



Harm Reduction Advancements in Lejweleputswa

District, Free State

57th SACENDU Symposium- Garden Court
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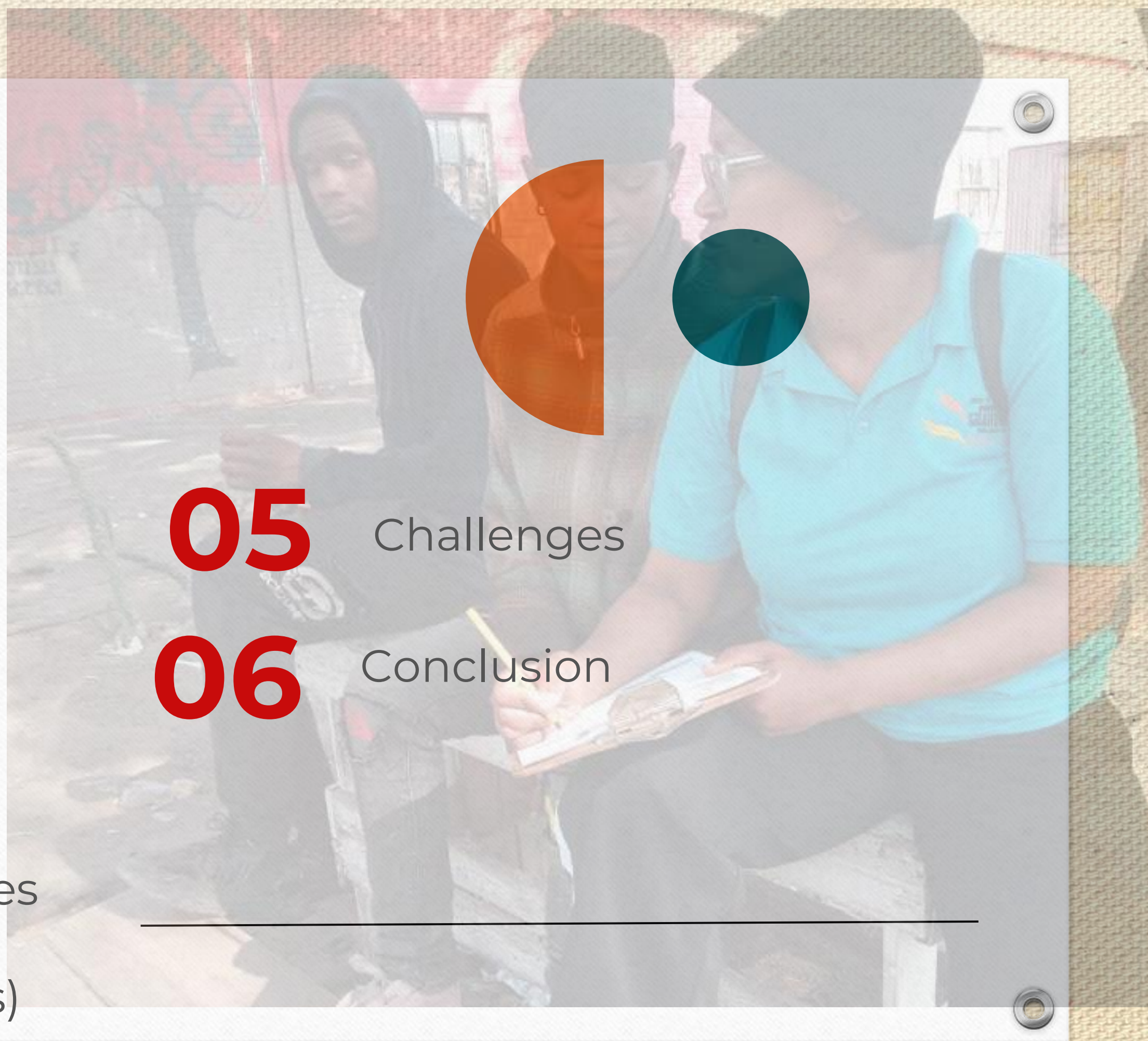
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- 01** Overview of Harm Reduction
- 02** Key principles
- 03** Our approach
- 04** Implementation (Services rendered, Activities, Statistics, Achievements)

- 05** Challenges
- 06** Conclusion



Implementing District-Lejweleputswa



1. OVERVIEW OF HARM REDUCTION

Harm reduction is a **public health strategy** aimed at **minimising the negative consequences** associated with drug use and other high-risk behaviours without necessarily requiring abstinence.



KEY PRINCIPLES OF HARM REDUCTION

- 01 Non-Judgmental Approach:** Accepting individuals as they are and providing support without stigma
- 02 Focus on Health and Safety:** Prioritizing the well-being of individuals over punitive measures.
- 03 User-Centred:** Involving drug users in the design and implementation of services.
- 04 Support for Diverse Needs:** Addressing social, economic, and health factors affecting individuals.



Our Approach

01

Education given to sex workers injecting drugs and people using drugs and alcohol aiming to reduce harm.

02

When rendering services, we are guided by principles of acceptance, collaboration, empowerment and respect of Human rights.

03

We are also guided by the Harm Reduction SOP. (Staff Capacitation –Coordinators and Peer Educator were trained on Harm Reduction).

04

Limited Resources: Existing harm reduction services to meet the growing needs of PWID in the district.

Implementation (Services rendered)

- Needle and syringe distribution (as opposed to needle exchange)
- Referral for methadone maintenance treatment (MMT) and detoxification and rehabilitation services.
- Primary health care: The clinical officers provide treatment for minor illnesses, minor abscesses, wounds, STIs etc.



Activities

- Support Group Sessions on Educational practices(injecting drugs, drug overdose education and integrated in every outreach)
- Collaborating with the DSD for rehab preparation and continues Psychosocial Support.
- Waste management- It's done through one of the healthcare facilities - Welkom Clinic.
- Distribution of Harm Reduction packs (Syringes and needles).
- Biomedical / Behavioural and Structured Services.

Harm Reduction Data Q10&Q11

Item	Q10	Q11
SWID Reached	13	11
Harm Reduction packs distributed	43	23
Needles distributed	645	345
Needles returned	414	341
Needles returned %	64%	98%

Services

Indicators	SWID	PWID	PWUD
Reached	7	22	5
Unkown status	2	0	0
HTS	2	0	5
Negative	2	0	0
Positive	0	0	0
Known positive	5	22	0
Known positive on ART	5	22 (Treatment interrupters)	0
Known negative on PREP	0	0	0
Linked to Care	5 (Successfully referred and re-initiated but they have interrupted treatment).	0	5
Initiated on PREP	2	0	0
Refused PREP	0	0	0
Booked for PREP	0	0	0
Provided with PSS services	7	22	5
Successfully Referred to the DSD for Rehab preparation	2	5	5

Psychosocial support:
SWID Packs (oatmeal, cool drink
and energy bars)



ITS REAL



the extensive effects...



ITS REAL



Achievements

01

2 SWID stopped injecting drugs

02

10 (3 PWID & 2 PWUD) quit drugs through individual counselling sessions & 5 were referred to rehab and have successfully quit drugs.

03

66 Harm reduction packs were distributed in Q10 & Q11.

Challenges

- Treatment interrupters – Non-adherence to ART
 - Move from one place to another so it is very difficult to trace them and link them to health care facilities.
 - The programme started with 41 people and to date only 27 people remained
 - ✓ SWID5
 - ✓ PWID22
- Non-adherent to Support Group dates and individual counselling dates.

Conclusion

The Guardian Angels' harm reduction initiative in Lejweleputswa District represents a compassionate and evidence-based approach to addressing the complexities of substance use. By focusing on education, resource provision, and community collaboration, we can significantly improve the health and well-being of individuals and families affected by substance use.

**THANK
YOU**

