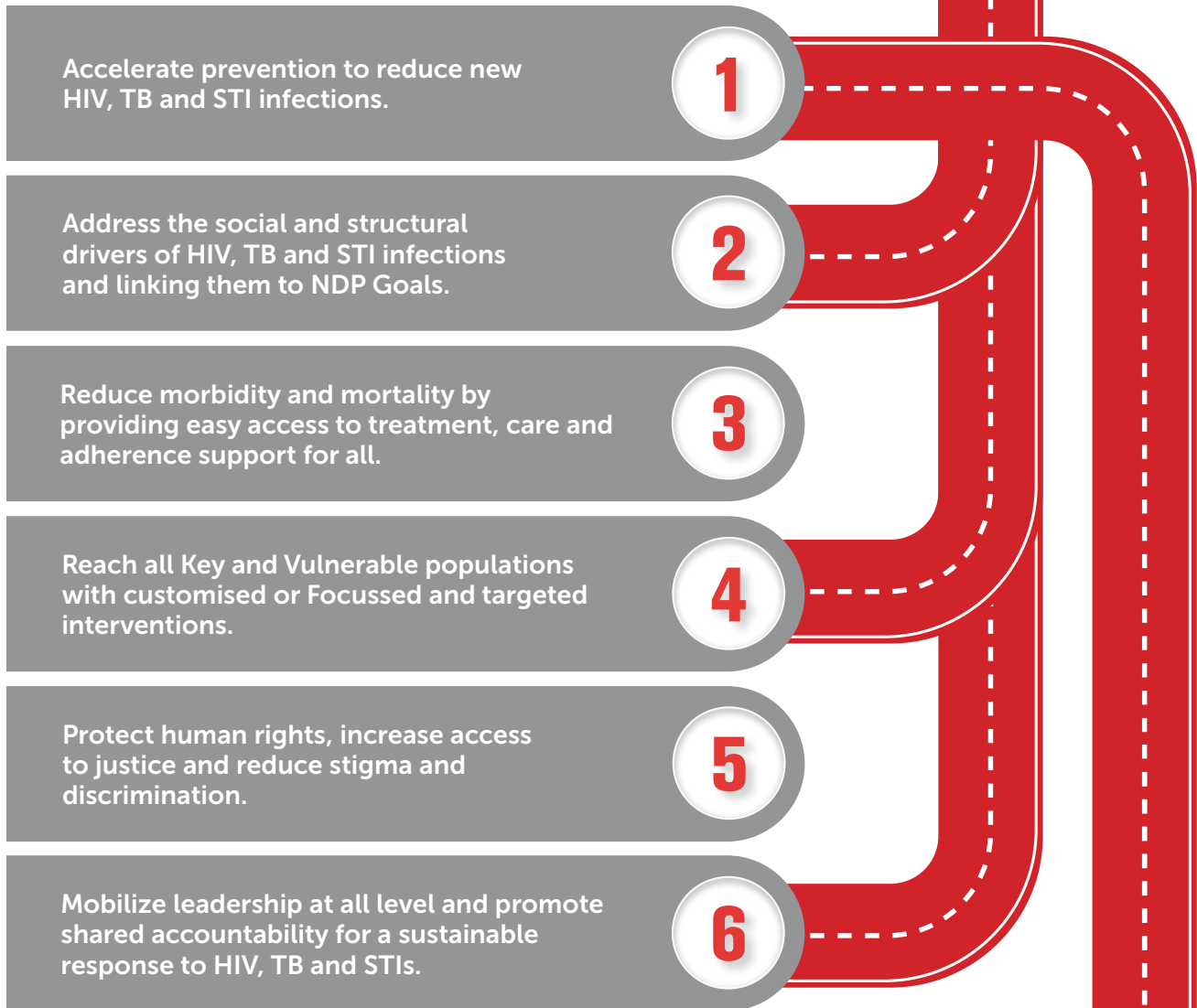
Government welcomed the ground-breaking HIV vaccine trial that was recently launched. "We must find hope in the scientific advances in treatment, prevention and vaccine research. We welcome in particular the ground-breaking new HIV vaccine trial that has just been launched in this country, and applaud the South African scientists who are leading this critical research." ■

Road to new NSP

- *Comms Team*

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2017 – 2022

The analysis of the progress we have made in our response to the HIV, TB and STI epidemics and the wisdom from wide consultations has led us to our six goals, with objectives, for the NSP 2017-2022.



In 2016 SANAC embarked on a process of getting input from a diverse group of stakeholders, including civil society, on key questions around what should be in the next National Strategic Plan (NSP) for HIV, TB and STIs 2017-2022. This culminated in a national stakeholder meeting where key issues were debated before a preliminary draft of the NSP

document was developed and then passed through the SANAC structures.

This process was supplemented by opportunities for people to give their opinion through various media platforms including Twitter, Facebook and the SANAC website. ■

Priorities for South African women in the new NSP

- Karabo Skosana, Rebaone Petlele



As South Africa forges ahead with the development of the country's next five year plan for HIV, STIs and TB, we must acknowledge the gendered nature of the epidemic. We cannot afford NOT to prioritise and target the response towards women, and young women in particular who are the most vulnerable.

The SANAC women's sector has taken a pro-active approach to ensuring that women's voices and priorities from around the country are documented and put forward for consideration in the Plan. The sector conceptualised and hosted a two-day summit from the 03rd to the 4th of November 2016 in Ekurhuleni. This summit provided a safe environment for women representing all nine provinces to deliberate on priorities for women and to conduct an introspection of the functionality and accountability of the sector to support the implementation of the NSP.

The following were their recommendations of priorities for inclusion in the NSP:

- Clear continuum of care for HIV negative women
- Gender transformative education in schools
- Pairing of prevention with education and community empowerment

- Information sharing of new prevention technologies with women on the ground
- Treatment adherence programmes nuanced to women's needs
- PrEP to be offered to all HIV negative women
- National and intensive programmes on stigma and discrimination
- Gender based violence and economic empowerment programmes to be given as much weight as prevention and treatment programmes
- Strengthen capacity and accountability of AIDS councils and sectors at the provincial, district and local level to coordinate and implement the NSP

The women's summit strongly advocated for prevention as the best weapon against the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the need for this to be front and centre in the NSP 2017-2022. The women's sector called for increased access to, availability of and more education around the consistent and correct use of female condoms. ■

She Conquers at the Union Buildings

- *Relebohile Motana*



On the 25th of August 2016, high school students were welcomed at the Union Buildings by the Deputy Minister in the Presidency, Buti Manamela, She Conquers Campaign Technical Staff from the National Department of Health and the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC).

The students were from the Bukho Bami Youth Centre, a youth based organisation based in Dobsonville Soweto. The Centre provides a conducive environment for the development, upliftment and empowerment of disadvantaged youth. Young people are vulnerable to social ills such as teenage pregnancy, substance and alcohol abuse and dropping out of school due to structural challenges in the community.

The youth attended the meeting with the likes of Miss South Africa, Ntandoyenkosi Kunene (24), young successful entrepreneurs Siya Beyile (22) founder of The Threaded Man and Mogau Mosebjadi (25) founder of The Lazy Makoti. A common message from the young leaders was that, young people should have goals, use available support structures to reach their goals and to never allow their background to determine their future.

The experiences, advises and aspirations expressed by the young people were encouraging to the SHE Conquers Campaign partners because the young people declared taking responsibility to become economically active through furthering their studies and joining the job market or by becoming entrepreneurs. This speaks to one of the objectives of the Campaign which is: "Increase economic opportunities for young people, particularly for young women".

The National Youth Policy

The National Youth Policy 2015 -2020 (NYP 2020) offers a variety of opportunities that streamlines relevant institutions to respond to social, economic and health issues that are barriers for young people in reaching their full potential.

Considering the objectives of the NYP 2020 the deputy minister encouraged the young people to make the most of the education facilities and support structures offered by government and partner organisations. He said, he was glad to hear the lucrative careers that the young people want to pursue and it was a sign of hope for the country. The deputy minister closed his address by advising the young people not to fear the possibility that they will change their minds about their careers one day, because as they get exposed to more information and experiences their interests could change for better prospects.

SANAC CEO, Dr Fareed Abdullah encouraged the students to understand their environment and the challenges that it presents, to prevent any obstacles from reaching their goals. One of the challenges he mentioned was the HIV epidemic. He said, they need to use condoms if they are sexually active, to reduce their chances of contracting HIV or unwanted pregnancies.

The day ended with a tour led by the deputy minister around the Union Buildings, which educated the students on the country's public administration and to see where the main decisions of the country are made, in the Presidential Unit. ■

HIV is everybody's business: SANAC private sector strategy - Dr. Gwen Ramokgopa



South Africa has made significant progress over the past decade to combat HIV and TB, however, the burden of these epidemics on the society and economy in our country remain high. There are 7 million South Africans living with HIV. Even though more than half of these are on antiretroviral treatment, there are still 150 000 deaths and more than 270 000 new HIV infections each year. The HIV epidemic generates about 450 000 new cases of TB each year joining these two epidemics at the hip.

As HIV affects the productive adult population it has had an enormous impact in the workplace and in the community. During the early stages of the epidemic, many companies in South Africa took bold steps in responding to HIV, including providing self-funded antiretroviral programmes, as soon as they were available, to employees and their spouses. By 2006, 90 000 patients in the private sector were on treatment, and by 2008, this had increased to 120 000 (around 21% of the total patients on ARVs). This figure now stands at 250 000. Since that time, the sector's commitment to the HIV response has evolved and shifted, and the importance of HIV as a threat to business security has declined significantly.

The South African National AIDS Council believes that AIDS is very much unfinished business and that important opportunities exist for the total control of these two epidemics by 2030. With improved treatment and new tools for prevention this is

now a possibility but will require a more substantial role from the private sector.

Engaging the private sector is key to reaching the ambitious targets that we have set at the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) for the total control of the HIV epidemic. Because we recognize that the goals of the National Strategic Plan cannot be achieved without a vibrant and robust private sector, SANAC is pursuing a strategy of engagement that prioritises partnerships, and leverages the unique skills, resources and capabilities of the business community.

In response to this changing context, we have made partnering with the private sector more central to how we do business. SANAC is committed to further engaging with the private sector as a long-term partner in the response to HIV and TB - a goal that is within our reach, now more than ever before, but one that will only be accomplished by working together.

SANAC's private sector strategy was developed together with our key private sector partners in SABCOHA and in industry and aims to appeal to the business-mindedness of the private sector and the need to forge symbiotic partnerships that benefit our various goals and improve the bottom line during the hard times that we all currently face.

We look forward to working with the private sector in a way that we have not seen before. ■

Looking back, looking ahead: An interview with SANAC CEO, Dr. Fareed Abdullah

- Nelson Dlamini



What were some of SANAC's highlights in 2016?

This (2016) has been our best year at SANAC from all points of view. Internally, we have a full team now and we have increased our funding significantly. Administration is working well; we've just had our 4th unqualified audit.

In addition to those, we've had some really important projects, like the National Young Women's campaign and the DREAMS project, which both started on 1 April this year. DREAMS in 19 municipalities of Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal and the Young Women's campaign in 10 districts funded by the Global Fund. In 2016 we put the plight of young women on the map like never before. We have progressed with our work with key populations, especially sex workers, MSMs and LGBTI communities. We applied for a new Global Fund grant which was approved. As part of that fund, we signed the national framework agreement with our government. The Global Fund grant is R304 million over 3 years.

With the Sex Worker Plan, we'll reach 70 000 sex workers over the next 3 years across the country. We also raised funds for the Thuthuzela Care Centres – which are rape survivor centres. There are 52 of them across the country and they were short of funds. And we also raised funds for people who use drugs and prison inmates who form part of key populations. One other big thing which put SANAC on the map was the International AIDS Conference from a branding and communication point of view – I think SANAC has become a wellknown entity around the country. The preparation of the new NSP was also a highlight for this year.

What were some of the challenges encountered this year?

The absence of a real participation by the private sector was an obstacle we hope to address going forward. We're also too dependent on donor funding so we need to increase funding from government. We did not have enough resources to respond to TB and STIs. There are still conflicts here and there since SANAC is a multi-stakeholder organisation, we need to do much more to build trust and improve participation.

What can we expect or look forward to in the new year?

Firstly, the launch of the new NSP on World TB Day in March. The inter-ministerial committee and the SANAC plenary recently approved its (NSP) goals and objectives.

Secondly, the launch of the LGBTI Plan on HIV which aims to reach over 200 000 LGBTIs across the country over 3 years. Thirdly, the SANAC Board has also approved the private sector strategy, and lastly, the rollout of capacity-building for the District AIDS Councils from January. We also hope to do more work on the TB response.

Your end of year message to the SANAC family?

Everybody needs to be thanked and congratulated for a very successful year. I hope everybody has a restful holiday so that when we return in January, we are ready to make 2017 an even greater year for SANAC. ■

Getting to know ...

Dr. Connie Kganakga (Executive Manager: NSP)

- Nelson Dlamini



What does your work entail?

My work entails facilitating the implementation of the NSP. Remember SANAC isn't implementing per se, but coordinating input from the various sectors and stakeholders. So we do a lot of engagements with government, civil society and development partners. Our responsibility is also to ensure that the Provincial AIDS Councils function optimally so we design and implement capacity-building strategies for them.

Interesting things that you love about your work?

The work we do with adolescent girls and young women because they are the hardest hit by the (HIV/AIDS) pandemic. The 2000 new HIV infections every week is a worrying trend. So through the She Conquers and the DREAMS programmes as well as the involvement from The Presidency, we hope to turn the tide against the pandemic. The DREAMS programme excites me a lot because it is a multi-sectoral approach. We might be working with a few provinces but at least we have a lot of stakeholders on board. Lessons learnt from there will help us a lot going forward. And the other thing is trying to develop some kind of working relations with other stakeholders in unison because we cannot work in isolation. For the first time we now have an agreement to work with SALGA, that's a vehicle for us to be able to work with CoGTA which is responsible for the municipalities. If you don't have the municipalities on board, the NSP is not going to work, we need them to help us achieve the 90-90-90 target.

Highlights for 2016?

Launching the Sex Worker programme was a big highlight for me – a first in the region! And now we're working on the LGBTI Plan (on HIV) as well.

The one thing people don't know about Dr. Kganakga?

I'm a village girl so I love my pap and morogo and I'm very particular about how my pap is cooked. But the biggest one was that I learnt how to swim in my old age! Just after retirement! I learnt how to do the backstrokes, laps on an Olympic-sized pool etc.

Exciting holiday plans?

I'm driving to Botswana, I have relatives there who live in a village (rural area) – a quiet place very far from the city, just to unwind. ■

2016: THE YEAR IN PICTURES ...

- Comms Team

SANAC Plenary



SANAC held its high level plenary to reflect on the progress of the current National Strategic Plan (NSP: 2012-2016) that is coming to an end this year. The plenary also drew lessons for the new NSP (2017-2022) which is set to be launched on World TB Day in March 2017.



The plenary was also attended by civil society representatives, researchers as well as ministers and deputy ministers, including Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Bheki Cele and UNAIDS Country Coordinator Dr. Erasmus Morah.

2016: THE YEAR IN PICTURES ...

She Conquers



Deputy President of South Africa and SANAC Chairperson, Cyril Ramaphosa, launched the ambitious national campaign to prevent HIV among young women and adolescent girls on 24 June in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal. The campaign will respond to the unacceptably high rate of new HIV infections among young women and adolescent girls in the country.

The logo for She Conquers is representative of the youth of South Africa, specifically adolescent girls and young women aged 15 – 24.

Sex Workers



One of SANAC's events at AIDS2016 was a satellite session that kicked off with a vibrant demonstration by the sex work sector and was followed by a robust panel discussion that was co-chaired by Deputy Minister of Social Development Henrietta Bogopane-Zulu and Sisonke Chairperson Kholi Buthelezi.

The panel discussed topics including access and roll out to PrEP and Universal Test and Treat, as well as a heated discussion on the legal position on sex work.