

dHTS and linkage to treatment among PWUDs PWUDs: Burundi

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Leveraging DSD Strategies to Optimize HIV Testing and Linkage Services

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Outline

- Overview of the AfricaNPUD
- Testing sites and providers - Community
- Testing strategies to increase linkage to treatment
- Maintaining Quality of testing
- Linkage to treatment
- Lessons learned and Challenges

Overview of the AfricaNPUD

- The **AfricaNPUD** is a forum for Africa People who Use Drugs (PWUD) under the umbrella of INPUD (International Network of People who Use Drugs). Guided by the principles in the Vancouver Declaration 2006, 'Nothing About Us Without Us'

Our objectives are :

- To promote evidence-based research and documentation on Human Rights issues affecting PWUDs in Africa
 - To promote effective Harm Reduction Interventions for PWUDs and PWUDs who are living with (*HIV, Hepatitis, TB, and other relevant health issues*) in Africa
 - To integrate capacity development and strengthening amongst PWUDs and PWUD-led National Networks in Africa
 - To build partnerships with like-minded institutions to further the aims of AfricaNPUD
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- AfricaNPUD's membership has two folds – Individual members with drug use backgrounds and organizational members who are purely community-led at all national levels

Overview of health situation among PWUDs in Burundi

- HIV prevalence - 10.2% (source: HIV and Rapid assessment 2017)
- Risk of increasing the prevalence (ongoing IBBS)
- Criminalization of drug users is a barrier to access to health services
- Partnership BAPUD/ANSS





Community-Led Service Delivery

- Distribution of prevention kits (Needle and Syringe Program, Condoms, Gels)
- Tracking of peer navigators for those non-adherent to treatment
- Medication delivery to PWUDs/LHIV who cannot access treatment

Community Mobilization



- Peer mobilization
- Conducts weekly mobilization
- Group/peer meetings of 40 PWUIDs per week
- Done all month before the screening

Permission and choice of the site



- The community, health services providers and the administration prepare the site

HIV Screening Services



- Health services providers from ANSS
- Counselling before testing
- One testing by month by the site (15 SITES)
- 80-100 tested/site/month
- 11 sites in Bujumbura, four in Gitega, Rumonge, Ngozi and Makamba
- Free treatment at ANSS

Strategies to increase testing and linkage to treatment

- Focus groups
- Self testing
- Mobile clinic

Linkage to treatment

- The testing is done by a structure (ANSS) which provides treatment
- For self-testing approach, peer navigators link PWUDsLHIV to structures which provide treatment
- Partnerships with health providers structures (ANSS, RNJ+)
- Medication delivery to PWUDsLHIV who cannot access treatment

Lessons Learned and Challenges

- Peer navigation is critical for linking PWUDs to treatment
- Community-led services are successful ways to deliver services to PWUDs
- Training of PWUDs on the treatment of drug abuse and adherence to ART is key
- Training health service providers on IDUIT can make a lot of difference
- Criminalization of drug use is a barrier to access to HIV services
- Non recognition of community work



Thank you!

