

Evaluating the Impact of HIV/AIDS on Health Systems in sub-Saharan Africa: Preliminary Results from South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia

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Introduction to the study

- Pilot study which set out to assess how health systems in Africa are operating in the context of the HIV/AIDS pandemic
- Study has involved coordinated research in South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia



Research Aims

This research aimed to develop an understanding of how:

- The public health services in South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia are functioning in the context of HIV/AIDS.
- Public health care delivery is managed in these countries.



Rationale for the Study

- HIV/AIDS threatens capacity of health systems and its capability to deliver.
- Health system reform.
- Have managers planned or not for HIV/AIDS i.e consciously or unconsciously.



Methodology

- Study design: comparative.
- South Africa focus on three levels of the health system: district, provincial and national.
- 3 themes: Structures and frameworks, Decentralisation, Donors/Partners
- Selection of countries and districts.

Methodology: data collection

- National level: semi-structured interviews with people involved in: Strategic Planning, HIV/AIDS & STI, Human Resources Planning, Health Financing, National Treasury, South African National AIDS Council, Civil Society Organisations
- Provincial level: semi-structured interviews with a selection of managers including those overseeing HIV/AIDS Programmes and general health services, human resource managers, and donor co-ordinators.



Methodology: data collection (Cont.)

- Semi-structured interviews at district level with members of the DHMT, and District partners.
- Purposive 'Snowball' sampling.
- Reviewed all organograms, district plans and other documents.

Structures and Frameworks

- Structures in a dynamic state.
- Restructuring – disruptive effect

Decentralisation

- Timing of decentralisation – later in SA – affected by HIV/AIDS
- Decentralisation of responsibility
- Integration of services

Donors and Partners

- Increased partner involvement
- Coordination

Conclusion

- Health system in transition.
- 3 points
 - Decentralisation
 - Decision making authority
 - Role of donors and coordination
- Way forward – main phase