

PART II - PRACTICE

BACKGROUND DOCUMENT TO WORKSHOP MANUALS

Each workshop was accompanied by a manual or workbook. Each manual began with an introductory document which put the workshops in context and let participants know what they could expect over the coming months.

This is the background document that we included:

The HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa started later than in most other African countries, but is now growing at a rapid pace. Currently over 23% of women attending public antenatal clinics are infected with HIV. The National Department of Health, Chief Directorate: HIV/AIDS, STIs and TB estimates that over four million South Africans are infected with HIV, the highest number of people living with HIV in the world. It is estimated that there are approximately 1 800 new infections every day. Given the current situation in South Africa, HIV prevalence is expected to increase to 30% of adults within the next decade.

Such high infection levels indicate a future of increased personal suffering and delays or reversal in social, economic and democratic development. Since the demise of apartheid, the increased burden of HIV/AIDS care is providing South Africa with one of its greatest challenges.

"In the face of the grave threat posed by HIV/AIDS, we have to rise above our differences and combine our efforts to save people. History will judge us harshly if we fail to do so now, and right now." – Nelson Mandela, XIII International AIDS Conference, Durban 2000.

HELPFUL HINT

Remember that the statistics you include in the text should be current and relevant. Good sources of up-to-date statistics are: <http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu> and www.unaids.org.

For many years now, it has been acknowledged that HIV/AIDS is not only a health issue. Its impact is increasingly being felt within the social, economic and development fabric of our society.

Non-governmental AIDS organisations can – and do – play an important role in preventive work, home-based care, counselling and support services. Non-governmental organisations that do not have HIV/AIDS as their core function are also ideally placed to include HIV/AIDS in their existing work. The Small Grant Programme aims to serve as a catalyst for strengthening the responses by, and in communities to proactively respond to the challenges offered by this epidemic.

Through a series of three two-day capacity building workshops the management and strategic-planning skills of developmental non-governmental organisations will be strengthened.

Approximately 10 selected non-governmental organisations will receive a small grant (\$5 000) to support their AIDS involvement and inclusion activities. Possible thematic areas of work that will be considered for funding will include:

- ④ Prevention (e.g. life skills, condom promotion, peer group training).
- ④ PLWHA care (e.g. home-based care, mobilisation, support groups, counselling).
- ④ Social mobilisation (e.g. campaigns, advocacy, media, multi-sectoral approaches).
- ④ Development links (e.g. local response initiatives, income generation, agriculture).

This capacity building cycle will focus on the following content areas:

1. **“HIV/AIDS and You”: Exploring the Connection, the Impact and your Priorities**

- ④ Introduce participants to the basic facts about HIV/AIDS and explore and interpret the relevance of the epidemic in their lives, their organisations and their future planning.
- ④ Familiarise participants with the impact of HIV/AIDS, the priorities and the current status of the epidemic.
- ④ Support participants in the development of their organisational activity plans as they incorporate HIV/AIDS into these plans.

2. **“Actioning HIV/AIDS”: Strategic Planning and Proposal-Writing Skills**

- ④ To explore NGOs’ skills to develop and strengthen their own strategic/business plans.
- ④ To provide NGO representatives with an opportunity to assess where their organisations are in addressing HIV/AIDS issues.
- ④ To increase their commitment to include HIV/AIDS in their planning and programmes.

3. "Measuring our Journey": Monitoring and Evaluation

- ① Increase the skills of participants to monitor and evaluate their HIV/AIDS work by providing participants with a thorough understanding of the key steps, including developing goals and objectives, analysis of inputs and outputs, selecting indicators and establishing means of verification.

On completion of this capacity building cycle, non-governmental organisations will be invited to submit applications for seed grant funding. Site visits will be conducted to those non-governmental organisations that successfully receive funding.

This initial workshop – hosted by the National Department of Health, Chief Directorate: HIV/AIDS, STIs and TB, funded by USAID and facilitated by the POLICY Project – has been initiated with the following objectives:

- ① To introduce participants to the basic facts about HIV/AIDS.
- ① To explore and interpret the relevance of HIV/AIDS in their lives, their organisations and their future planning.
- ① To familiarise participants with the impact of HIV/AIDS, the priorities and the current status of the epidemic.
- ① To support participants in the development of their organisational activity plans as they incorporate HIV/AIDS issues into these plans.

"As leaders in your communities – and as parents – you must publicly speak out against the discrimination that HIV-positive people confront. And you must actively counter the stigma that plagues children who have lost parents to the disease. Many children who are affected have basic needs for food, shelter and schooling. They also need moral support, guidance and love." – Graça Michel, wife of former State President Nelson Mandela.