

Prevention of HIV/AIDS Among Alcohol/Drug Users as a Vulnerable Population In Mombasa, Kenya.

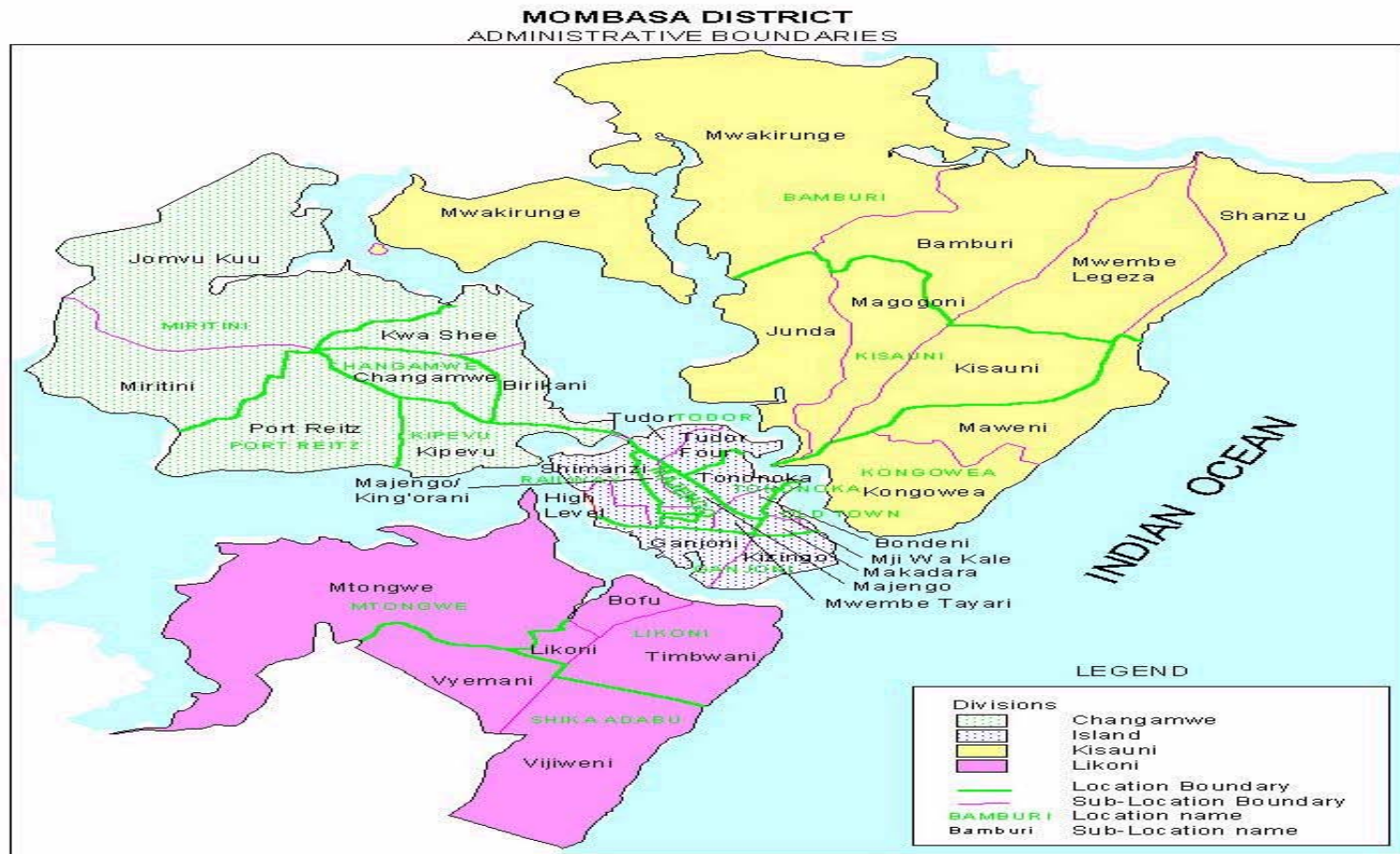
An Outreach Program

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Annual Project Targets

- Provide at least 2,000 outreach contacts to Alcohol/drug users
- Provide VCT (HIV testing & counseling) to at least 1,000 Alcohol/Drug users.
- Provide HIV care to all addicts who test HIV positive.
- Provide ARVs to all clients who qualify for this therapy.

Mombasa District- population 900,000



SOURCES OF INFORMATION

This base map is derived from the 1999 Kenya Population Census charts & the GIS coastal resources database at KMFRRI

Data digitization and map composition:
 Pamela Ochieng, Phyllis Mutere,
 & Harrison Ong'anda

Mombasa, December 2001



2 0 2 4 Kilometers
 Scale 1:120,000

Outreach Program: Tuonane Project

- Heroin Outreach services began in Feb 2005.
- Alcohol Outreach services began in March 2007.
- Consists of 16 outreach workers, (10 heroin, 6 Alcohol)
- They provide the primary contact and intervention with the users in the regions.

Role of Outreach Workers

1. Engage in reducing risk of spread of HIV via unprotected sex. Focusing on behavior change.
2. Facilitate referral into HIV testing (Voluntary Counseling & Testing (VCT)).
3. Facilitate getting clients into addictions recovery treatment.
4. Case manage referrals for HIV care through partnering HIV care centers.

HIV Testing and Counseling

- The program partners with over 13 VCT centers in providing HIV testing and counseling services.
- It also provides center-based HIV testing and counseling services in its drop-in center along with field based services through mobile VCT.

HIV Care and Addictions Treatment

- The outreach program facilitates referrals for HIV care and addiction treatment services for all addicts. Pioneered the NA & Milatti Islami 12 step program. AA soon to be introduced.
- HIV care provided at multiple partnering comprehensive HIV care centers, including ARV treatment.
- Addictions treatment is a strong component of the program, offering both in and out patient addictions recovery services.

DATA

Mombasa -From February 2007 to July 07

Total Outreach Contacts (first & repeated)	1937
Total Individuals Outreached	1500
Total individuals referred to HIV testing and counseling	1136
Total received HIV testing and counseling	608
Total Tested HIV positive	61
Percent of HIV positive referred to HIV care	100%
Total receiving HIV care	44
Total receiving ARV Treatment	5
Total receiving drug treatment (in or out patient)	123

HIV Prevalence Rates Among Male & Female Alcohol Users (Mombasa)

Overall HIV prevalence of all contacts HIV tested	10.6%
Male Users HIV prevalence rate	7%
Female Users HIV prevalence rate	17%

Enrollment into HIV Care & Treatment

Overall enrollment into HIV Care of all HIV positive users	72%
Female enrolled in HIV Care	82%
Male enrolled in HIV Care	70%

Challenges in Engaging Alcohol Users in Services

- Refusal/reluctance to participate in HIV testing.
- Engaging clients in addiction treatment at the drinking sites. The sellers do not appreciate this.
- Health prevention is low priority for Alcohol users not experiencing significant health problems.
- Most addicts anticipate financial support from outreach program or any program for that matter.
- Addicts' limited knowledge in addictions recovery.
 - Focusing on curative medical interventions as solution to addiction.
 - Significant lack of interest in addictions counseling.
 - Transport costs for addicts to reach services.

Lessons Learned

- VCT (Voluntary Counseling and Testing) is easily accessible in the community but is a challenge to access data since services and information are confidential.
- The need for community-based education among Alcohol users focusing on addictions recovery.
- Using ex- addicts has advantages in accessing users but poses additional challenges in outreach worker performance and reliability.

Providing More Accessible Services

- Services must be highly accessible in order to engage Alcohol Users. They are unlikely to participate in services on their own.
- Offering more mobile services is essential. Delivering services such as VCT testing, addictions counseling, and medical detox through community based mobile activities improves client participation.
- Provide equal services for female addicts, a female rehab centre.

The Way Forward

- Outreach efforts seem effective in reducing spread of HIV among Alcohol users.
- We also know that users who engage in HIV testing and know their status are more likely to engage in recovery based services.
- It is important to develop creative ways to engage the users in services such as HIV testing, HIV care and addictions treatment.
- Lobby for CD4 threshold increase for Drug/Alcohol users(Increase ART's intake)
- Provide female addicts with a rehab centre.
- Provide a half-way house for female recovering addicts.
- More outreach sessions to prisons.