



Establishment of a national training program to enhance the quality of HIV/AIDS care and treatment in Botswana

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Issues: In response to the training needs of Botswana's national HIV/AIDS care and treatment initiatives, a national training program was established by the Botswana Ministry of Health (MOH) in collaboration with the Botswana-Harvard School of Public Health AIDS Initiative Partnership (BHP) the African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships (ACHAP) and other training partners.

Description: The KITSO AIDS Training Program (KITSO) was established in 2000, as a modular-based training program, providing didactic and practical training support (Figures 1). The curriculum was collaboratively developed by national and international experts to ensure that health professionals gain competency and confidence in the latest practices of HIV/AIDS care and treatment in line with the national health care standards and protocols. Didactic training modules include lectures, country specific case studies and interactive sessions that are relevant to the day to day realities of Botswana's health care settings. The integrated practical training module provides hands-on experience in pediatric and adult antiretroviral therapy in the country's most active ARV clinics under the guidance of experienced clinicians. A special emphasis is made to ensure that all training modules are standardized.

Lessons learned: The collaboration of local and international experts in the development of the KITSO AIDS Training Program under the leadership of the MOH has resulted in a strong core curriculum which has been instrumental in building local care and treatment capacity. The country-specific focus of KITSO and the standardization of training insure that the training needs of Botswana's health professionals are clearly and appropriately addressed, enhancing the quality of patient care.

Recommendations: The model of KITSO could be of great benefit to other countries to support their efforts in establishing HIV/AIDS care and treatment programs.

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