



HIV/AIDS is a cross-cutting issue for development

The Namibian statistics has shown that all aspects of the socio-economic are weakened by the pandemic.

HIV/AIDS has a negative impact on the livelihoods of people and it lowers work productivity, thereby having a direct negative impact on businesses.

It is therefore important that education and awareness raising on the HIV/AIDS risks and impacts are an integral part of each bush harvesting and utilisation operation.

Contact us:

De-bushing Advisory
Service
9 Haydn Street
Windhoek West
info@dasnamibia.org

www.dasnamibia.org

De-bushing Advisory Service Supporting the fight against HIV/AIDS



HIV/AIDS has a very high prevalence rate in Namibia. The HIV strategy of Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry promotes HIV prevention programmes and enhances research to help create awareness, in order to reduce and manage the risks of HIV infection in the sector. The De-bushing Advisory Service supports this initiative through participation in the agricultural Sector Steering Committee.

HIV risk factors in bush harvesting and processing

- Migrant labour can lead to increased infection risk (increased likelihood of multiple partners, possibility of increased alcohol consumption and related risky behavior)
- Inaccessibility of health facilities in remote areas
- Possible power imbalances between men and women in groups of workers
- Risk of blood contact after work related accidents with sharp equipment



Managing HIV/AIDS in bush harvesting and biomass utilisation

Risk analysis

- Inclusion of community health and safety assessment in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Environmental Management Plans (EMP), including HIV prevention measures

Reducing the need for migration

- Reduce exposure risks by creating employment in area or vicinity where bush harvesting is taking place (avoid/minimise remote posting of workers far from spouse/family)

Sensitisation and training

- Integrate HIV/AIDS awareness modules in to general workers training
- Provide health and safety training for equipment and sharp objects used with regard to infection risks

Access to health products and facilities

- Ensure accessibility of health services in areas of bush harvesting and processing activities