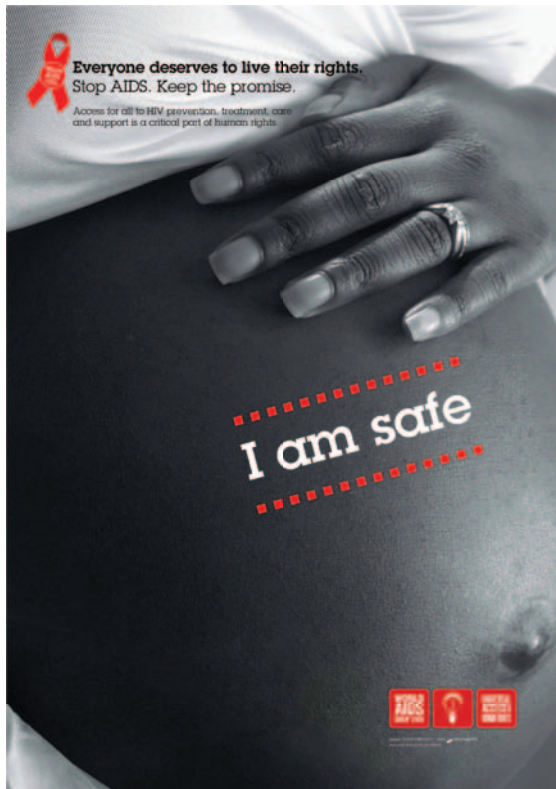


Universal Treatment Access



World AIDS Day allows a unique opportunity for governments, organisations and individuals to unify around a collective theme in addressing HIV and AIDS globally. This year's is Universal Access to HIV and AIDS Treatment.

Global leaders have pledged to work towards universal access to HIV and AIDS treatment, prevention and care, recognising these as fundamental human rights. Valuable progress has been made in increasing access to HIV and AIDS services, yet greater commitment is needed around the world if the goal of universal access is to be achieved.

Six years ago in South Africa, there were no people receiving government funded retrovirals, today there are 1,15 million people on retrovirals and some 42% of people eligible for treatment are unable to access it.

The Siyakhana project has played a noteworthy role through both its capacity building and workplace programmes to facilitate access to treatment. Combining both programmes and over the entire project span, some 40 000 people have tested for HIV and AIDS, and some 6 000 have tested positive. The treatment component is caring, active and ongoing.

One of the ways in which World AIDS Day creates synergies around HIV and AIDS is by developing posters that anyone can download and use. This one is one of three and when it was downloaded mid-November, 8 424 posters had been downloaded in 13 different international languages, of which one was isiXhosa!

For more details visit:

- www.avert.org/world-aids-day.htm
- www.worldaidscampaign.org

PREVENTION, PREVENTION, PREVENTION

A strong message emerging from the 3rd HIV at Work Conference held in Johannesburg recently, is that AIDS treatment without emphasis on prevention is like mopping the floor while the tap is running.

Siyakhana project manager Dr Simeon Odugwu reports on the conference. "The focus of the well-attended conference was PREVENTION of HIV infection – for very good reasons. With over 1.15 million people now on antiretroviral treatment the national HIV treatment programme has made huge

strides. Six years ago there was not one person receiving ART from government and now, in 2010, there are 1.2 million people registered on the country's treatment programme, with an anticipated 2.3 million by 2013. However this number represents only some 42% of those requiring treatment in South Africa. Furthermore, for every two people started on antiretroviral treatment, five new infections are recorded. This means that the burden of disease is increasing exponentially and with it the burden of care.

It is clear therefore that the key to containing the epidemic lies in the PREVENTION of new infections. Since the HIV epidemic in South Africa is driven mainly by consensual heterosexual intercourse one would have thought that mass health education is the magic wand we need. Clearly, mass health education is necessary but not sufficient in itself. Well-known effective prevention tools such as abstinence, being faithful, condom promotion and delaying sexual debut remain relevant to prevention. Added

to these are some novel prevention ideas such as medical male circumcision and research into the use of microbicides. From a business perspective, a scorecard developed by AIDS Accountability International which will be piloted in the Eastern Cape in early 2011 identifies gaps between commitments and actual performance and applies pressure on corporate leadership to move from expression of commitment to actual implementation."

For more details on the conference visit

- www.sabcoha.org



MBSA's Dr Clifford Panter, Johann Evertse and Siyakhana's Dr Simeon Odugwu

Siyakhana comes out tops

With 98% of its funding coming from three funders, funding reports and being evaluated are business as usual for the Siyakhana project. Evaluation teams are generally appointed by funders who want to verify that the project deliverables are being met.

In an evaluation conducted earlier this year on behalf of DEG, Siyakhana came out tops.

Commenting on the Siyakhana project's capacity building programme which saw nurses deployed in 12 public sector clinics and rendering dedicated HIV and AIDS services to citizens, evaluators, Dr Bernard Fourie and Dr Andrea Knigge's final report comments: "The partnership model has definite potential to be fully integrated into public services in a sustainable way, and is no doubt one of the flagship projects operating in the Eastern Cape. Participating government clinics in the project without exception indicated that Siyakhana has become an integral part of their service delivery capacity in the region, and that their

ability to deliver a high standard of quality of care has been, and is, directly attributable to the support provided via the project.

Knigge said she valued the opportunity to be part of the evaluation given that she had provided technical support in the conceptual stages of Siyakhana's development between 2001 and 2006.

"Evaluating the Siyakhana Project I saw the pay off and the benefit of working in close cooperation with the Department of Health in the Eastern Cape and Siyakhana was particularly valuable in helping address challenges associated with the shortage of appropriately trained and motivated health workers, poor supply systems and weak health service provision," Knigge said.

The Siyakhana Health Trust continues active engagement with the Eastern Cape Department of Health to support achievement of the national treatment goal of having 2,3 million people on antiretroviral treatment by 2013.



THE SIYAKHANA PROJECT is a key Mercedes Benz of South Africa (MBSA) corporate social responsibility (CSR) project, for which MBSA won a coveted International Stevie Business Award, earlier this year.

MBSA Vice President Human Resources Johann Evertse attended the gala banquet in Turkey at which the award was presented for the CSR Programme of the Year in the Middle East and Africa.

"Our commitment to the Siyakhana project is a result of the success of MBSA's own HIV and AIDS workplace programme and in looking at how we could contribute to the broader Buffalo City community, we conceptualised the Siyakhana project which has become a bench mark public private partnership. The award affirms our contribution to the prevention, treatment and care of HIV and AIDS and we value the acknowledgement," Johann Evertse said.

Stevie Awards are conferred in four programmes: The American Business Awards, The International Business Awards, the Stevie Awards for Women in Business, and the Stevie Awards for Sales and Customer Service.

Honorees were selected from more than 1,700 entries received from organisations and individuals in more than 40 nations.

"The prestige of the Stevie Award will assist in the project securing long term sustainability," Siyakhana's project manager Dr Simeon Odugwu said.

Siyakhana is established as a charitable trust which depends on donor funding to carry out its valuable work.