



Minimum Standards for Child and Adolescent HIV, TB and Malaria Continuum of Care and Support



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Minimum Standards for the Prevention, Treatment and Management of Malaria in the SADC Region

Policy brief

Southern Africa Development Community Member States have committed themselves to improve child survival and development, and to respond to HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria. Implementation of these Minimum Standards will help meet those commitments.

The background

SADC envisages “a common future, a future within a regional community that continues to ensure socioeconomic wellbeing, freedom, social justice and peace and security”. SADC Member States have made important progress in the last decades in reducing child mortality. However, the HIV and tuberculosis (TB) epidemics, and high prevalence of malaria in several countries continues to undermine child survival and development. Children and adolescents, who represent almost 50% of the region’s population, are particularly vulnerable to these three diseases.

The rationale

Member States, through the SADC Protocol on Health, are committed to controlling communicable diseases—particularly HIV, TB and malaria—in a harmonised manner. However, the key regional strategic frameworks and minimum standards related to these three diseases currently do not adequately cover children and adolescents.

The principles

The Minimum Standards are based on interlinked principles that include the need for services that are child- and human rights-centred. They follow an overall approach that is integrated and holistic, that involves inter-sectoral partnerships and coordination, and that adopts a child- and adolescent-focused developmental perspective so that services can be adapted to age-specific needs. Equality, gender sensitivity, partnerships and transparency are to be ensured, and programmes and interventions should be evidence-based and sustainable. The principles of equity and universal access will apply.

The scope

The Minimum Standards serve as a framework to guide the regional harmonisation of approaches for a continuum of care and support in HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria for children and adolescents in the SADC region. They set out the minimum requirements that reflect international recommendations, adding value to them by rendering them appropriate to the SADC context. Because of the links between HIV, TB and malaria and child vulnerability, it is crucial that access to services such as health, education, social and child protection, food security and nutrition and psychosocial services are adequately integrated into this response.

Key points

The Standards exist within the broader context of essential services for children and adolescents, as outlined in the SADC Minimum Package of Services for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children and Youth. They comprise detailed recommendations for HIV and AIDS prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care; TB prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care; and malaria prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care in children and adolescents.

Cross-cutting standards on care and support for children and adolescents are also provided, including for nutritional assessment, counselling and support, social protection, psychosocial support, child and adolescent protection, child- and adolescent-friendly services, community and home-based care, advocacy, communication and social mobilisation, and care and treatment across Member States borders.

Recommendations are also provided for health systems strengthening and integration, supply chain management, monitoring and evaluation, and integration

Implementation

The Minimum Standards are to be clearly incorporated into national strategic frameworks/plans and clinical guidelines for treatment/management of the three diseases.

Successful implementation of the Minimum Standards requires actions from key stakeholders at regional, national and local levels, including the SADC Secretariat, Member States and other stakeholders (including United Nations agencies, bilateral donors and development partners, nongovernmental organisations, community and faith-based organisations, the private sector, and research and training institutions).

Implementation may also require additional financial resource allocation by Member States. They shall ensure that areas requiring additional financial resources are identified, that each area requiring additional support is costed, and a budget plan for additional resources receives endorsement from the relevant Ministries.

Implementation of the Minimum Standards will be monitored at the Member State and SADC level.

More Information

The Minimum Standards are based on the findings of an assessment compiled in the SADC Regional Assessment Report of Policies and Programmes for Child and Adolescent HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria (2013). The Minimum Standards are available in the publication, Minimum Standards for Child and Adolescent HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria Continuum of Care and Support in the SADC Region (2013).

Both publications are available from the Communicable Diseases Project of the SADC Secretariat (Private Bag 0095, Gaborone, Botswana).