

GLOBAL FORUM ON MSM & HIV

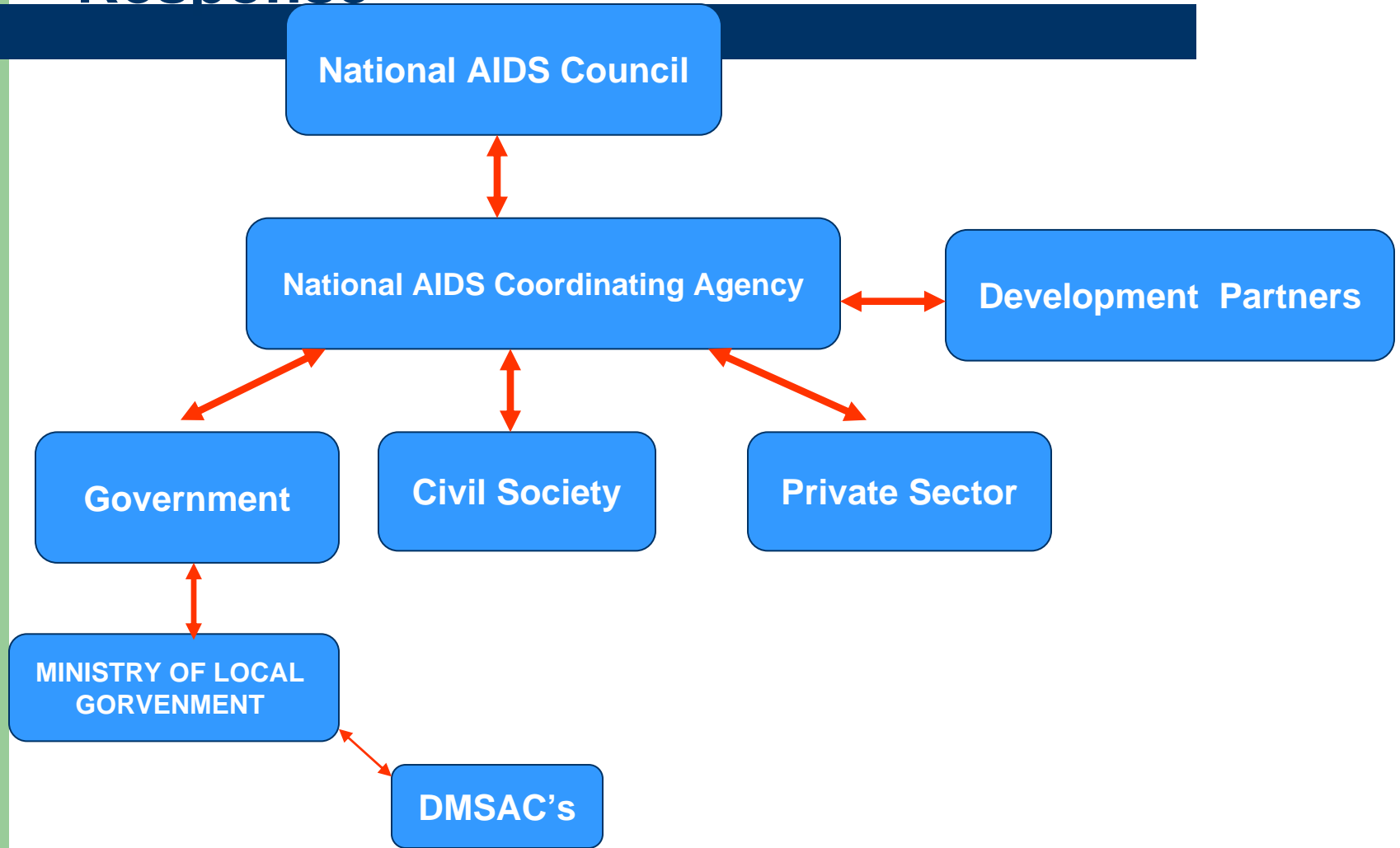
PRE-CONFERENCE TO THE 2008
INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE IN
MEXICO CITY

BOTSWANA PRESENTATION BY:

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HIV/AIDS in Botswana: The National Response



HIV Situation

HIV Situation

National

Differentials

17.1 percent

Pregnant Women
15-49yrs

32.4 percent

Residence

District

Sex

Age Groups

MSM in Botswana

- Non-existence of research and or documentation on same sex relationships, hence little is known about MSM in Botswana as a result of the illegality of same sex sexual activities subject to section S164 of the penal code of Botswana.
- There are no tailored health care and prevention services for MSM by the government of Botswana as that will be interpreted as abating crime contrary to S164

Previous work on MSM in Botswana

- Has been progressive advocacy on lobbying the government of Botswana to issue condoms to prison inmates (radio shows, debates, seminar, leaflet, radio jingles, posters and booklet)
- PRISM needs assessment (opportunities and challenges on STI and HIV prevention on same sex relations)

MSM study Processes

- Logistics(preliminary meetings, research permit application, study sites, test kits and renting rooms for conducting interviews)
- **Implementation:**
 - Recruitment of participants/sampling and research assistants
 - sampling procedures (Respondent Driven Sampling)
 - Face to face interviews and swab collection
 - Quantitative data collection method
 - Informed consent solicited

Challenges/Barriers

- Delayed issuing of research permit by government adversely affected the recruitment/mobilization processes
- Some difficulties with respondents-forthcoming

Successes/Lessons learnt

- Participants appreciation of the study
- Anticipation of study findings by participants to effect positive change
- Slow study process culminating less number of people reached

Advocacy Plans/Future plans

- Full comprehensive data analysis will be done reflecting all the demographics, emerging themes, trends and patterns on behavior in relation to HIV status
- Use the study results as an advocacy and lobbying tool for future legislative reforms and policy formulation and programming
- Benchmark with other countries on best practices