

MSB III Mid-Term Review

Cross-Cutter: HIV/AIDS

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Introduction

Several “cross-cutting issues” were identified as part of the desired outcomes of the Masibambane III programme. These cross-cutting issues were considered under the goal of achieving “water service providers ... operating in an effective and efficient manner, meeting norms and standards” (Masibambane III Outcomes: As per the EU Financing Agreement, 2007). As part of this, HIV/AIDS was identified:

Masibambane would support both municipalities and water service providers in this regard and importantly, the Programme could assist with the incorporation of cross cutting issues in business plans and practices (gender mainstreaming, HIV/AIDS, environment, appropriate technology, employment creation, health and hygiene) in-line with Government strategies and programmes.

(Masibambane III Outcomes: As per the EU Financing Agreement, 2007)

HIV/AIDS was assessed as part of this mid-term review based on the following: relevance; effectiveness; and efficiency. In order to conduct this assessment, in-depth interviews with responsible persons at National level were conducted, as well as in-depth interviews with provincial Masibambane coordinators. Additionally, a telephonic survey was conducted with WSAs as part of this mid-term review (121 WSA Managers in 121/159 WSAs), the results of which also provided information with regards this cross-cutting issue. This assessment of HIV/AIDS did not include reviewing any business plans from municipalities.

There are two issues to note: firstly, we did not manage to speak to all the sector partners due to their unavailability; and secondly, some of the respondents promised to submit documentation and written information on their activities, but at the time of writing this information had not come through.

Relevance

For this mid-term review, HIV and AIDS were assessed from both the development and implementation of policy. The Strategic Framework for Mainstreaming HIV and AIDS in the water sector has been developed but not signed or rolled out. The framework was developed in consultation with other sector partners donors such as the Irish Aid.

Effectiveness

Despite the Strategic Framework for Mainstreaming HIV and AIDS not yet being in place, we nevertheless asked WSAs to tell us what their municipalities were doing in this area despite the absence of a working policy document. This was done primarily through the WSA survey conducted as part of this mid-term review (121 WSA Managers surveyed in 121/159 WSAs). The first question on HIV/AIDS was whether municipalities had an HIV and AIDS policy in place. The result was positive because sixty one percent (61%) of the municipalities indicated that they had a

mechanism in place whilst just less than a third (29%) of the WSAs did not have any mechanism at all.

WSAs were then asked whether their municipalities had received any guidance on HIV and AIDS from the water sector. Over half (55%) of the municipalities surveyed responded that they had received guidance from the water sector in relation to HIV and AIDS while approximately a third (32%) said they had not received any guidance.

Those respondents that stated they had received guidance were then asked to identify what type of assistance they had received. Thirty-five percent (35%) said they had received help on policy, whilst sixteen percent (16%) stated they had received help with resources on HIV and AIDS.

Respondents were then asked if their municipality had a policy on providing additional water closer to homes for those suffering with HIV and AIDS. Almost half (47%) percent said they had such a policy, whilst forty-two percent (42%) said they had no such policy. The remainder (11%) mentioned that they did not know whether their municipality had a policy on providing additional water for those with HIV/AIDS.

The results of the WSA survey in relation to HIV and AIDS provide a relatively encouraging picture. Despite the fact that the water sector, lead by DWAF, has not yet rolled out its strategic framework, municipalities are not overlooking the issues of HIV and AIDS. However, these results could be attributed to the inputs of other water sector partners who work directly with municipalities and who may have designed their own policy for municipalities. For example, the SALGA website has a page on mainstreaming HIV and AIDS and both the dplg framework for local government responses and the SALGA country guidelines were consulted for developing this webpage.

The SALGA HIV/AIDS webpage covers the following topics: defining mainstreaming (as well as defining what is not mainstreaming); the central role of the IDP manager and the HIV and AIDS coordinator; as well as the roles and responsibilities of municipal officials and councilors. The page provides practical steps on how to mainstream HIV and AIDS. Another related initiative is the Water Services and HIV/AIDS booklet and DVD for councilors (implemented by the Water Research Commission and Mvula Trust). Additionally, during this review the team learned that dplg has also recently launched a booklet on HIV and AIDS for councilors (2 April 2009).

It is still worrying, however, that the results from the WSA survey indicate that close to a third of municipalities (29%) do not have any mechanism in place with regards mainstreaming HIV/AIDS. It is therefore important that these WSAs are targeted and provided with the necessary support. Again the social development support unit needs to seize this as an area to target when the strategy is rolled out. Despite this, it is encouraging that when the HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework is rolled out, most municipalities will already have a foundation in place from which to work.

Conclusion

HIV and AIDS mainstreaming in the water sector needs to be stepped up in the second half of Masibambane III. In order to achieve this, the following is recommended:

- The HIV and AIDS mainstreaming framework needs to be signed and rolled out to complement and strengthen other initiatives that are already in place.
- DWAF as the sector leader needs to ensure that monitoring mechanisms are in place to ensure effective implementation of the framework at municipal level.

References

Strategic Framework for Mainstreaming HIV and AIDS in the Water Sector, July 2008.

Summative evaluation of the Masibambane II Project Evaluation Report. July 2007.

Water Services and HIV/AIDS. A DVD for Councilors. Water Research Commission and Mvula Trust.