HEALTH AND HIV IN PRISONS

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ZAMBIA CORRECTIONAL SERVICE

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(MPH)
PERSPECTIVE OF A PRISON HEALTH OFFICIAL

• Health Needs.
  • Challenges of prisoners/detained persons
    • Prison conditions vs prisoners’ health status
      • Institutional response to challenges
        • Other stakeholders
          • Gaps
WHO

- Health in prisons is not just about prisoners. Prisons are small communities in themselves, having custodial staff and health staff entering and leaving every day. Visitors to prisons may also have regular close contact with the prisoners. Any health problem among the prisoner population will inevitably affect those people in close contact with them, and sooner or later these problems will spill out into the general community - (WHO-Europe 2007 Status paper on Prisons and TB)
Figure 1. The interaction between prisons and communities and its effect on HIV transmission as well as individual and public health.
WORLD AIDS DAY
MONGU CENTRAL PRISONS
29 November, 2013

**ZAMBIA CORRECTIONAL STATS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Prison Facilities</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unlock or Number of inmates</td>
<td>21,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities’ Capacity (unaudited)</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of “Correctional” Officers</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of ZCS Health Professionals</td>
<td>70+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health facilities</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PREDISPOSING FACTORS TO POOR HEALTH IN PRISONS

- Extreme Congestion/Poor ventilation
- Poor health services/Poor hygiene
- Poor nutrition
- Poor water reticulation/sanitation systems
- Poor officer-inmate attitude
USAID - 2015

- National HIV Prevalence 13%
- Prison HIV prevalence 21.6%
- National TB prevalence 385/100,000
- Prison TB prevalence 2,200/100,000
• Rates of HIV/AIDS are much higher in prisons (Zambia 27.4 % …2011 - Simooya et al)
• At least 10-15% of prisoners in Europe have a significant mental illness (WHO)
• Women prisoners have particular health needs
• Research shows that children and young people are far more likely to have poor mental health
WOMEN OFFENDERS’ ISSUES

• Lack of support with clothing
• Lack of early education programmes
• Lack of recreation
• Lack of conducive accommodation separate from the adult populations (for girls)
• Limited rehabilitation programmes (compared to males)
INITIATIVES TO AMELIORATE CHALLENGES

• Build awareness
• Lobby law makers – budgetary increase, recruitment programs, infrastructure development
• Lobby the judiciary – reconsider jail sentences for minor sentences
• Lobby/court government – for infrastructure development, increase on officers
• Stakeholder collaboration – advocacy, specific health programs
• Enhancement of the MOH support
STAKEHOLDERS (CSOs, NGOs, UN Bodies etc)

• Advocacy
• Support with health programs
• Support with infrastructure
• Support capacity building
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

- Support of health service delivery
- Support for medical/surgical supplies
• More prison visits
• Community sentencing
• Shorter sentences
GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

• Public Private Partnership – Mwembeshi Complex, Kabwe and Lusaka housing Complex
• Support in the recruitment of officers (heath professionals)
• Increase in budgetary allocation
• Presidential releases - Pardons
I used to think drinking was bad for me... So I gave up thinking.

— Anonymous
... IF ONLY ...

• ... if only we could have better food
• ... if only we could sleep better
• ... if only our sick friends could be fed differently
• ... if only we could be treated humanely
• ... if only we could just be talked to
• ... if only this child could treated differently
INITIATIVES
INFECTIOUS DISEASE CENTER
SUPPORT

• UNODC
• TB CARE
• CHICHETEKELO
• CIDRZ
• IN BUT FREE
• PRISSCA
• PMO
• CRESSO
• SHARE II
• DCMO
• CHAZ
THANK YOU