

WORLD AIDS DAY

Prevention and control measures decentralised

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Aids. UNAIDS will lead, strengthen and support an expanded response aimed at preventing the transmission of HIV, providing care and support, reducing the vulnerability of individuals and communities to HIV Aids and alleviating the impact of the epidemic.

Prevention, Control Activities Decentralised to District Level

The implementation of HIV Aids prevention and care activities by the National Aids STD Control Programme have been decentralised to the districts since the inception of the World Bank supported STI Project by the Ministry of Health.

This is the first time that districts have been given authority to plan, implement and evaluate Aids prevention and control activities with full decentralisation of financial authority.

It is also the first time that the Government has de-segregated expenditure to the district level with funds flowing direct from the Treasury.

This decentralisation is in line with the Kenya Health Policy Framework of 1994 and is a major reform in Government financial arrangement for the implementation of development programmes.

In this devolved procedure, community-based organisations, NGOs, religious organisations and the private sector will support with funds at the district level in areas where they are better placed than the Government to implement activities.

Initially covering 15

districts, the project's main focus is on rural populations with community based Aids education involving active participation of opinion leaders at the grassroots level.

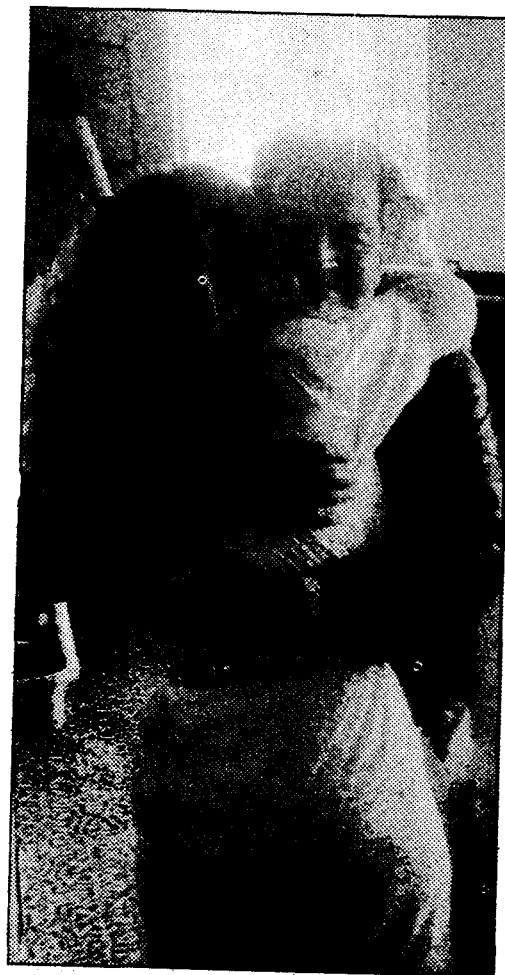
The experience gained and lessons learnt in these districts will be useful in the expansion of the project to cover other districts in the country.

Condom distribution has been enhanced with the installation of condom dispensers in 65 centres in the district.

The district STI implementation team has worked closely with Non-Governmental Organisations such as World Vision International, Christian Children Foundation, Church of the Province of Kenya and the Catholic Church in realising the objectives of the project.

Uasin Gishu District

The district has carried out several training activities for health workers on syndromic management of STDs including private practitioners with the support of other Non-Governmental Organisations.



Community-based Aids education, including provision of counselling services is urged.

It has also conducted several Aids education seminars for Armed Forces personnel, managers and supervisors of various companies, municipal council chief officers, church leaders and women's groups.

The DIAC has also organised an awareness workshop for all departmental heads in the district under the chairmanship of the DC and subsequently held several meetings to monitor project implementation.

In order to promote blood donation and ensure safety of blood for transfusion, training of laboratory personnel has been conducted and blood donor campaign conducted throughout the district.

As a way of reaching people with reproductive health information, the medical officer of health in conjunction with the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation produced a familylife education programme in the local language.

An IEC Resource Centre has also been established in the district.

The STI Project in Uasin Gishu collaborates closely with Moi University and the John Hopkins home-based care project as well as the municipal council and the Church of the Province of Kenya.

The immediate impact of this decentralisation has been evident in the following areas:

- The District Medical Officers of Health and the DHMT feel more response and motivated to implement activities and co-ordinate the involvement of other sectors in the multisectoral response to the epidemic at district level.
- The spill-off effect of the STI project has been felt in other health care programmes.

During district-wide STI supervisory and monitor visits, the MOH and his team are able to supervise other health care activities and take appropriate action.

The project is being implemented by District Health Management Teams under the leadership of the District Intersectoral Aids Committees chaired by the District Commissioner.

The technical leadership is provided by the Medical Officers of Health (MOH) and there is a specific District Aids and Sexually Transmitted Diseases Co-ordinator (DASCO) in every district for the day-to-day implementation of activities.

The project has given priority to the establishment of Aids Resource Centres to enable members of the public have an easy access to information on Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases without having to travel to Nairobi.

Reinforcing messages on HIV/Aids have also been put out in the district on billboards in local languages which are sensitive to the people's culture.

Progress in the implementation of this project in the district has been tremendous. The following

are examples of successes in some districts:

Baringo District

The district has conducted 24 Aids awareness and education seminars for schools and colleges, youth groups and other community based organisations and leaders using audio-visual and locally relevant media.

Hospitals and community health workers have been trained in HIV/Aids and STD management as well as blood safety, laboratory quality control and HIV surveillance.

Kakamega District

A major achievement in the district has been the implementation training programmes for health workers and monitoring of the impact of syndromic management of STDs, utilisation of drugs and laboratory reagents.

As far as public education is concerned, Aids awareness seminars have been held at grassroots

level for women groups, opinion leaders, religious groups, herbalists, youth groups, traditional birth attendants and secondary schools using video-projector shows and traditional folk media.

The district also had a stand in the Kakamega Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) show and an Aids Resource Centre has been established.

The District Intersectoral Aids Committee is composed of representatives from Agriculture, Social Services, Education, Catholic Church, NCCK, YMCA, Kenya Aids League, Muslim group and Maendeleo ya Wanawake Organisation and is chaired by the DC.

It has held several meetings and monitors the implementation of the project with backing from the MOH and DASCO.

Homa Bay

The district has conducted several community-based Aids education activities involving youth groups, churches and the fishing community along the

beaches.

There has also been planning, implementation and evaluation meetings between the MOH, DASCO, the Inter-Sectoral Committee and the NGOs in the district geared towards the smooth implementation of the project.

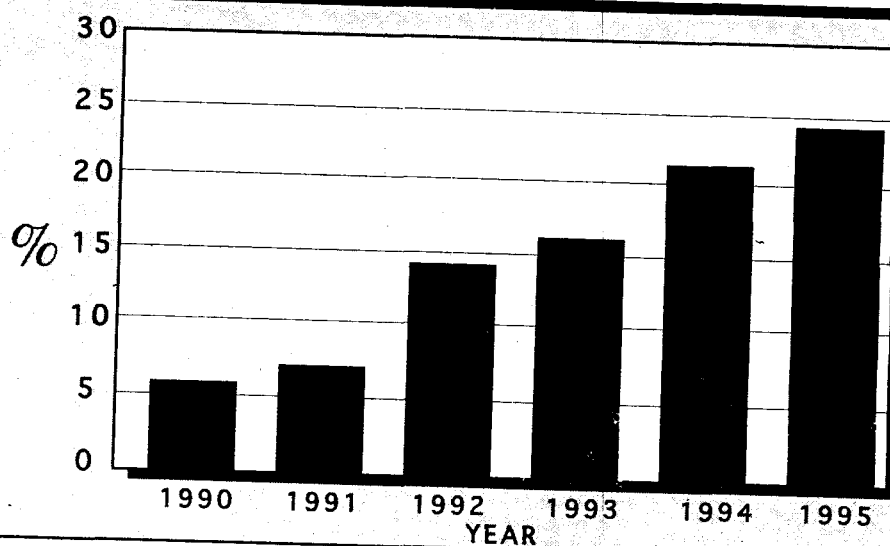
The other districts where implementation of the STI project has taken place include Garissa, Busia, Kisii, Nyeri, Embu, Nakuru, Taita Taveta, Kisumu, Machakos and Nairobi.

In all these districts, significant levels of progress have been made in mobilising other sectors in the project.

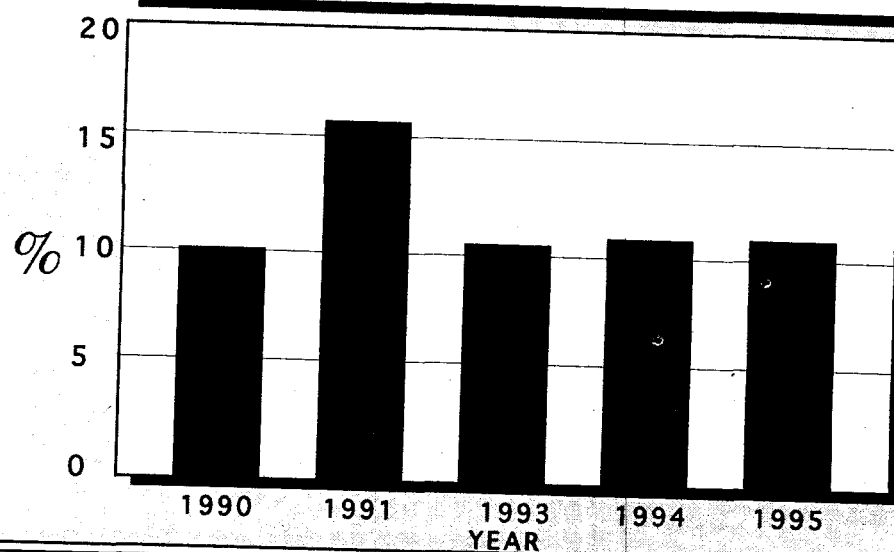
In all these districts, the planning, implementation and financing of HIV prevention has been effectively decentralised and budgets de-segregated to district level accordingly. It is expected that there will be improvement in the overall co-ordination and management of Aids activities which will be sustainable because of the decentralised structural administrative financial system to the districts.

• Compiled by Meshack Ndolo, IEC specialist, STI Project

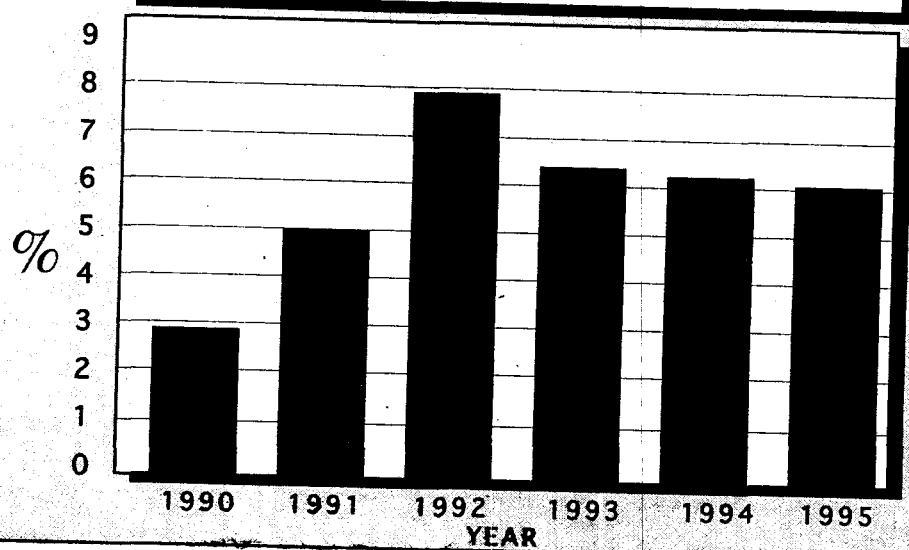
HIV PREVALENCE IN NAIROBI



HIV PREVALENCE IN MOMBASA



HIV PREVALENCE IN NYERI



Source: Kenya National Aids & STD Control Programme