

# Cost of a diagonal sexual and reproductive health package to enhance reproductive health among female sex workers in Durban, South Africa.

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## Background and objectives

- Persistently high HIV prevalence raises concerns regarding delivery of Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and HIV services to high-risk groups, including female sex workers (FSW).
- The 'Diagonal Interventions to Fast-Forward Enhanced Reproductive health' (DIFFER) project proposes that integrating vertical SRH interventions targeted to FSW, with horizontal health systems strengthening may be more effective and cost-effective.
- The DIFFER intervention included expanding family planning services, sensitisation training for health workers, community empowerment, and strengthening patient navigation and referral systems between outreach and primary health care centres.
- **The aim of this study was to measure the cost of designing and delivering the DIFFER intervention in Durban, South Africa.**

## Methods

- Total and incremental cost of the intervention package was estimated from a provider perspective, using a combination of ingredients and activity-based costing approaches.
- An excel-based data capture tool was used for collecting the intervention package cost data
- The total and average annual costs of delivery, as well as total and average annual costs per sex worker covered were estimated.
- All costs were adjusted by inflation, discounted and converted to 2016 International Dollars.

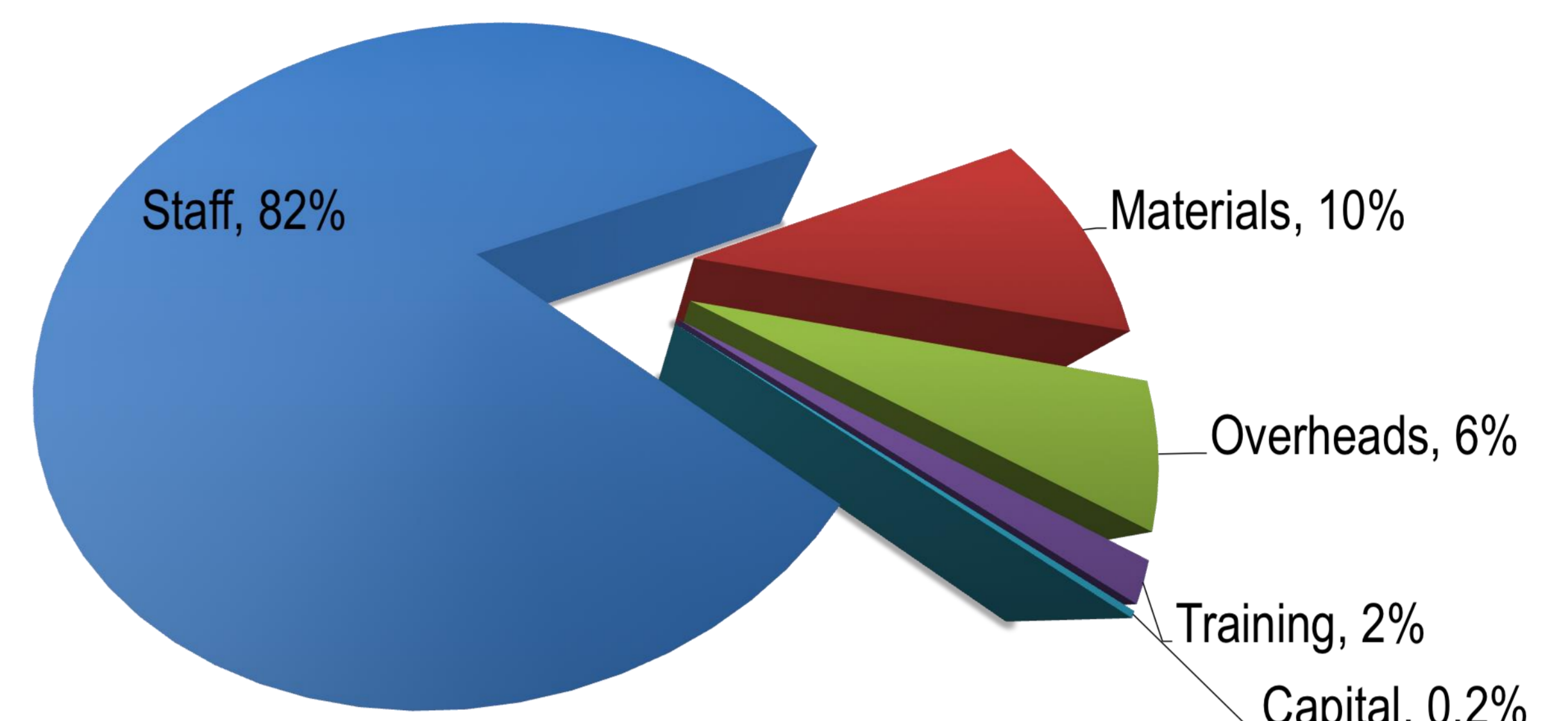
## Results

- The total and average annual program costs of implementing the intervention were INT\$ 377,092 and INT\$ 226,113, respectively.
- The total and average annual provider costs of implementing the intervention were INT\$ 400,790 and INT\$ 249,812 respectively – or INT \$ 418,012 and INT\$ 267,039 when including services provided to general population
- The average annual program and provider cost per sex worker were INT\$ 65 and INT\$ 71, respectively.

**Table 1: Cost description of the DIFFER intervention package in Durban, South Africa**

Cost description	2014	2015	2016	Total costs
<b>Total staff costs</b>	49,860	208,967	50,928	309,755
<b>Total materials costs</b>	27,708	10,659	238	38,605
<b>Total overhead/joints costs</b>	4,658	13,057	4,171	21,887
<b>Training costs</b>	3,572	2,352		5,925
<b>Total capital costs</b>	165	613	141	920
<b>Total costs</b>	85,964	235,649	55,479	377,092
<b>Start up</b>	4,912	19,075	4,630	28,616
<b>Implementation</b>	81,052	216,575	50,849	348,476

**Figure 1: Components of total DIFFER intervention cost in Durban, South Africa**



- Staff costs constituted the largest proportion of the intervention cost (>80% ), followed by material and supplies (10%) costs.

## Discussion

- There is limited evidence on the cost of diagonal interventions to improve sexual and reproductive health among sex workers.
- Few studies measure the costs of integrated SRH and HIV interventions – including preventive, promotive and curative services in a package and delivered via clinical facilities or outreach.
- Evidence shows that integrated interventions are more cost effective than stand alone or vertical interventions.
- Integrated interventions improve technical efficiency through economies of scope and scale.

**Table 2: Costs and affordability of scaling up of the DIFFER intervention**

	Estimates of number of sex workers	DIFFER scale up cost (Million INT\$)	DIFFER scale up cost as % of GDP	DIFFER scale up cost as % of THE	DIFFER scale up cost as % of GHE
<b>Durban</b>	9,323	0.67	0.00056	0.007	0.0128
<b>KwaZulu-Natal province</b>	31,165	2.22	0.00188	0.023	0.0428
<b>Whole South Africa</b>	262,534	18.74	0.00253	0.031	0.0577

**National scale-up of the DIFFER intervention package would cost approximately 0.03% of total national health expenditure.**

## Conclusion

The DIFFER intervention package in Durban is a low cost intervention and likely to be both cost-effective and affordable. The intervention should be considered for replication and scale-up in South Africa and similar settings elsewhere.