

District Support and Community Development Cluster

*“Turning policy into
practice”*

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Background

- HST has since 1992 been involved and contributed to the transformation of the Health Sector into a unified and decentralised Health System
- After 1994, with national health policies on the District Health System and Primary Health Care in place, HST decided to set up the Initiative for Sub-District Support (ISDS) in 1996
- ISDS's focus was to provide technical support to provinces and districts in translating the DHS and PHC policies into practice



Background contd

- ISDS approach – to set up of best practice sites in selected districts (The uniqueness of this approach is that HST facilitators are based at the districts and work closely with district teams and thus skills transfer occurs)
- In order to strengthen, community participation ISDS added the component of social mobilisation in 2000, the cluster is now known as DS&CD



Cluster Goal

“The overall goal of the cluster is to support selected districts in **health systems strengthening** and **improvement of quality of care** through **technical support** to managers, service providers and communities.”



Contribution of Cluster to Health Systems Development

- In strengthening the Health System
 - HST in partnership with other institutions is contributing to the development and implementation of tools and guidelines; which have been adopted by NDOH and used nationally and regionally



Tools and Guidelines

- **DISCA tool** (District STI Quality of Care Assessment: HST, UCT & RHRU)
- **Functional Integration Guidelines**
- **Comprehensive PHC Package & Norms and Standards for PHC** (HST, UOFS & CHP)
- **District Health Expenditure Review Guidelines** (HST, CHP, UCT, Equity Project & DOH)
- **District Health Planning and Reporting Guidelines** (piloted & reviewed)
- **DRAT tool**
- **Clinic Supervision Manual** (developed by Equity Project and rolled out to other provinces with HST)
- **North West Guidebook for District Hospital Managers** (HST & PDOH)
- **Waiting time survey tool** (HST & UWC)
- **Pharmacy Information System** (HST & UWC)
- Several publications on lesson learnt

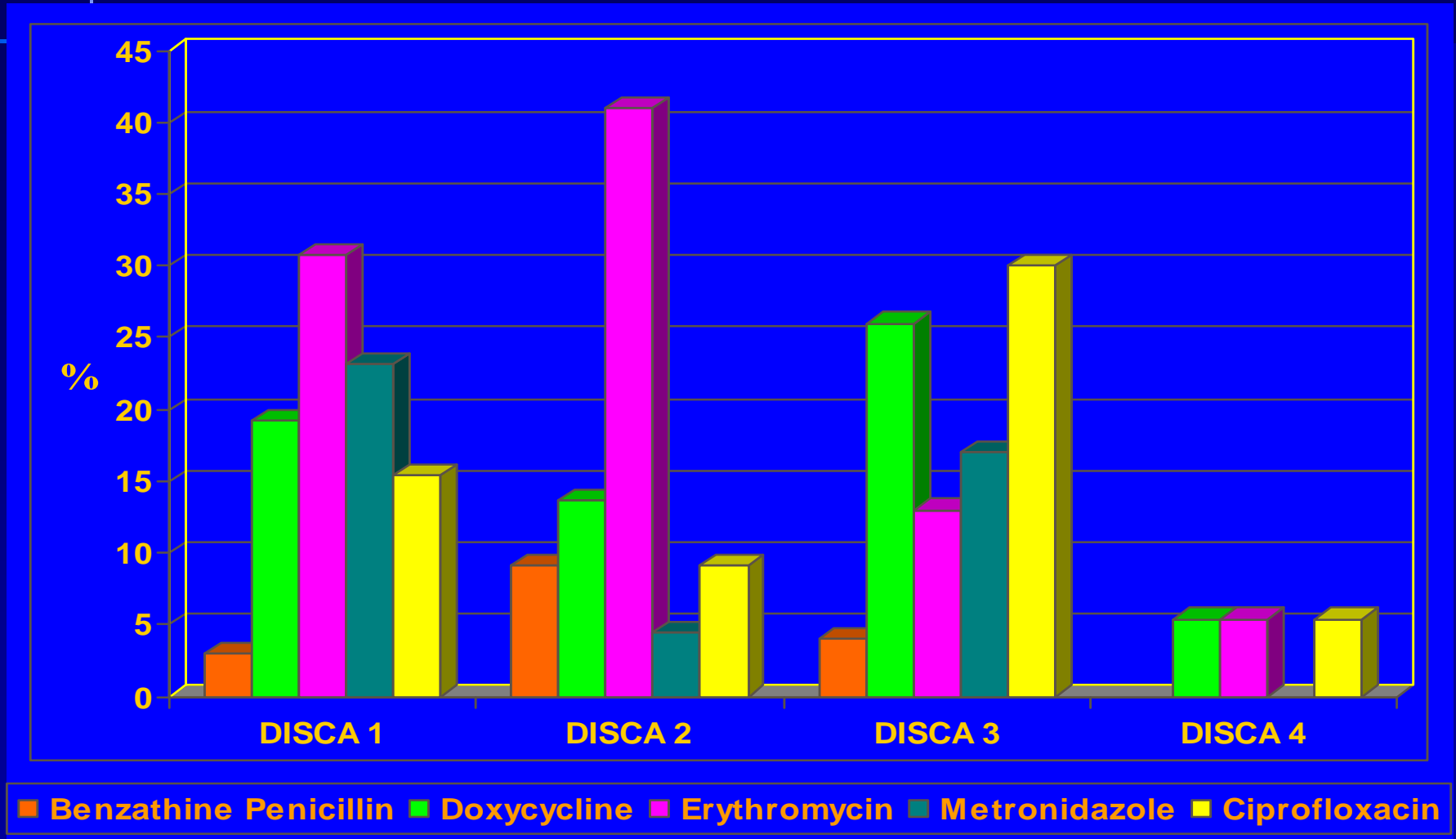


Technical Support to Districts

- HST facilitators working closely with District Teams have through the mentoring and coaching strategy supported the implementation of national policies thereby:
 - Strengthening district management systems (drug management, transport)
 - Strengthening quality of care focusing on key priority programmes (TB, HIV/AIDS/STI, MCWH, Nutrition)
 - Supporting management in planning and evaluation (DHP, DHER, STP)
- The emphasis of the technical support is transfer of skills both at district and sub-district levels

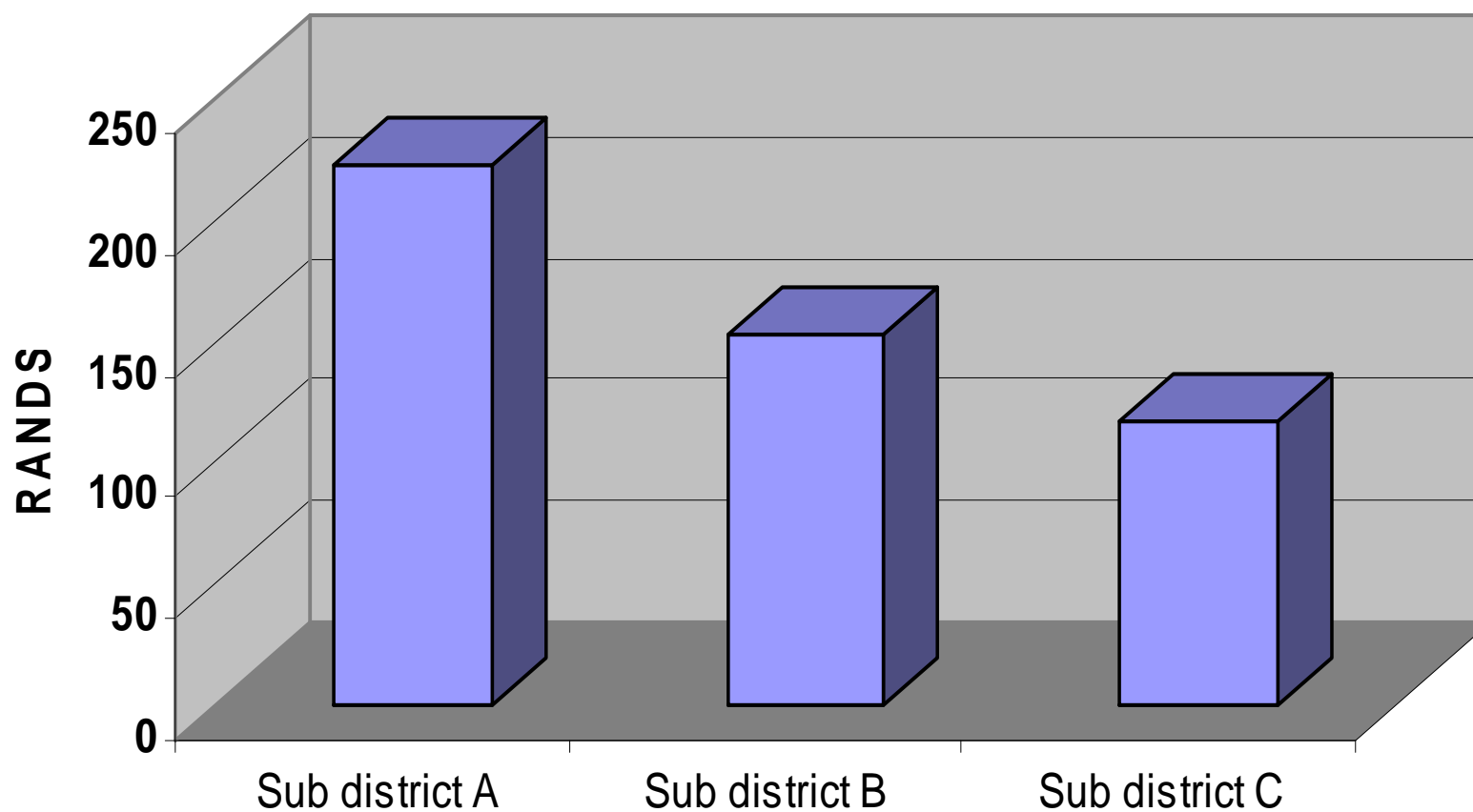


Using the DISCA: Stock out levels in a Sub-District: STI drugs (2005)



Using the DHER tool

PHC Expenditure Per Capita 2002/2003



Regional Technical Support

- Southern African Development Community (SADC)
 - Provided technical support in enhancement of syndromic management of STIs in selected cross border areas and high transmission sites in Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and Swaziland (BNLS)
 - The outputs of this support was the adoption of the following tools and guidelines by SADC member states in September 2000
 - SADC STI management guidelines and training manual
 - SADC STI quality management framework
 - SADC STI Norms and Standards
 - SADC STI Quality of Care Monitoring and Evaluation Tool (DISCA)
 - SADC STI sentinel surveillance guidelines
 - HST is currently working with SADC in the next phase of the project to replicate the interventions in other SADC countries



Regional Technical Support contd

- Private sector quality of care study in Botswana, Namibia and Zambia
 - Situational analysis report for each country
 - PPP framework with guidelines on areas of collaboration
 - Country STI steering committees were set up to implement action plans
- The Human Sexuality Project which aims to promote public discourse on human sexuality is implemented in collaboration with the Africa Regional Sexuality Centre (ARSRC) in Lagos
 - Quarterly seminars are conducted in partnership with SA universities and other institutions and documenting emerging knowledge on sexuality related issues



Partnerships with International Organisation

- **Management Sciences for Health (MSH)**

- Integrated Primary Health Care (IPHC) is a consortium led by Management Sciences for Health (MSH) in partnership with Health Systems Trust (HST) and the University Research Corporation (URC).
- The consortium provides technical assistance to five provinces of South Africa in strengthening the district health system

- **University Research Corporation (URC) and HST**

- The basic strategy is to help health care facilities to conduct provider initiated counselling and testing
- Supporting integration of HIV Counselling and Testing with ANC, TB, Family planning and STI services in five provinces in selected districts



Communities as Partners

- Strengthening the community participation and inter sectoral principles of the PHC philosophy through partnering with CBOs in promoting advocacy and social mobilisation around key health conditions
- Engaging community members in responding to prevailing health conditions
- Through skills transfer and development in the partnership, community members become resource persons within their communities



Community Mobilisation projects

- **Community ART Literacy Project**
 - Strengthening community and family awareness around treatment adherence
 - To increase the community's understanding of the role of ARVs in prevention, care, support and treatment of HIV and AIDS
- **Community Nutrition and IMCI Project**
 - Community based household food 'security', nutrition education and community based Growth Monitoring and Promotion
- Project Implementation is done with other sectors



DSCD Cluster 2007

- As we celebrate 15 years of HST's existence and look to celebrating 30 years of Alma Ata declaration
- The cluster is committed to creating a platform for a seamless health service which interlinks the formal health sector and community based health care initiatives, thus embracing the ethos of PHC
- To continue supporting the strengthening of the Health System through mentoring and coaching of both managers, service providers and communities



DSCD Cluster 2007

- Alma Ata declaration: Primary Health Care
“includes at least education concerning prevailing health problems and the methods of preventing and controlling them; promotion of food supply and proper nutrition; and adequate supply of safe water and basic sanitation; maternal and child health care; prevention and control of locally endemic diseases; appropriate treatment of common diseases and injury”

(Alma Ata, 1978)



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**Ahsante Sana
Enkosi
Thank You**



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