

Kazungula Weigh Bridge Clinic: Partnering for Sustainability



Photo by Tumelo Molelekwa

Truck passing next to the Kazungula Weighbridge Clinic

“In most cases we don’t have time to go to the clinic or we might go only to find a long queue. As a result, we are forced to leave without being attended to. This program gives us a great opportunity to access the health services to check our status as we rest here.”

– **Truck Driver, Kasane**

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Telling Our Story

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The Kazungula Weigh Bridge is a common way-place for truckdrivers to stop while waiting for their turn for the ferry across the Zambezi River. The wait can sometimes be as long as a month to cross the river. As a result, a community of bars, and resteraunts have cropped up to provide services to the waiting truckers, and the sex work industry is booming. No functioning health clinic was available for 10 km, but the need for services was great. Under RTI International’s USAID Funded HIV-MARPs project, Tebelopele, BOFWA and Kasane District Health Medical Team (DHMT) collaborated to rehabilitate the strategically placed Kazungula Weighbridge clinic to provide comprehensive services targeted towards key populations. The clinic offers extended operating hours (7:30-22:00) to better provide for the needs of migrant men and sex workers.

Each partner has a specific role to play, based on their organizational strengths. Tebelopele provides community mobilization, onsite peer education, condom distribution and referrals; BOFWA provides clinical SRH/HIV services to key populations; and the DHMT provides technical and infrastructure support, and medical commodities such as drugs, test kits, and condoms.

The clinic has become a popular place for sex workers and truck drivers to receive services. Its location makes it easily accessible, and the comprehensive services offered means that there is less loss to follow up. All providers have been trained in stigma reduction and MARPs friendly health service provision, and clients report that they feel more at ease being open about their medical problems at our facility.

Sustainability of Services

Building capacity and creating ownership through local partners has proved to be a sustainable approach. In spite of project closeout, the partnership will continue with support from the Ministry of Health. Additional support will be provided to Tebelopele through the CDC to ramp up services to mobile populations via a partnership with the Ministry of Transport and Communication. These services are likely to continue being supported with the upcoming construction of a Kazungula Bridge.