Community-based HIV testing strategies among sex workers in the transport corridor in Mozambique

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Presented by Caroline Rose, Corridor Project Regional Coordinator
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What is the corridor & where is it?

A - Nsanje
B - Blantyre
C - Mwanza
D - Tete
E - Beira
Why Sex Workers?

• High HIV prevalence
• High risk of acquiring and transmitting HIV
• Unknown status
• Low access to care
What are we doing for SW in the Corridor Project?

- Keep HIV negative SW negative/ Prevention
- Link HIV positive SW to HIV care/ Treatment
- Provision of different interventions:
  - Community Outreach (HTC, female & male condoms, lubricants, re-testing, STI, FP)
  - Integrated and friendly services (ART, VL) & in-country and cross-border referrals
  - The integration of SW peer educators into team
This analysis describes HIV testing, retesting and seroconversion among SW in Tete and Beira in Mozambique.
Methods

Retrospective analysis of routinely collected data for SWs enrolled in the outreach program between January 2014 and June 2015
How many SW were enrolled in the programme?

**Tete**
- 1461 SWs
- Median age [IQR]: 28 [23-32]
- 54% Zimbabwean, 23% Mozambican, 22% Malawian, 1% others

**Beira**
- 349 SWs
- Median age [IQR]: 27 [23-31]
- 61% Zimbabwean, 39% Mozambican
How many of them were tested for HIV?

**Tete** (n = 1461)
- Of 1008 SWs tested, HIV positivity: 48%
- Including 256 SWs who self-reported HIV+: 59%

**Beira** (n = 349)
- Of 197 SWs tested, HIV positivity: 24%
- Including 115 SWs who self-reported HIV+: 52%
HIV positivity increases with age...

- <18 years: 29% 
- 18-24 years: 42% 44% 
- 25-34 years: 64% 51% 
- ≥35 years: 78% 77%
Access to ART in Tete

• Among 999 HIV positive SW:
  – 421 (43%) were previously initiated on ART
  – Only 23 (3%) informed us that they did CD4 and that they are eligible for ART initiation
  – For 493 (49%) we don’t know their eligibility
  – But 485 are ART enrolled

ART is offered at HF
Retention in care

892/1967 (45%) SW are still retained

Only 24% were followed for more than one year
And what about the HIV negative SW?

Of 675 HIV negative SWs, 44% were re-tested within 6 months and 14 SW were positive.

Overall, among 340 women with ≥2 tests, 32 seroconverted = incidence of 15%
Oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for sex workers?

ANOTHER BLUE PILL FOR SEX

Preventing HIV with Truvada PrEP—already at a pharmacy near you

BY ENID VÁZQUEZ
Early findings from our PREP study

- SW contacted: 14
- SW attending group session: 12
- Counselling & clinical screening: 10
- Initiated on PrEP: 9
- Collected refills, counselling, clinical FU after 1 month: 9
Conclusion

- Difficulty to access ART along the Corridor (SW friendly-services)

- Retention remains a major challenge (Need for innovative approach)

- Community approach/ Peer Educators are key pillars

- Role of PrEP in HIV prevention?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR VISIT