From Policy to Practice: Engaging Tanzania’s Private Sector Nurses and Midwives to Extend PMTCT B+

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Tanzania epidemic is generalized and complex

- Approximately 1,400,000 PLHIV
- Adult prevalence is 5%, with approximately 72,000 new infections per year
- Number of PLHIV on ART 560,000, total coverage estimated 37 percent
- Severe human resources crisis: 0.02 MDs and 0.37 nurses per 1,000

Source: UNAIDS 2014, WHO 2012
SHOPS PSA revealed a strong and organized private health sector

2012 assessment findings:

• Robust and organized private health sector
• Diverse settings, human and logistic capacity
• Provide a range of public health services
• Ready and willing to be engaged
Missed opportunities for private health sector engagement in service delivery

- Capacity and infrastructure not fully utilized
- Limited and inconsistent public-private collaboration
- Weak information sharing
- Limited access to public sector trainings, CPD, essential medicines and commodities
- Missed opportunities to increase private sector role in health
SHOPS partnered with MOH and private providers to develop enabling policy and practice

**Policy**
- Developed PPP to create first Scope of Practice for nurses and midwives
- Linked private providers to MOH
- Served as honest broker to facilitate collaboration

**Practice**
- Integrated ANC/PMTCT B+ via private nurses and midwives
- Advocated for private access to MOH trainings and commodities
SHOPS and Tanzania Nursing Council create first scope of practice for nurses and midwives

• No defined or protected scope
• SHOPS worked with Nurses and Midwives Council to develop first scope of practice
• Supportive policy to guide and sustain SHOPS PPP and service delivery efforts
• Opportunity to advance nurses’ and midwives’ role in public health
First scope of practice for nurses and midwives advances their role in HIV service delivery

• Defined and advanced scope in over 10 health areas
• Created cadre of Advanced Nurse Practitioners
• Encourages PPP; applies to all nurses and midwives
• Promotes task sharing; permits PMTCT B+, ART, and other nurse prescribing
• Complements SHOPS PMTCT B+ and NIMART efforts
SHOPS and PRINMAT collaborate to put new scope into practice

SHOPS worked with the PRINMAT network of ANC/maternity facilities:

- Community-based ANC; L&D; child health
- MOH piloted new PMTCT B+ guidelines
- Trained 76 providers from 53 facilities
- Linked PRINMAT to district HMIS/HIV reporting
- Public-private PMTCT roundtable
- District commodity access
- Monitored service statistics over 9 months
Rapid testing and counseling scale-up at PRINMAT facilities

Baseline 227 tests/month and post intervention 2,105 tests/month

18,942 HIV tests performed
7,017 pregnant women

Total Pregnant Women Tested at ANC and L&D
Non-Pregnant Women
Men

SHOPS sponsored Interventions

Baseline 227 tests/month and post intervention 2,105 tests/month
Rapid PMTCT Option B+ scale-up at PRINMAT facilities

SHOPS Interventions

- 130 newborns initiated NVP
- 47 EID tests 89% negative

283 HIV+ mothers on initiated ART; 157 HIV+ deliveries
Collaboration and targeted service delivery made PRINMAT PMTCT B+ a success

• Scope of Practice paved the way
• Strong national MOH support
• ANC and immunization relationships were beneficial
• Districts supported and made commodity access possible
• Community-based points of service increased options for patients
• Exempted service status promoted equity of access
Common health system barriers posed challenges

- Old attitudes persist; resistance from some district health authorities
- National directives not actualized at district level
- Mixed access to commodities — public stockouts extended to private
Unleashing private health sector potential: lessons for other settings

- Private health sector can be a powerful source of HIV services
- Easier where relationships exist
- Rapid and effective way to increase human resources, service coverage, and equitable access
- Scale-up requires multiple systems interventions
- Private health sector maneuverability versus de facto public
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