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FOURTH BOTSWANA AIDS IMPACT SURVEY FIELD WORK IS EXTENDED

The fieldwork for the ongoing Fourth Botswana AIDS Impact Survey, (BAIS IV) has been extended to **April 24, 2013**.

The fieldwork, which started on **January 22**, was scheduled to be completed on **March 15** but had to be extended by one month.

Twenty-nine teams are currently in the field collecting data on behavioral patterns of the populations aged 10-64 years as well as testing for HIV among the sampled population aged between 6-weeks and 64. Each team will cover between 10 and 11 enumeration areas of the 298 sampled.

According to the NACA and Statistics Botswana quality control teams, participation has been impressive with the majority of Botswana cooperating with the fieldworkers.

The Preliminary results of the Fourth Botswana AIDS Impact Survey are expected at the beginning of August 2013.

BACKGROUND

The information from BAIS IV will be used for continuous strategic prevention and national HIV programme planning and guide future HIV and AIDS research.

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Specifically the survey is intended to:

To provide current national HIV estimates among the population aged 6 weeks through 64 years.

To provide indicative trends in sexual and preventive behavior among the population aged 10-64 years.

To provide a comparison between HIV rate, behavior, knowledge, attitude, poverty and cultural factors that are associated with the epidemic with estimates derived from previous surveys.

To increase the numbers of those who know their HIV status and assist linking those found to be HIV positive to healthcare system.

Additionally: To produce survey results in a timely manner and ensure that the data are disseminated to a wide audience of potential users in government and non-governmental organizations within and outside Botswana.

The 2014 BAIS (IV) will avail test results to Botswana participating in the survey who wish to know their results, thereby contributing to the national goal of '*Eliminating new HIV infections by 2016.*'

The third Botswana AIDS Impact Survey, (BAIS III) was undertaken in 2008 and according to its results, 17.6% Botswana were living with HIV. According to the results, prevalence among females was 20.4% while males had 14.2%. The rate of new infections was higher among females than males at an estimated at 3.5% and 2.3% percent respectively.

HIV prevalence by districts revealed that Selebe Phikwe, Sowa, Francistown, Chobe and North East were among the top 5 highly affected areas. Selebe Phikwe and Francistown were the highest in HIV prevalence rates at 26.5% and 23.1%. However Chobe showed contrast of being one of the highest in prevalence at 23.0% but one of the lowest estimated prevalence rates at 1 percent.

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Should you require any additional information, do not hesitate to contact the Public Relations Office at 393 6249, 3710314 or lomongatane@gov.bw.

