

SCS Botswana: Accelerating Progress in Communities 2.0 (APC 2.0)

Overview

The Accelerating Progress in Communities (APC 2.0) project (2019 – 2024, \$25 million) is a USAID/Botswana-funded initiative to build on Advancing Partners & Communities' (APC) achievements to increase the number of people living with HIV (PLHIV) accessing care and treatment services as close to their homes, schools, and workplaces as possible. APC 2.0 ensures that PLHIV remain in long-term treatment with the support of their families, peers, and existing community health structures within a continuum of care

Botswana Context

Through the APC project, the capacity and role of community health workers (CHWs) were strengthened, new PLHIV were identified and linked to health facilities for treatment initiation, and support was provided to PLHIV and tuberculosis (TB) clients to adhere to treatment.

Major Program Components

Promote increased utilization of integrated community-based services through:

- Optimizing the linking PLHIV to facility-based treatment
- Utilizing Tebelopele wellness centers to attract different target groups for HTS through screening for NCDs, TB, STIs, and cervical cancer
- Providing PrEP for targeted at-risk populations

Promote improved linkages to care through integrated community-based services by:

- Providing enhanced client support for newly enrolled PLHIV through SMS messages and other best practices
- Improving retention and adherence to lifelong antiretroviral therapy (ART) for viral suppression through care plans and referrals
- Enhancing community-based, youth-friendly HIV and related services through a peer-support approach and online support groups

Strengthen community systems toward sustainability through:

- Strengthening the capacity of CSOs to become prime partners of USAIDs
- Supporting the Government of Botswana to implement sustainable systems and guidelines to foster civic involvement in the health sector

Reduce structural barriers and harmful practices that reduce access to HIV services through:

- Improving HIV/AIDS-related gender norms through evidence-based approaches
- Addressing gender-based violence (GBV) through comprehensive care and treatment

Achievements

- Initiated 214 new PLHIV on treatment (55% were females)
- Initiated 309 Adolescent Girls and Young Women (186% achievement of the quarterly target) on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)
- Provided community HIV/TB care services to 7,405 clients (114% achievement of quarterly target)
- Provided DOTS, short course (DOTS) to 90% of all registered TB clients at the supported facilities (106% of target)
- Supported MOHW to finalize national CHW integrated training curriculum
- Facilitated the Gaborone District Health Management Team (DHMT) and Nkoyaphiri clinic training of health care providers and CHWs on the implementation of multi-month dispensing (MMD)
- Hosted visits with UNAIDS Executive Director Gunilla Carlsson, U.S. Ambassador Craig Cloud, and representatives from MoHW and the National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency (NAHPA) at Tebelopele Wellness Centre in Gaborone

(Updated August 2019)