

Ripfumelo

HIV/AIDS/TB Prevention and Care Programme for Migrants and Communities Affected by Migration in South Africa

Information Sheet



Scaling up HIV Prevention and Care Interventions for Migrants and Communities Affected by Migration in South Africa

South Africa is a signatory to several international protocols and treaties related to human rights, migration issues, HIV and AIDS.

IOM is supporting the government of South Africa at national, provincial, district and local level to implement the recommendations and commitments of *World Health Assembly Resolution 61.17*, which focused on the Health of Migrants.

Funded by USAID/PEPFAR, IOM implemented phase I of the Ripfumelo Project from 2009 – 2011. The project targeted 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.

Building on this project, IOM is scaling up the Ripfumelo project to reduce 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. This new phase of the project expands, reaching other hard to reach groups in the mining, ports, truck stops and informal settlement communities. These groups include forced migrants and irregular migrants.



Objectives

The overall objectives of the project are:

- To facilitate, provide and promote access to TB and combination HIV prevention and care services, technologies and programs for migrants and mobile populations and communities affected by migration;
- To address structural (societal, environmental, political and economic) barriers to migrants access to health services; and
- To generate strategic information for evidence-informed policy development and programming. The expanded project seeks to support the new National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS/STI and TB in relation to responding to targeted interventions for key populations, specifically migrants and mobile populations.

The project is also based on the goals and aspirations of the South African Government and United States Government Partnership Framework with special emphasis on building government capacity and leadership on the response to the pandemic through evidence informed programming, promoting a community-led response and systems strengthening.

Implementation Sites

IOM will target areas where migrants and mobile populations live and work, including:

- Cross border communities (Vhembe district in Limpopo; Ehlanzeni district in Mpumalanga district) ;Risk zones or “hot spots” along transport corridors and in urban informal settlements such the City of

Johannesburg in Gauteng province and eThekweni Municipality in KZN);Workplaces such as farms and mines;

- Migrant sending communities;
- Detention centres and
- Emergency settlements for stranded migrants including shelters run by Community Based Organizations.

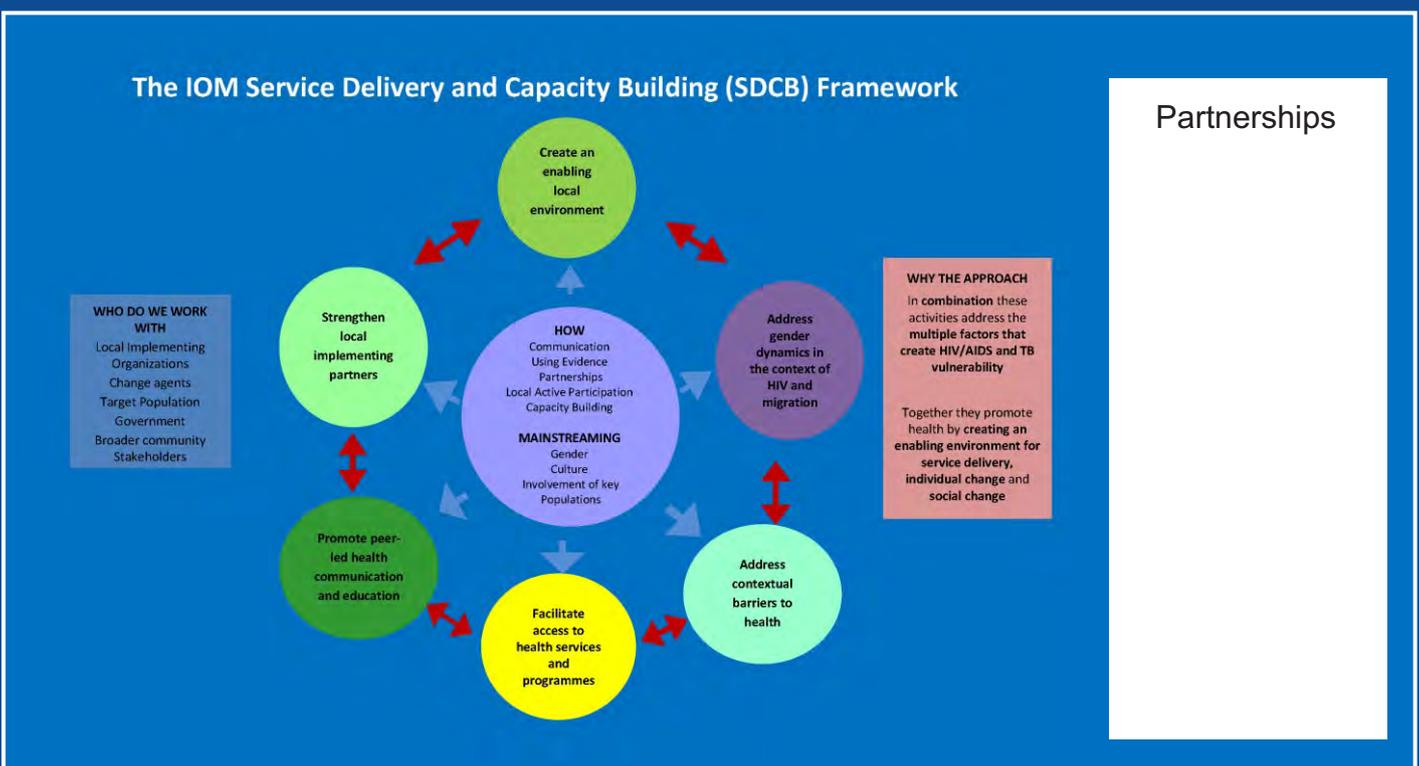
All the identified sites are greatly impacted by migration and mobility, mainly due to large influx of irregular and labour migrants as well as mobile workers and are also characterized by high levels of HIV prevalence.

Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Kwa-Zulu Natal provinces have one or more borders with the neighbouring countries, and also major transport corridors connected to a port of entry.

eThekweni Metro in Kwa-Zulu Natal has one of the biggest harbours which is an attraction for foreign fishermen from around the world.

Gauteng province is a hub for internal and cross border migrants, documented and undocumented. The informal settlements within the province and in the 3 metropolitan areas of Ekurhuleni, Tshwane and Johannesburg were all hotspots for xenophobic attacks in 2008.

HIV, TB and broader health activities will be mainstreamed to ensure that migrants understand their rights and are able to access relevant services, as well as ensuring government and other service providers are sensitised on migrants' right to health.



For more information:

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