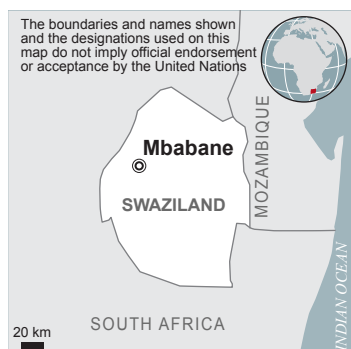


Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in rural communities in Swaziland: Happy baby happy family initiative



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: Swaziland

Duration: March 2004 to September 2007

Implementing UN Agencies: UNICEF

Other Implementing Partners: Sexual and Reproductive Health Unit of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Budget: \$1,122,721.60

Key Words: HIV/AIDS; women

BACKGROUND

The HIV/AIDS crisis hit Swaziland hard. In 2002, it was ranked among the top two countries with HIV prevalence. By 2004, 42 percent of pregnant mothers tested positive for the virus and as many as 40 percent of their children became infected before, during or after delivery. Since the fertility rate was high in Swaziland, this raised the specter of a perpetual epidemic among the nation's youngest citizens and threatened the human security of the entire population.

As most women in Swaziland had access to good antenatal care, integrating efforts for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV into antenatal services promised to be an effective way to improve the health of babies born to HIV positive mothers. However, to ensure the success of these efforts, a campaign to reduce stigma and discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS was crucial.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project sought to improve the use of prevention of mother-to-child transmission services during antenatal care by ensuring adequate supply of drugs and medical equipment. These efforts were supported with

initiatives to reduce stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS, thereby encouraging HIV positive women to take advantage of such services.

BENEFICIARIES

A total of 48,000 people (men, women and youth) were sensitized on HIV/AIDS, including the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, through drama performances and discussions. Approximately

72,000 women were tested for HIV during the programme, 20,000 of whom received anti-retroviral to prevent mother-to-child transition.