IMPACT EVALUATION OF THE FIRST THINGS FIRST HCT CAMPAIGN OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION AIDS PROGRAMME

Impact Evaluation Team
Prof Geoffrey Setswe, Ms Ntombizodwa Mbelle,
Dr Musa Mabaso, Dr Yoliswa Ntsepe, Dr Jeremiah Chikovore
Dhee Naidoo, Sakhile Msweli, Chauke, Salome Sigida, Lebogang Nyawane,
In this presentation

• Introduction
• Background on the FTF campaign
• Objectives of the evaluation
• Evaluation methods
  – Evaluation design, data collection and analysis methods
  – OECD Evaluation criteria and questions
  – Scoring system
• Findings
  – Relevance
  – Impact
  – Efficiency
  – Effectiveness
  – Sustainability
• Conclusion and recommendations
Introduction

• In 2015, HEAIDS commissioned the HSRC to conduct an impact evaluation of the FTF HCT campaign in the HET sector in South Africa.

• This is an independent evaluation intended to advise HEAIDS and the GFATM on how the FTF campaign has performed and what best practices, challenges and opportunities exist.

• The impact evaluation used three methods of data collection and involved scoring FTF activities against five OECD scoring criteria.

• The quantitative component of the study comprised of a Value for Money (VfM) assessment

• The qualitative component of the study was conducted at selected public universities, TVET colleges, NGOs and public sector departments

GFATM (2010) Improving Value for Money in Global Fund-supported Programs
First Things First HCT campaign

- FTF campaign is a public-private partnership initiative led by HEAIDS in partnership with Innovative Medicines South Africa (IMSA) and the Foundation for Professional Development (FPD).

- Led by the Deputy Minister of HET, Mduduzi Manana, the FTF programme aims to develop and support HIV/TB/STI prevention initiatives and promote health and wellness across SA’s public HEIs and TVET colleges.

- The campaign provides for the testing of large numbers using HIV rapid finger prick tests, supported by an appropriate pre-test and post-test counselling and education programme.

- University based counsellors and testers are trained as required.
Objectives of the impact evaluation

To evaluate:

1. The extent to which the FTF HCT campaign is suited to the HIV prevention priorities and policies of HEAIDS and the higher education and training sector (Relevance);
2. The positive and negative changes produced by the FTF HCT campaign (Impact);
3. The extent to which the deliverables and outputs of the FTF campaign were submitted in a timely fashion, to a satisfactory standard, and were ‘fit for purpose’ (Efficiency);
4. The extent to which the investment in the FTF campaign was proportionate to its effectiveness and contribution to the aims and objectives (Effectiveness);
5. The extent to which additional resources were leveraged to sustain the benefits of the FTF campaign beyond its lifetime (Sustainability).

Source: Adapted from OECD (1991) Principles for the evaluation of assistance
Evaluation Design, Data collection and Analysis methods

**Qualitative study**
- 36 Key Informant Interviews
  - 4 KII with universities
  - 16 KII with urban TVETs
  - 16 KII with rural TVETs
- 10 Focus Group Discussions
  - 4 FGDs with SANAC
  - 3 FGDs with NGOs
  - 3 FGD with gov entities

**Value for Money Assessment**
- Document review and VFM assessment of Impact Attributes = relevance, impact, efficiency, effectiveness & sustainability

**Data analysis**
- Content thematic analysis:
- Triangulation of VfM and Qualitative data
- Key themes: Relevance, Impact, Efficiency, Effectiveness & Sustainability
- Attributing impact: Clarify values, Refine ToC, Answer descriptive & causal questions, Synthesise and make judgement

**Evaluation criteria:**
- 4 = Very good
- 3 = Good
- 2 = Acceptable with some concerns
- 1 = Unsatisfactory or Poor
Value for Money assessment strategy

• GFATM (2010: 5) defines VfM as “using the most cost-effective interventions ...to achieve the desired results.” VFM does not mean lowest cost but aims to achieve the biggest impact for money spent by balancing costs and effectiveness.

• This part of the VfM assessment was aimed at assessing the extent to which the FTF campaign has provided good value for money.

• The VfM assessment strategy consisted of a quantitative document review. The purpose of the document review was to identify existing data by extracting information relating to the scope and objectives of the review from published and unpublished documents.

• The assessment focused on impact attributes such as the relevance, impact, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability.
Qualitative study

• 36 Key Informant Interviews
  – 4 KII with universities
  – 16 KII with urban TVETs
  – 16 KII with rural TVETs

• 10 Focus Group Discussions
  – 4 FGDs with SANAC
  – 3 FGDs with NGOs
  – 3 FGD with government entities

• Content thematic analysis of KII and FGDs and **Triangulation** of data
Evaluation Questions and Impact evaluation criteria

- **Relevance**: To what extent are the objectives of the FTF campaign still valid?
- **Impact**: What has happened as a result of the FTF campaign?
- **Efficiency**: Were FTF activities cost-efficient?
- **Effectiveness**: To what extent were the objectives achieved?
- **Sustainability**: To what extent did the benefits of FTF continue after donor funding ceased?

Source: Adapted from OECD (1991) Principles for the evaluation of assistance
Scoring system

- **“Green”** denotes that the campaign performed strongly or well against criteria.

- **“Amber”** denotes that the campaign’s performance was acceptable with some concerns and that some improvements should be made in one or more of the five impact criteria.

- **“Red”** denotes that the campaign did not perform well and was unsatisfactory or poor in one or more of the five impact criteria.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score category</th>
<th>Percentage Range (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 - Very Good</td>
<td>86 - 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - Good</td>
<td>70 - 85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-Acceptable with Some Concerns</td>
<td>50 – 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1- Unsatisfactory / Poor</td>
<td>0 – 49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Integration of the impact evaluation report

Phase 1: VfM assessment
1. Search, request and collect documents for VfM assessment
2. Conduct VfM assessment and Analyse data
3. Preparation, submission and presentation of VfM assessment report

Phase 2: Qualitative study
1. Collection of KII and FGD data
2. Translation, Transcription and Analysis of qualitative data
3. Preparation, submission and presentation of qualitative report

Phase 3: Triangulation and Integrated report
1. Triangulation (Compare and Contrast) of Qualitative results with VfM results
2. Preparation and Submission of the Impact evaluation report
Findings
1. Relevance of the FTF campaign

Achievements

- The objective of testing 2m students as part of the FTF campaign is still valid, five years since it was first launched in 2011.

- The activities and outputs of the FTF campaign are consistent with the overall goal of getting young people tested for HIV and screened for TB.

- The activities and outputs of the FTF campaign are consistent with the intended impacts and effects among students at HET institutions.

“In my view this program is very relevant for the young people who are students”. (KII, Rural TVET in LP).

Universities and TVETs say they have more activities in their campuses e.g. posters, pre and post activation activities.

“Some things are relevant but others are not; it looks like only blacks and coloureds are targeted. Whites and Indians don’t think these programs are for them too. FTF must be broad to include other races”. (FS, TVET, Urban, KII).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allocated score %</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>87%</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Impact of the FTF campaign

Achievements

FTF HIV testing trends in the HEI and TVET sectors, 2013-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. people tested</th>
<th>HCT Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>41373</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>97174</td>
<td>134%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>174026</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Both universities and TVETs have experienced increase in HIV testing uptake, male condoms, TB screening and testing for NCDs. Inclusion of NCDs in campaigns and tests has increased uptake of the whole program” (KII, )

...there were drastic changes in attitudes towards HIV testing, condom use, contraceptives, TB screening due to FTF campaigns. (FGD with NGO)
Impact of FTF on TB and STI screening

TB screening trends linked to FTF, 2013-15

Source: Ahluwalia (2015)
3. Efficiency of the FTF campaign

Achievements

- The FTF achieved desired results at a reasonable cost
- The testing of thousands of students was done in a timely manner
- Some concerns about the efficiency of the FTF campaign as compared to alternatives?
  Privacy, confidentiality, infrastructure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Item</th>
<th>Total (2014-2015)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>16 830 688.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>8 134 851.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistics and Admin</td>
<td>1 178 390.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training and workshops</td>
<td>7 647 354.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditing</td>
<td>290 700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEAIDS Programmes at TVETs (Partners coordinating FTF: testing, screening and all other related packages - Sinikiwe to unpack)</td>
<td>55 346 525.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>89 428 509.63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Majority of TVETs are hoping for better coordination and relations between local health facilities and themselves. (FGDs).

Growth of HEAIDS Operational Sites at Universities and TVET Colleges, 2011-2014

Allocated score % | Outcome
74%               | Good

Sources: HEAIDS records; HESA (2014) Annual report
4. Effectiveness of the FTF campaign

Achievements

- The objective of reaching 2 million students and staff in 290 TVET and 137 university campuses is likely to be achieved if 174,000 were reached in 2 years from 2013-2015.

- The major factors influencing the achievement of the objectives include financial, structural and other forms of support from HEAIDS and the support of the Deputy Minister DHET who has been a champion of the project.

A budget of R89m for a campaign in 26 universities and 50 TVET colleges indicates that the investment in the FTF was proportionate to its effectiveness and contribution to the aim of getting all students to know their HIV status.

Those who are aware of grant funding say FTF has impacted positively on their activities.

TVETs said they require more training. Others say they do not know the criteria for an institution to be selected for peer review training.

Very few institutions said they were aware of grant funding for FTF. They are requesting that such a grant should be made transparent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score %</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>74.5%</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Sustainability of the FTF campaign

Achievements

HEAIDS want to leverage on the success of the FTF campaign to request additional resources from funders to sustain the benefits of HCT beyond the campaign’s lifetime.

The major factors which influenced the achievement of sustainability of the FTF campaign were the leadership and support provided by the Deputy Minister DHET and Director of HEAIDS, support of the Minister of Health and key stakeholders like the CEO of SANAC.

Universities and TVETs say FTF can be sustained under 3 conditions: ownership of program should be made the institution’s function; capacity of HIV coordinators and peer educators should be continuously developed and support received from HEAIDS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score %</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75.5%</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Final scores derived from the VfM and Qualitative assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>VfM assessment scores %</th>
<th>Qualitative assessment scores %</th>
<th>Final scores %</th>
<th>Verdict/Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relevance</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effectiveness</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>74.5%</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>75.5%</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total/Average</strong></td>
<td><strong>71%</strong></td>
<td><strong>85.6%</strong></td>
<td><strong>78.4%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Good</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions

• Overall, the activities that the FTF HCT campaign has delivered represent positive impact.

• It is evident that the FTF campaign is relevant in the higher education and post-secondary education sector in South Africa.

• The FTF campaign has had impact on the higher education sector’s response to the HIV epidemic in South Africa.

• Leadership, buy-in and support for the FTF at universities at TVET colleges was the key factor to the successful implementation of the campaign.

• The Global Fund grant for the FTF HCT campaign was pivotal in increasing HCT and access to HIV prevention interventions at HEIs.
Recommendations

• The \textit{networks and relationships} that have been established between HEAIDS, the public universities, TVET colleges funders and other stakeholders \textit{must be maintained} to sustain the relevance of the FTF.

• \textit{Enforce a much higher level of oversight from HEAIDS} of the campaign activities to ensure that data is always submitted timeously and the counselling and testing are done to acceptable standards at all institutions.

• \textit{Use structured M&E tools to monitor progress and evaluate outcomes} of the campaign to ensure there is objective data to measure the impacts of the project.

• \textit{Effectively monitor and manage emerging needs and demand} for the FTF campaign to ensure the campaign reaches all the campuses at all the 26 universities and 50 TVET colleges.

• \textit{Ensure sustainability of the First Things First campaign} because the campaign has been very successful as an entry point to prevention, treatment, care and support programmes in the higher education and training sector.