



### **SANNAM Executive Director's message to mark World Aids Day 2011**

The Southern African Network of Nurses and Midwives (SANNAM) join the World in marking World AIDS Day – 2011.

Our grouping of nurses and midwives from 15 SADC Countries is proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with the soldiers that have marched in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Today, the vision of an AIDS free generation is a real possibility, our network which spans 70% of the regional health workforce continue to provide the necessary care, support, counseling and treatment to communities across the region. We take pride in our contributions in this fight thus far and again reinforce our commitment to **getting to zero** as espoused in our vision of '**improving regional health services and social policies related to HIV/AIDS and other critical health challenges**'. The increased coverage of treatment administered by nurses has been critical in the decreasing HIV/AIDS related deaths. Nurses in the region recently met in Botswana for the inaugural bi-annual conference where they reflected on their part in the achievement of the millennium development goals. We continue to encourage leaders in Governments to recognize the efforts of the regional nursing fraternity in the fight against HIV/AIDS and continue to lobby for the improvement of working conditions to curb the brain drain, a safe workplace and representation of the profession in the top structures of the Ministries of Health across the region.

HIV/AIDS still a major challenge for our health systems in the region, but we are satisfied that most countries report decrease in the incidence and tremendous improvement in reducing Mother-to-Child Transmission.

As Nurses and Midwives in the SADC region we underscore our commitment to Zero New HIV Infections, Zero discrimination and Zero AIDS related deaths.

[www.sannam.org.za](http://www.sannam.org.za)

1 December 2011