

# Managing HIV and the role of the primary health care team

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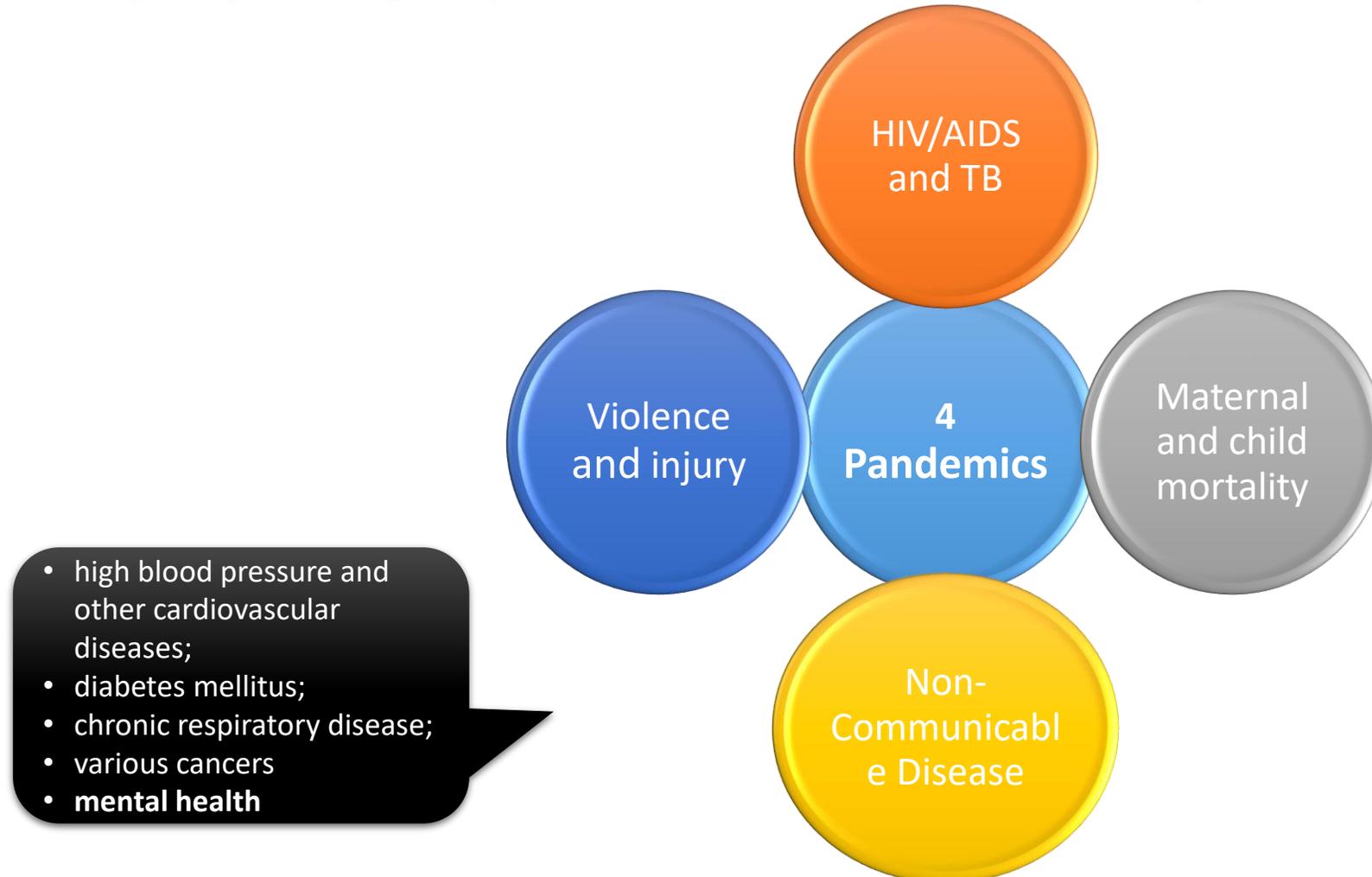




**Used snowman for sale. Needs attention !**

# Quadruple burden of disease...

South Africa is going through **4 pandemics** (NDoH, *Impilo Dialogue*, June 2011)





“Health for all.....”



## In South Africa:

- 52 health districts
- 54 regional hospitals
- 260 district hospitals



Eastern Province - 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in size, 2<sup>nd</sup> poorest, 63% rural population





# BB

- CD4 count 21
- Renal impairment eGFR 27
- Started on TB treatment, but persistent vomiting
- Taken to the clinic and given 4 litres of IVI fluid over the day
- Seen the following week and started on ARVs



Baby B was brought to clinic by his granny.  
Cleft lip and palate



# Teamwork



# Why do we need to invest in primary health care?

- PHC improves health outcomes
- Currently SA has high investment in health (hospi-centred care) with poor health outcomes.
- NHI needs strong district health system driving effective PHC
- Health system needs to re-find its focus
  - To be service and outcome orientated
  - To have a motivated, enthusiastic committed workforce
  - To maximise all available resources
- PHC addresses issues including health promotion, food security, water and sanitation, prevention and control of endemic diseases, agriculture, animal husbandry, housing, communication.....demands the co-ordinated efforts of all these sectors. (Declaration of Alma Ata September 1978)



# Fundamental differences to current PHC approach



- 1) strengthen current district health system
  - The basic systems need to be better implemented
  - The district management team needs to be given the responsibility for managing the district and being responsible for the health of the population
- 2) strengthen interaction between health services and the users of the health service
  - Health services pro-actively reach out to families with the emphasis on health promotion and preventative activities
  - Outreach into communities and homes of families
  - Early identification of individuals within families at high risk
  - Greater interaction with communities to get their support for participation in maintaining and improving their own health
  - Team approach to health care

# Challenges facing CHWs

- Currently there are between 65 000 and 72 000 community based health workers. The ratio between of CHW to population remains too low and their scope of practice too limited.
- CHWs in rural areas face geographical challenges to reach their 270 households.
- Training (length and type) of CHWs varies.
- Major differences in the academic background of CHWs
- No standardised employment mechanisms



# Investment case for CHWs



- If the number of CHWs increased to 96 000 and each were paid a stipend of R2500/m, and training costs, equipment and supervision were included – this would amount to 15% of the current public sector PHC expenditure.
  - Over 10 years this would lead to cost savings owing to deaths averted, and would contribute to economic growth due to employment of women as CHWs.
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- Daviaud E, Besada D, Budlender D, Sanders D, Kerber K. Saving lives, saving costs: Investment case for community health care workers in SA, Cape Town: South African Medical Research Council, 2018

# Challenges facing PHC teams

- Shortages of health care workers at all levels of care.
- Logistics of advertising and filling crucial posts.
- High turnover of health care workers and CHWs, resulting in the need for ongoing training and mentoring of staff
- Reliable transport for the PHC teams.
- Poor supervision of WBOT teams in many areas resulting in poor accountability.
- Fragmented health care system.



- “Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

— [Robert F. Kennedy](#)



If you think you are too small to make a difference, you haven't spent the night with a mosquito.

-African proverb

- “Do all you can with what you have in the time you have in the place you are.”
  - Nkosi Johnson, AIDs activist

