WEI/BANTWANA MOZAMBIQUE

USAID/Mozambique Força à Comunidade e Crianças (FCC)

DELIVERY OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES TO VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AT MACHIPANDA BORDER POST IN MANICA PROVINCE

The Bantwana Initiative of World Education, through the USAID-funded Força à Comunidade e Crianças (FCC) project, hosted a mobile one-stop service-delivery event to maximize the quality, coverage, efficiency and impact of community structures’ HIV/AIDS prevention and response activities in Manica Province.

Machipanda Border Post in Manica Province

The estimated HIV adult prevalence rate in Manica is 13.5% (IMASIDA). Among other things, the presence of a heavily trafficked border post contributes to Manica’s high HIV prevalence rate. Mobile populations pose unique challenges to HIV prevention and response efforts due to their transient lifestyles. In addition, poverty drives women and girls to become sex workers at the stopover point, which increases all groups’ susceptibility to HIV infection and to a high number of OVC.

Many of these populations are also likely to be gender-based violence (GBV) perpetrators and victims. For example, female informal traders who smuggle their goods across the border or illegally cross the border are alleged to suffer from sexual harassment, assaults, and rape, especially if they fail to pay brides to the police border patrols or other authoritative groups. Unfortunately most of these cases are not reported due to fear, lack of information and knowledge.

Furthermore, the majority of the permanent residents of Machipanda are impoverished and the transportation fee requirements and money to pay for services prevent them from accessing basic social services. Even when they do make it to service centres, many community members, especially youth, allege poor quality service delivery, and Youth rarely make an effort to receive sexual and reproductive health services because of the lack of youth-friendly services. In 2016, 20 girls from Machipanda Secondary School dropped out of school due to unwanted pregnancies.

Mobile One-Stop Services

To help improve service delivery, WEI/Bantwana—along with co-sponsors, local partners, and local...
The Bantwana Initiative of World Education, Inc. — Força à Comunidade e Crianças

Mobile One-Stop Service Provision at Machipanda Border Post, Mozambique

About WEI/Bantwana:
The Bantwana Initiative of World Education, Inc. is a non-profit organization with the mission to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable children and their families affected by HIV and AIDS and poverty. WEI/Bantwana harnesses the talents, creativity, and commitment of communities to develop innovative community models of care that can be scaled up regionally and nationally. WEI/Bantwana works with government, civil society and private sector partners to design, implement, and sustain evidence-based interventions in 5 high-HIV prevalence countries.

"I did not know that this is possible to get all these services I need without paying any fees. I got GBV and HIV screening, family planning advice, and the birth registration for my two children!"
—Patience, 23

This event was viewed by government officials, community members and all service providers who participated, as an effective approach to provide much needed health and social services to vulnerable populations in a coordinated and comprehensive way. This was the first time that WEI/Bantwana, through its USAID-supported FCC project, facilitated this event, and in 2018, it is expected that additional events will take place in Sofala, Zambezia, and Gaza provinces.

"The One Stop service provision is a clear demonstration to the government that many people lack essential and basic social services."
—Provincial Coordinator for HIV Prevention in Manica

organizations—mobilized 5,675 community members of Machipanda border post to take part in Mobile One-Stop Service delivery held from 27 to 29 September 2017. Priority populations, including hard-to-reach girls, domestic and sex workers, teenage girls with babies, school-dropouts, as well as adolescent girls and young women as well as PLWHA mainly survivors of GBV in Machipanda border post, participated in the event.

In addition to delivering quality and timely services under one roof and at the doorstep of communities, the Mobile One-Stop Service provision is a great entry point to deliver and provide follow-up support and multi-sectoral services in an integrated fashion. School-related GBV information and services comprised 32% of the total 2,536 services, and generated demand meant to increase the uptake of services for all community members, including the most at-risk subgroups.

Each agency facilitated on-site services and bi-directional referrals. Key professionals who participated included medical doctors and nurses, court judges, police officers, psychologists, logisticians, teachers, case care workers, journalist and Peace Corps Volunteers. Effective input and planning by the GBV Provincial Multi-sectoral Technical Working Group, with additional support from the Direct Reference Group, brought together for the first time 7 government sectors, 3 INGOs, 4 local NGOs, one community radio and two schools. In addition to providing essential services, such an event fostered closer collaboration among key service delivery actors, thus improving the local referral and network system.

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Learn more:
www.bantwana.org

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—Mary, 31

"The services here are high-quality. They’re friendly, that is why you see many youth."
—Grade 12 student

[Diagram: Types of Services Provided]

[Image: "[I got an implant. Before,] we did not know what type of family planning to follow." — Mary, 31]

[Image: "The services here are high-quality. They’re friendly, that is why you see many youth."
—Grade 12 student]