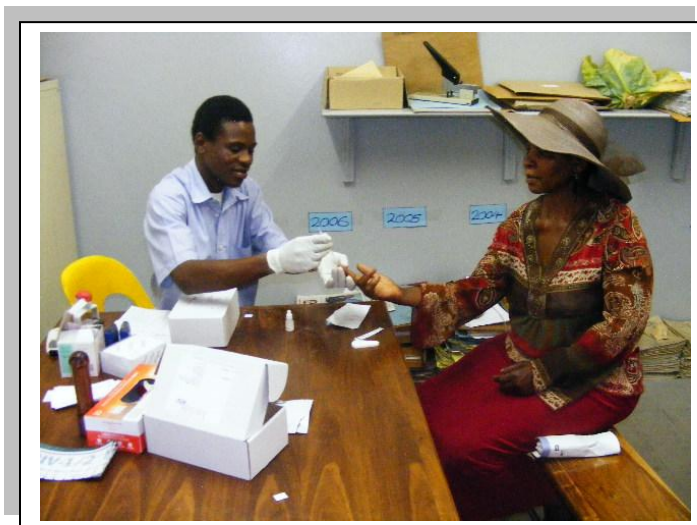


HCT (HIV Counselling and Testing)

Evolution of HIV testing and counseling in Botswana

The HIV testing and counselling programme was established in 1989 as a component of the National Control Programme. Its emphasis is on HIV prevention and psychosocial support. The programme to meet the emotional, psychological, social and spiritual needs of both the affected and infected individuals and families. to the establishment of the programme, the Botswana Red Cross Society provided voluntary counselling and testing services at the Blood Donation Centre in Gaborone.



AIDS

aims

HIV

Prior

Core Indicator	Details	Baseline		Targets		
		Year	%	2008	2012	2016
Tested and received results	% of women and men aged 15-49 who received an HIV test in the last 12 months and who know their results	2005	20	95%	95%	98%

In 2000, the Government of Botswana and the United States Government established the Tebelopele VCT programme which has now been scaled up to a network of 16 centres nationwide. In order to increase access to HIV testing and counselling and maximize prevention and treatment opportunities, in January 2004, Botswana introduced Routine HIV testing (RHT) in government clinical settings. RHT (provider-initiated) was implemented in health facilities so that HIV positive clients could be identified early and those needing treatment could access it promptly. Lay counsellors were hired and trained to scale up HIV testing and counselling services, initially in the PMTCT programme and later to cover programmes such as Community Home Based Care (CHBC) and Masa antiretroviral therapy programmes. The RHT initiative complemented the VCT programme.

In 2007, Botswana government through Ministry of Health developed comprehensive national guidelines on HIV counselling and testing. This document endorses both RHT which is provider-initiated testing and counselling mostly practiced in health facilities and VCT which is client-initiated, mostly provided in community-based settings.

The guidelines provide national standards that must be adhered to by all organizations and individuals for the provision of high quality HIV testing and counselling services in Botswana. On average the country records 54 410 tests every quarter. This figure has been drawn from an average of the three past NAC Quarterly Reports during 2008.