



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**Ministry of Health and Social Services**

Private Bag 13198  
Windhoek  
Namibia

Ministerial Building  
Harvey Street  
Windhoek

Tel: (061) 203 2054  
Fax: (061) 301 018  
Public.Relations@mhss.gov.na

25 July 2018

**PRESS RELEASE**

**NAMIBIA ANNOUNCES MAJOR PROGRESS TOWARDS REACHING  
EPIDEMIC CONTROL**

Namibia has achieved tremendous success in controlling its HIV epidemic through its HIV prevention and treatment programmes, According to new results of the Namibia Population-Based HIV Impact Assessment (NAMPHIA).

The most remarkable finding reported in the initial analysis of the NAMPHIA data is how close Namibia is to reach the 90:90:90 targets. The results from the survey show that Namibia is currently at 86:96:91. This means that Namibia has already reached two of the three 90:90:90 targets, and is very close to reaching the third. Overall viral suppression is higher than the international target for all adults.

When analyzed by sex, women have already reached 90:90:90. This means that even though women in Namibia are more likely to have HIV than men, the women who do have HIV are also more likely to be tested, on treatment, and virally suppressed. This is excellent for women's health, as well as the well-being of children born to HIV positive mothers.

HIV prevalence in adults aged 15-64 is 12.6%. This is a further decrease from the 2013 Demographic and Health Survey (DHIS) which reported a 14% HIV prevalence for ages 15-49 and 16.4% for ages 50-64. Consistent with DHIS trends, NAMPHIA data show disparities by sex, with 15.7% HIV prevalence amongst women compared to 9.3% amongst men. Also, incidence of new HIV infections in Namibian adults has dropped by half of the estimate from just five years ago.

These results are also being announced this week at the 2018 International AIDS conference by the Minister of Health and Social Services, Honourable Bernard Haufiku.

HC

According to the Minister of Health and Social Services, "The NAMPHIA results provide the data to affirm the achievements we see at our clinics and health facilities, showing that Namibia is making real strides in controlling the HIV epidemic. I thank all of the healthcare providers who have helped make these results a reality."

"These achievements are truly outstanding, and I congratulate the Ministry of Health and Social Services for its commitment in providing the necessary resources and services to reach this goal," said U.S. Ambassador to Namibia, Lisa Johnson. "For the past 14 years, PEPFAR has partnered with the Ministry to fight HIV/AIDS, and we remain committed to helping Namibia maintain the progress achieved. PEPFAR's attention now includes focusing on identifying and helping those people not yet reached, such as men who have not yet been tested, as well as young women, who disproportionately bear the burden of new HIV infections."

NAMPHIA was a household survey conducted during June to December 2017 throughout every region in Namibia. NAMPHIA offered participants HIV counselling and testing with return of results, and active linkage to care and treatment for those who tested HIV-positive. The survey included laboratory testing in the field and collected information on risk behaviors and uptake of HIV prevention, care and treatment services. This was the first time Namibia conducted such a widespread HIV survey among 0-64 year old residents. Approximately 24,000 people participated.

The Ministry of Health and Services led the NAMPHIA survey in collaboration with the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) and the Namibia Institute of Pathology (NIP). The survey was supported by the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Additional partners involved were ICAP at Columbia University, and the University of California San Francisco (UCSF)'s Global Programs for Research and Training in Namibia.

#### **About the PHIA Project**

The PHIA Project is a five-year, multi-country initiative funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and implemented in partnership with ICAP at Columbia University. The PHIA Project consists of household-based population surveys that will collect information related to HIV in approximately 13 countries, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services will be announcing the details of the preliminary results of the NAMPHIA health survey on 1 August. The Honourable Minister Dr. Bernard Haufiku and U.S. Ambassador to Namibia, Lisa Johnson will be speaking at the event.

BLC

Issued by:



~~MS. PETRONELLA MASABANE~~  
ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY