



Proudly Supporting Doctors Without Borders

Every day, around 1500 people are newly infected with HIV in South Africa.

It is estimated by the UN that over 5.5 million people are HIV positive and about a million are in urgent need of anti-retroviral treatment (ART); half of whom are still waiting. Tuberculosis (TB), including drug-resistant TB, is the leading cause of illness and death among those living with HIV.

Since May 2001, MSF has been providing primary care level HIV/AIDS treatment in the township of Khayelitsha, on the outskirts of Cape Town. MSF has progressively handed elements of the program over to provincial and local health authorities but continues to support TB and HIV services.

The Khayelitsha program has the oldest group of patients on AIDS treatment in the public sector on the continent. As of December 2007, nearly 9,000 people had been started on ART in clinics supported by MSF, including almost 3,000 who have been on treatment for more than two years.

The good News:

More than 90 percent of babies born to HIV positive mothers in Gauteng public health facilities between April and June 2010 were saved from the virus, says the provincial Health and Social Development Department.

This is an improvement from an average of 70 percent in previous months. The department said that 91 percent of babies whose mothers were on Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) were tested six weeks after birth and tested HIV negative.

The objective is: provide anti-Aids, or anti-retroviral drugs to pregnant mothers and tens of thousands of unborn babies will be protected from HIV infection.



The HIV virus can be transmitted in breast milk

“Carriwell was started in South Africa 14 years ago and we feel privileged and blessed to have this opportunity to help prevent & support babies with HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa.”

