



HSRC Cares and Acts: 0% HIV-RELATED DEATHS 100% LIFE



The HSRC Commemorated World AIDS Day on the 1st of December 2011 as it has done for the past years. The programme for the day included the following activities:

- A seminar held jointly with the Department of Social Development to commemorate this day and to ensure that our staff participates in this very important initiative. Other key stakeholders of the HSRC who participated include members of the SADC secretariat as well as U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Distribution of flyers to spread the message and to ensure that we disseminate relevant information generated by the research undertaken within the HSRC.
- Visits to selected institutions which benefited from the generous contributions from staff.

The seminar was chaired by the CEO, Dr Olive Shisana, who made introductory remarks on the HSRC's commitment to supporting global efforts in ensuring that we contribute to zero new infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS related deaths. The presentations that followed spoke more particularly to the HSRC's focus on young women and prevention.



Dr Shisana and executive directors in other centers lit the candle in commemoration of those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. Dr Nils Daulaire is seated beside her

The Programme

SPEAKER	AFFILIATION	DESIGNATION	TITLE
Dr Alphonse Mulumba	SADC Secretariat	Program Officer for HIV Research and Monitoring and Evaluation at the	Zero New Infection: Focus on Young Women, Why and How?
Dr Vitalis Chipfakacha	SADC Secretariat.	Technical Advisor for HIV Mainstreaming and Capacity Building	
Dr Matome Kganakga	Azali Health Care	Executive Director	History of HIV, Current Scenario, Management and Achievements
Lesego Sepotokele	National Association	Project co-coordinator	Personal experiences of

	Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS		HIV/AIDS: Disclosure, treatment and living with HIV.
Dr Nils Daulaire, U.S.	United States Department of Health and Human Services	Director of the Office of Global Health Affairs	An AIDS-Free Generation Address to the South African Human Sciences Research Council on World AIDS Day

The seminar linked the Durban, Cape Town and Pretoria offices and a special link was arranged to the Sahara conference in Port Elizabeth to ensure the participation of Dr Mulumba. A person living openly with HIV addressed the attendees on the stigma and discrimination still experienced by those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The HSRC was extremely privileged to have Dr Nils Daulaire the Director of the Office of Global Health Affairs from the United States Department of Health and Human Services who confirmed the US commitment to continue its funding of South Africa's HIV/AIDS projects and initiatives.

Dissemination of relevant information and research findings

The HSRC utilizes opportunities presented by events and our social and community outreach to disseminate relevant research produced by us. This year we distributed a staggering 20 000 flyers in Cape Town, Durban, Pretoria and Sweetwaters.

Cape Town

Flyers were distributed at:

- Long Street
- Government Avenue, Company Gardens and
- Constitution Street in the direction of Cape Town University of Technology



Outreach Activities:

The Brooklyn Chest Hospital specialises in TB treatment and provides HIV counseling with a specific voluntary service targeting children. The HSRC collected books and magazines to donate to the Occupational Therapy ward as well as the recently established Brooklyn Chest Hospital School library which serves 20 children of school going ages suffering from TB and HIV/AIDS. A few staff members returned on Friday morning to spend time with the children.

Donations were also made to Legacy Kayamandi Education Centre in Stellenbosch where they offer skills training and development to HIV positive young people.

HSRC staff members distributing the books & magazines



Children checking out the boxes!



Pretoria

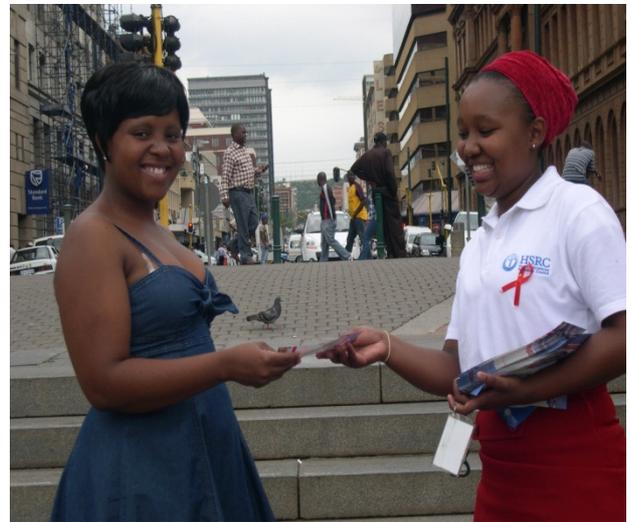
Flyers were distributed at:

- Church Square
- Bosman train station
- Department of Social Development – Access point at HSRC

Outreach Activities:

The staff in Pretoria visited the Tshwane Home of Hope which offers a refuge from prostitution, a safe haven of care and hope for girls in crisis. The home re-introduces them to the education system, securing places for them at local schools and offers mentorship and support. The girls are empowered with skills to wean them off the streets and to earn an income from other methods.

Dr Julia Louw from the HIV, AIDS, STIs and TB (HAST) unit shared information on the aspects of HIV and AIDS and toiletries donated by the staff were handed over to the hospice.



Durban

Flyers were distributed at:

- Durban University of Technology
- The taxi rank



Outreach Activities:

The Durban staff visited the Highway Hospice which provides a service designed to improve the quality of life for patients with a terminal illness and support for their families. Anyone living in the eThekweni Municipal Area who has a confirmed terminal illness, including HIV/AIDS and TB, is eligible for Hospice Services. Care is provided by a dedicated team of nurses, doctors, social workers an occupational therapist and ministers of religion and volunteers who give generously of their time, gifts and talents.

Sweetwaters

HSRC Sweetwater's Office World AIDS Day Event

HSRC Sweetwater's Office hosted the World AIDS Day event on the 02nd December 2011 at Lower Mpumuza community, in the rural Vulindlela area. Lower Mpumuza is one of the HSRC Sweetwater's study community areas, where the Combination Prevention Phase II study is currently conducted. The Combination Prevention Phase II project is a study that delivers HIV treatment and prevention through home-based HIV counselling and testing and facilitated referral in Uganda and South Africa.

The WAD event started in the morning with a fun run competition, whereby community members were running from Phayiphini Stadium to Ashdown Reservoir, then back to Phayiphini stadium. This was followed by the event at the stadium where those who won received their prizes from HSRC, different local musical groups performed and the following speakers graced the event:

- Mama Ndabezitha on behalf of the Mpumuza Tribal Authority representing Inkosi N. Zondi;
- Dr. Heidi van Rooyen, HSRC Sweetwater's Head of Office, gave a key note address on the importance of WAD and what it means to everyone. She articulated this year's theme, its meaning and how can it be achieved;
- Mrs. Buyi Manana, who gave a living testimony as a person living with HIV. She encouraged Lower Mpumuza people to get tested. In addition, she urged Mpumuza people not to treat HIV as a problem, but as a challenge.
- Mr. Thulani Ngubane, Project Accept Deputy Project Director, encouraged couple HIV counselling, and testing, and couples to talk about HIV.
- Mr. Lucky Mbanjwa, Ward Councillor, gave a talk about the need to know your status and overall encouraged the Mpumuza community to participate in the home-based HIV counselling and testing currently on-going in the community.
- Ms. Sanelisiwe Ndlovu, Manager of Mayor's Special Programmes in the Msunduzi Municipality on behalf of the Msunduzi Mayor – she encouraged the Mpumuza Youth to get tested. She made a note that HIV is seen as a disease for younger women and encouraged them to abstain if they haven't yet involved in sexual practices.
- Reverend Anthony Small – spoke about the interfaith response to HIV. He encouraged Mpumuza community to get tested and access treatment, and emphasized that ARVs are the only treatment known to be treating HIV.
- Ms. Jabu Ngubo, Former Msunduzi Deputy Mayor, current Exco Member - encouraged participation of community members in the home-based counselling and testing.
- Pastor Bonga Mlotshwa, blessed the event with a powerful word of God.

Lower Mpumuza Community people attending the event



Mrs. Buyi Manana from the community



Port Elizabeth

The staff in Port Elizabeth supported the 6th Sahara Conference which brings together researchers, policy-makers, donors and international organizations, civil society and communities and provides an important platform for those working in the area of HIV/AIDS to profile the new developments and path a way forward in response to the epidemic.

The 6th **SAHARA Conference 2011** observed World AIDS Day (WAD) chaired by Prof Harry Hausler (Director, TB/HIV Care Association) and Ronald Goldberg (HIV/AIDS Regional Coordinator, Royal Netherlands Embassy). WAD was an open day and local stakeholders and grassroots level community members were invited to join the conference in commemorating WAD. This was a paradoxical moment, both solemn and jubilant characterised by a candle lighting ceremony to remember those who have died of AIDS and to celebrate the achievements towards reduction of new HIV infections, AIDS deaths, stigma and socioeconomic impact as well as improved access to treatment and HIV prevention initiatives.

The World AIDS Day message was delivered by Martin Ptoch, a Kenyan school-based educator and Akona Ntsaluba, a survivor of gang rape, of the Gay and Lesbian Network both openly living positively with HIV. A movie entitled "Inside Story – the Science of HIV/AIDS", produced for the Discovery was prescreened and presented providing an in-depth understanding of the Science of HIV/AIDS in a very interesting and understandable way that appealed to the African context. The 6th **SAHARA Conference 2011** was the first conference globally to pre-screen this movie!



Dr Vitalis Chipfakacha, SADC Secretariat, Minister Sekai Holland from Office of Presidency, Zimbabwe, Mr Bertrand Audoin, Executive Director of the International AIDS Society, Dr Alphonse Mulumba, SADC Secretariat and Prof Refilwe Phaswana Mafuya, SAHARA Director

