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ANNUAL MEETING

DECEMBER 1-3, 2021 | VIRTUAL

The National Institute for Communicable Disease Division of NHLS

Experience in responding to COVID-19 : health equity perspective

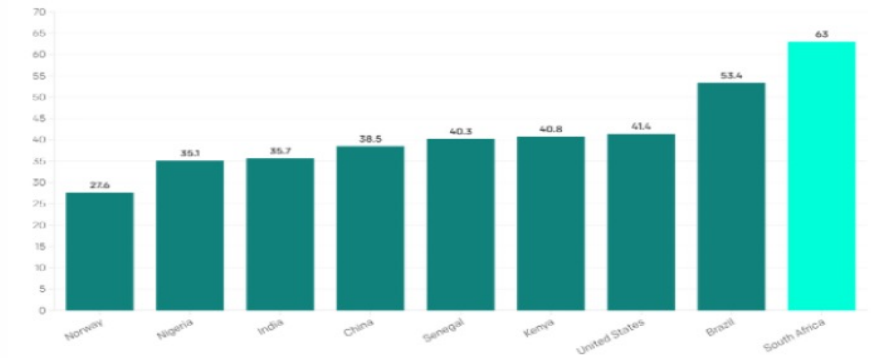
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CONTEXT

- Historical deep inequity
- Gini co-efficient = 63
- Inequity, cross-cutting impact on all 17 SDG's
- Personal, institutional, national, private & public, urban & rural, regional, global
- Principles to address issues include:
 - universal access- NHI
 - leaving no one behind
 - social justice imperative
 - focus on social determinates of **health**
 - interconnectedness of health and development

Income Inequality

Higher values indicate higher inequality (as measured by the Gini coefficient)



Source: World Bank Development Research Group • Gini index measures the extent to which the distribution of income among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. A Gini index of 0 represents perfect equality, while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality. **ONE**

National Plan for COVID-19 Health Response: South Africa

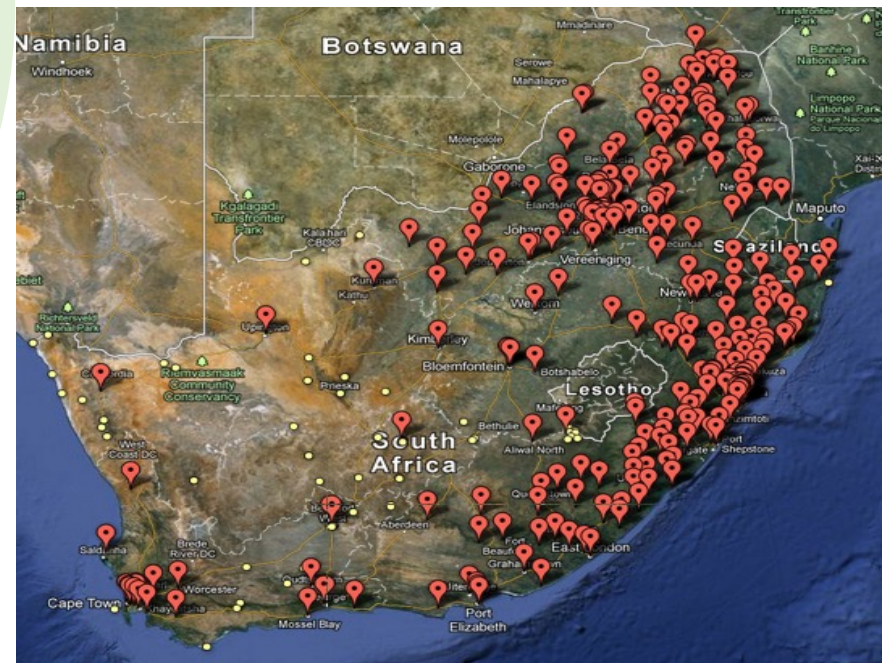
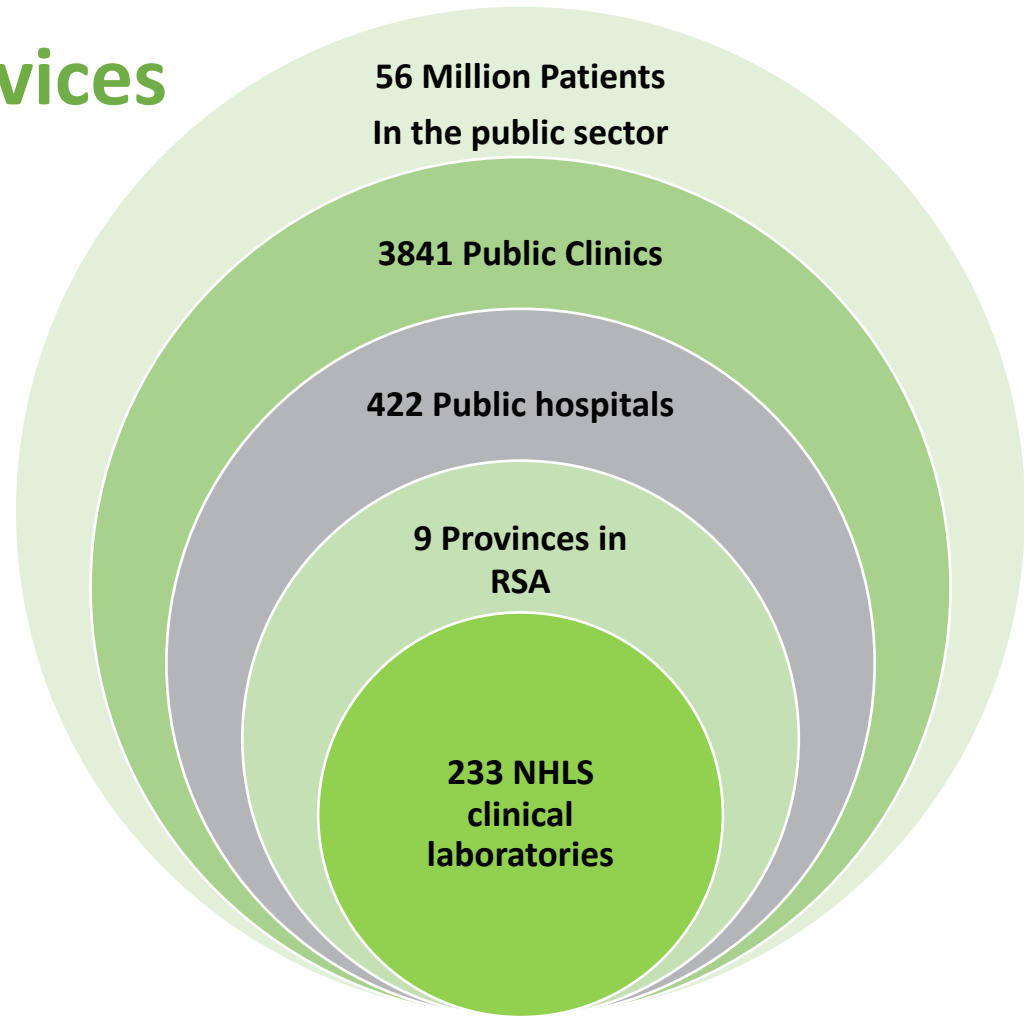
This document outlines the country plan for health sector response to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially containment and mitigation measures at the national, district and municipality levels in public and private sectors. This plan is an extension of existing Government statutes, strategies and guidelines related to COVID-19 response. It is dynamic and live, and may be updated from time to time as the epidemiological situation evolves, country needs change and as more evidence becomes available.

- COVID-19 exposed cracks in equity
- Equity **institutionalised**, embodied within governance legislation, and policy framework
- **Systems work in harmony** – intergovernmental, across private and public sectors , whole of society & government approach
- **Recognising** special needs especially for vulnerable individuals, such as older people, poor living in townships and persons with disabilities
- Leaders make decisions based on best available **evidence**
- Protection of the entire public ensuring individual liberty maintain confidentiality and dignity – pandemic ethics

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NHLS / NICD Services



*<https://www.rcpath.org/discover-pathology/news/fact-sheets/pathology-facts-and-figures-.html>

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Core functions of the NICD	Surveillance	Outbreak response	Specialised diagnostic services	Research	Capacity Building	Communication
Enablers	Dynamic data driven approach evidence-for decision making	Whole of government approach and whole of society approach	Infrastructure	Regional and global partnerships	Lab Field Epidemiologists HCW training	Involvement of stakeholders Top down vs. bottom up Transparent
Barriers	Integration of data systems Standardisation systems Data quality Excess deaths	Cross border outbreak detection and response	Reagents Costs and prohibitions of importation Vaccine access	How is research agenda crafted Access food security Transport as super-spreaders events Lockdown and access / GBV Merging of CD/ NCD	Information literacy HCW Empowering communities to make decisions	Language barriers Social listening Appropriate messaging Methodology of communication – door to door, remote vehicles , influencers , local cartoon hero's

Resource availability, allocation and distribution e.g public health & clinical disciplines, social distancing, connectivity, human resources

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South Africa COVID-19 and Vaccine Social Listening Report 23 November 2021, Report 28

This is a weekly report of COVID & vaccine sentiment, rumours & misinformation in SA. Further info [here](#).

KEY TRENDS

- **Public concern about mandatory COVID-19 vaccination in the workplace:** There is growing concern about several SA companies mandating or planning to mandate compulsory vaccination of their employees. The Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) received complaints following dismissal of employees because of being unvaccinated (see [Here](#)). The Party of Action shared a [tweet](#) claiming that COVID-19 vaccinations are part of a “satanic plot”.
- **Vooma Vaccination Weekend increased vaccination numbers.** On the weekend 12 – 14 November over a quarter of a million vaccine doses were given, over double a usual weekend, through less than the ambitious target ([Here](#)). The seven Vooma Weekend social media banners posted on NDOH Facebook this week promoting vaccine acceptance received more positive public

IANPHI NHLS COVID-MOBILE LABORATORY
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Access for testing

- 72 ports of entry land, sea and airports.
- Of the 53 land ports, 35 was closed
- Remaining ports of entries mobile laboratories deployed to provide on-site Antigen testing



LIS Registration Station



PCR Testing – GeneXpert and BioFire



Antigen Testing – SD Biosensor and Panbio

All mobile laboratories have full connectivity

- All PCR based instruments are interfaced with the Laboratory Information System (TrakCare)
- Antigen testing is reported in real-time
- All COVID results are immediately sent directly to patients via Short Message System (SMS)

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Number of Antigen tests	Positive	Negative	Total
Total	133 260	1 776 603	1 909 863

Considerations

- Translate lessons into practical actions – integrated services vs data integration, IDSR
- Build back different – social/ economic/ health outcomes beyond health sector
- Focus health diplomacy and science diplomacy
- Essential health service recovery, renewed focus on mental health / NCD`s
- Adaptations- agility, tracking efficacy of interventions to address inequity
- HCW allocation and workforce planning

As a way forward for NPHI

1. Define next normal
2. Determine metrics that will be used to determine impact
3. Prevention, prevention, prevention- nutrition
4. Cost effectiveness and cost benefit
5. Collectively define success indicators

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Acknowledgement to IANPHI & all health care professionals

THANK YOU