

Partners join hands in responding to the needs of the peri-mining communities in South Africa



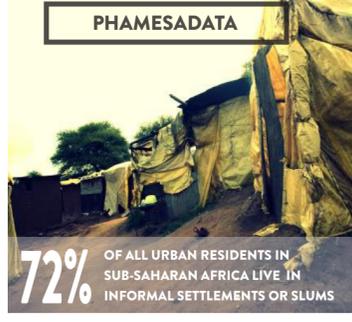
Caption: Donors engaging with the change agents in SmashersBlock. Photo: IOM

On the 21 August 2015, the PHAMESA's partners, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) and Swedish International Development Cooperation (Sida), visited SmashersBlock and Jabulani Farm in Thabazimbi, which form part of the IOM implementation sites in the area. Thabazimbi is situated in the Western corner of Limpopo Province with a population of about 85,234. SmashersBlock has a population of 21,000 and about 5,000 in Jabulani Farm. The area is rich in iron ore and platinum. Over the years, platinum mining and other minerals mining has increased as well as the mining sites. IOM has outsourced the services of CARE International as an implementing partner to amongst other things; build capacity of mine workers, their families and communities on HIV and TB; promotion of provision of migrant sensitive health services in these communities; and awareness raising and promotion of access to health care services. The visit allowed local partners, traditional leaders, transport sector, business sector and NGOs to share their experiences since the beginning of the intervention in 2014.

The programme has succeed enhancing the visibility on health activities in the community through community dialogues, door-to-door campaigns and focused groups discussions on different health topics on HIV, tuberculosis (TB), sexually transmitted infections as well as sexual and gender based violence. Nonetheless, challenges remain in these communities as they continue to live in poverty and gender based violence being observed as a problem. **The access to health care services is still a challenge as clinics have been observed to be remote and in over 40 km radius. Moreover, access to housing, sanitation and electricity is still a pipe dream.** Most of the mine workers and their families reside in informal shacks and, as is the case in Jabulani Farm, no access at all to sanitation. Residents use nearby bushes to relieve themselves and use same as dumping sites.

The Government of South Africa in Limpopo Province and the Office of the Premier in particular, IOM and implementing partners committed to support programme initiatives in the province to ensure that the project achieve its intended objectives. Also, the Office of the Premier noted that government will work towards ensuring that in the future, such programmes are fully under government as dealing with issues of migration and effects on health as such, is part of the government mandate.

This is a response by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Swedish International Development Cooperation. It is implemented in collaboration with local NGOs and the affected communities, with a goal to improve health and health outcomes of mine workers, their families and their communities, in relation to HIV and TB epidemic in Limpopo Province, in Thabazimbi and Lephalale sub municipalities.

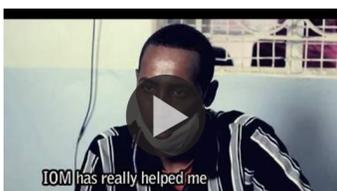


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Helping local communities implement health interventions with new training manuals in Mozambique



Caption: Participants at the training to strengthen their capacity to promote health at migration-affected communities. Photo: IOM

IOM Mozambique has produced new training manuals to support its capacity-building and health promotion activities at migration-affected communities in Gaza and Maputo provinces, targeting implementing partners, community leaders and project staff. The materials will augment ongoing trainings which have been provided in these communities over the past four years, offering a practical step-by-step guide for participants to implement existing and future community-based interventions.

“We have been using our Gender, Migration and HIV training manual which covers essential health information, but it was decided we needed a more practical curriculum with how-to material on effective service delivery and capacity building,” says IOM Capacity-Building Specialist Linda Manjate. “This manual outlines, for example, how to conduct a community dialogue, how to choose venues for events, and how to manage time effectively,” she says.

The manuals can also act as a reference guide for local activists, with content including suggested activities and campaigns. A complementary album series offers a visual tool to illustrate the material, drawing on IOM's work in Mozambique to demonstrate the process of implementing a project.

Starting next month, the materials will help support change agents who work with IOM in border communities at Ressano Garcia – a key crossing point for almost all traffic between Mozambique and South Africa – to tackle health issues such as HIV, tuberculosis (TB), child protection and gender-based violence. These include community activists from local implementing partner Pfuca Lixile and student volunteers working with youth association Coalizão, who implement a wide-range of critical services such as patient home visits, medical referrals, health sensitization campaigns, counselling and support. Additional change agents will be recruited in the coming months to support these activities.

The manuals were adapted and translated to Portuguese from an English version used by IOM in South Africa, and were piloted during a community workshop in Xai Xai last year. Sections of the manuals have already been used to train 60 Change Agents in Gaza province, as well as six Field Officers and three Coordinators from partner organization TEBA Development to implement home-based care activities. The manuals will also be used for an upcoming project to be launched in Gaza later this year, and could be rolled out to migration-affected communities across the country.

Women, a strong driving force behind the success of Ripfumelo

August is a month dedicated to celebrating the triumphant and tender spirit of women in South Africa. This month serves as an acknowledgement of the contribution of women towards the birth of a democratic South Africa. **Women have been the springboards of community development and have contributed immensely towards inspiring change in lifestyles and breaking cultural stereotypes.** These are the women who have saved many lives through teachings about HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), gender based violence, human rights, and leading other community initiatives under 'Ripfumelo', an HIV/AIDS/STI & TB Prevention and Care Programme for migrants and communities affected by migration. These are mothers, grannies, aunts, and sisters that work selflessly in ensuring that migrants and the communities they live in are empowered to reduce their vulnerability to communicable diseases, abuse, and exploitation

Recently, a monitoring and evaluation visit by the Ripfumelo team to Hoedspruit and Malelane implementing sites set an exhibit of the changes that have taken place in the communities since the inception of the project. **The team witnessed a social behaviour change in how farmworkers engage freely on issues of HIV and AIDS, sex, testing, abuse, and labour exploitation.** Mpho Sentoe, a condom distributor at HTT shared how beneficiaries wait earnestly to receive condoms on the stipulated day as they have vowed never to have unprotected sex following consistent dialogues about the dangers of unprotected sex. She also shared how brilliant and unashamed beneficiaries are to demonstrate condom usage to each other. **Also, the team witnessed a change in how change agents (CAs) have created a conducive environment for beneficiaries to open up about their challenges and seek assistance.** When the team arrived in Orlando, a small informal settlement in Komatipoort, met a woman who had just been assaulted by her husband approached Tira Uhanyile and Masisikumeni CAs for assistance and she was latter taken by a brand of safety along with her son.

In 2009 the International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched Ripfumelo Phase I through financial support from USAID/PEPFAR; a project targeted at labour migrants in the commercial agricultural sector and was implemented in the Vhembe and Mopani districts of the Limpopo province and Ehlanzeni district in Mpumalanga province. The project later progressed into Phase II and scaled up to reducing HIV and TB vulnerability amongst migrants and mobile populations and the communities affected by migration in South Africa, with a specific focus on selected districts in Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Gauteng and Kwa Zulu Natal provinces.

Women have played a pivotal role on different levels in seeing the success and sustainability of the project through the years. The project has reached noticeable milestones and continues to break new frontiers through the dedication of the IOM technical staff, implementing partners, change agents, and other relevant government and civil society partners.

To all the diligent women pumping the heartbeat of Hoedspruit Training Trust, ChoiCe Trust, Centre for Positive Change, Nkomazi Municipality, Masisikumeni Women's Crisis Centre, AGRI-IQ, and many others from the districts, IOM and its partners PEPFAR and USAID, recognizes your hardwork, commitment, and passion in helping the organization build and promote healthy migrant communities.



MEET THE TEAM

NAME: NOMAGUGU NCUBE
JOB POSITION: MIGRATION HEALTH OFFICER, IOM ZAMBIA
IN PHAMESA SINCE SEPTEMBER 2012

• In your opinion, what has been or still is the most successful or unique action that you have worked in to improve migrants' right to health?

Working with transport sector stakeholders, we trained change agents within major trucking companies with long distance routes in Lusaka and Copper belt provinces. Since we trained the group, mainly truck drivers, we got a lot of interesting feedback from this group and they have been very forth coming in sharing their challenges on the road. They continue to educate their peers and share the knowledge they have gained. They also acknowledge the challenges they face on the road and the HIV related risks they experience.

Also, the national consultation on TB in the mining sector we conducted in 2012 was a success in raising awareness on the issues of mine workers and mining affected communities in Zambia. Since then, the desk report and consultative meeting report have been used as national reference documents in informing other funding appeals such as the Global Fund, and World Bank outlining the priority actions for the country. National debate on TB in the mining sector still references this forum and the findings from there.

• What do you love most about your job

Getting a detailed understanding of the migrants health needs through research and beneficiary engagement is quite fruitful and enables me to understand fully from the perspective of the beneficiaries their needs. This helps me to keep focused to ensure that their needs are met. It is important that migrants and communities affected by migration are put at the centre of all interventions so that they are not left behind. When the United Nations in Zambia was developing its development framework for 2016 – 2021, one of the key themes that emerged was “leaving no one behind” and in the spirit of that, we successfully lobbied for the inclusion of migrants in the UN – Government of the Republic of Zambia development agenda for the next 6 years.

•What has been the most challenging aspect of it?

The most challenging part of my job is convincing stakeholders and getting their buy in on migration and health. Migration health is often a misunderstood field with migrants not being seen as a priority in national programmes. Migrants are often seen as bearers of diseases and exclusionary policies are pursued. Thus my challenge has been to change the mindset of policy makers and their approach to addressing public health in the context of migration.