



Strengthening Faith-based Responses to **HIV/AIDS**

The POLICY Project embraces a multisectoral approach to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, both because HIV/AIDS impacts all sectors of society (e.g., education, community development, agriculture, labor) and because all sectors have unique, reinforcing roles to play in efforts to address the pandemic. In particular, faith-based organizations are critical to an effective, multisectoral response. Faith-based organizations in developing countries not only provide spiritual guidance for their followers, they are also often the primary providers of a variety of local health and social services. Situated within communities and building on relationships of trust and respect, faith-based organizations also have the ability to influence the attitudes and behaviors of their fellow community members.

POLICY seeks to bring new organizations into the arena of HIV/AIDS work, as well as build their capacity to plan, advocate for, implement, and evaluate HIV/AIDS policies and programs. Our activities in this area include long-term technical assistance projects, small grants and mentoring, capacity development, awareness raising and training workshops, support for network formation and maintenance, and conferences. Examples of our work with faith-based organizations are presented on the pages that follow.

Resources

Resources relating to POLICY's work with faith-based organizations and HIV/AIDS include:

Coming Together, Caring Together: A Report on the Communities Responding to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic (CORE) Initiative, January 2001-June 2002
USAID Africa Bureau and POLICY Project (July 2002)

A Step by Step Guide to HIV/AIDS Planning for the Anglican Community
Melanie Judge and Nikki Schaay, POLICY Project (September 2001)

Learning Through Practice: Integrating HIV/AIDS into NGO Programmes
POLICY Project and South African National Department of Health, Chief Directorate: HIV/AIDS, STIs, and TB (December 2002)

Challenging the Faith-Based Community: Toward HIV/AIDS Actions That Make A Difference
 (Workshop Report)
POLICY Project and USAID Regional HIV/AIDS Program (RHAP) for Southern Africa (March 2002)

Faith in Action: A United Response to HIV/AIDS (A Report on the National Indaba)
POLICY Project and South African National Department of Health (March 2002)

African Tales for Canterbury
The Very Reverend Colin Jones (2002)

Website: "From Boksburg to Canterbury – Steps to Putting HIV/AIDS on the Anglican Map"
<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/special/hivaids/>

Please visit POLICY's website at <http://www.policyproject.com> for more information.



The Most Reverend
Njongonkulu
Ndungane.

Building on Boksburg:

A Participatory Planning Process

Much of POLICY's groundbreaking work with faith-based organizations has taken place as a result of its ongoing collaboration with the (Anglican) Church Province of Southern Africa (CPSA). Appropriate, effective, and sustainable responses to HIV/AIDS must first start with a clear understanding of where we stand (a *situation analysis*), a view of where we would like to end up (a *vision*), and a road map for how to get there (a *strategic plan*). In mid-2001, as part of USAID's CORE Initiative's pilot phase, the POLICY Project embarked on a partnership with the CPSA to develop a strategic plan to guide the Church's response to HIV/AIDS in the region. These efforts were driven by the leadership of the Archbishop of Cape Town and Metropolitan, the Most Reverend Njongonkulu Ndungane; were assisted through the ongoing commitment of the Reverend Canon Ted Karpf; and were also supported by Episcopal Relief and Development, the Compass Rose Society, UNAIDS, Christian Aid, and the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association. The project's objectives were to engage the Anglican Communion in a process of strategic planning to guide its response to HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa and to develop a model of participatory planning that could be adapted and used at the parish, diocese, or provincial level. The ultimate goal was to enable the Church and partner organizations to develop plans and programs aimed at helping those affected by HIV/AIDS – recognizing the special role that faith-based organizations play within communities.

To start the process, in August 2001, the Most Reverend Ndungane convened the "All Africa Anglican Conference on HIV/AIDS" in Boksburg, South Africa. The conference included participants from 12 African Anglican provinces, 33 African countries, the CPSA, and leadership from the worldwide Anglican Communion, as well as donors, observers, people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), international NGOs, and pharmaceutical companies. Using the participatory planning process, participants articulated a vision statement; identified women, children orphaned by AIDS, and PLWHA as groups of particular concern; and established six focal areas that would further guide the process. These focal areas are leadership, care, prevention, counseling, pastoral care, and death and dying. The next steps going out to the communities and extending the planning process to each diocese, using the guide *Planning Our Response to HIV/AIDS: A Step by Step Guide to HIV/AIDS Planning for the Anglican Communion*. In doing so, the dioceses were guided by the focal themes generated at the All Africa Anglican Conference, yet also used their knowledge of the community to inform their selection of priority issues, objectives, and activities. By July 2002, more than 1,000 people had participated in the process, resulting in 23 diocesan plans and the finalization of the overall strategic plan for the CPSA.

Other Selected Outcomes of the CPSA Long-term Technical Assistance Project

- The USAID Mission in Pretoria is funding a program to train up to 90,000 women across the Church Province in wellness management to assist those living with HIV/AIDS.
- CPSA collaborated in efforts to partner with governments in making sound HIV/AIDS policies and has taken a public stand with others from civil society in holding governments accountable for treatment and care.
- The CPSA strategic planning process has led to consideration of what it would mean for churches to offer voluntary counseling and testing (VCT).
- POLICY/South Africa is assisting the CPSA with the development of workplace guidelines, leadership training, wellness management courses, and orphaned children guidelines.
- Strategic planning efforts, based on the model of the CPSA, are being initiated in 54 African nations under the leadership of the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA).
- An "International Anglican AIDS Fund" has been created as a result of the strategic planning efforts.
- The CPSA has been asked by the Anglican Consultative Council and the Archbishop of Canterbury to assist the worldwide Anglican Communion in meeting its self-imposed requirement of having HIV/AIDS strategic plans and implementation strategies in place by September 2005.

Facilitating Policy Change in the Faith-based Sector

POLICY's work with faith-based organizations has led to the development and adoption of strategic plans, policies, resolutions, and recommendations to guide future HIV/AIDS activities. Excerpts from selected policy statements are presented below.

"Our Vision, Our Hope" - from the All Africa Anglican Conference on HIV/AIDS - Boksburg, South Africa, August 2001:

... Our mission is to respect the dignity of all people by:

- *Securing the human rights of those infected by HIV/AIDS, and giving unconditional support,*
- *Improving the health and prolonging the lives of infected people,*
- *Accompanying the dying, those who mourn and those who live on,*
- *Celebrating life,*
- *Nurturing community, and*
- *Advocating for justice.*

Statement of the Primates of the Anglican Communion - Canterbury, England, April 2002:

... We commend the six-fold response to AIDS which has been agreed by the All Africa Anglican AIDS Planning Framework to churches beyond Africa in their strategic planning and policy development to confront this crisis and minister among all affected with this disease.

Resolutions of the 1st International Muslim Leaders Consultation on HIV/AIDS - Kampala, Uganda, November 2001:

... We will strive to eliminate the following vices related to HIV/AIDS, at all levels in our community: ignorance, apathy, stigmatization, irresponsibility, disorganization, and poverty.

Catholic HIV/AIDS Policy - Adopted by the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria - Abuja, Nigeria, February 2002:

... In today's world there are only two categories: those infected and those affected by HIV/AIDS ... Catholic Health Services in Nigeria, as a continuation of the healing ministry of Christ, are committed to administering the "medicine of love" to all infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Resolutions of the All Africa Conference of Churches - Mukono/Kampala, Uganda (January 2001), and Dakar, Senegal (April 2001):

... The Church is uniquely placed to combat HIV/AIDS at all levels from the individual to the global and to protect the marginalized and most vulnerable in society.

... We present at this consultation pledge to work in collaboration with our churches, ecumenical partners and related organizations to see to the effective implementation of the above recommendations.

Next Steps for the Women's Initiative Consultation - New Haven Connecticut, March 2002:

... That the Women's Initiative [will] seek ways of continuing partnership and solidarity in the struggle against HIV/AIDS in Africa and around the world and involve other seminaries in the hope of expanding efforts to South and East Asia and Latin America.

POLICY's Small Grants Programs:

Local Efforts Make a World of Difference

With more than 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide and a call for an estimated 10 billion dollars annually to combat the disease, it is easy to become overwhelmed or, conversely, desensitized by the magnitude of the pandemic. While it is vitally important to mobilize large-scale efforts to address HIV/AIDS at the global level, it is equally imperative that we not lose sight of grassroots interventions that can directly improve the lives of people at the community level. It is within communities that we often find the strategies and strength to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic. Communities embrace values that are of inestimable worth in confronting HIV/AIDS. These faith- and community-based organizations are on the frontlines, providing a range of prevention, care, and support services.

Since July 2000, the USAID-funded POLICY Project has awarded 115 small grants to faith- and community-based organizations working to address HIV/AIDS issues at the local level. Typically, small grants will be in the \$1,000 to \$5,000 (USD) range, though, on some occasions, grants of higher amounts are awarded (with a ceiling of \$15,000). The small grants are awarded through POLICY's country programs (e.g., in Cambodia, Tanzania) and through other projects it helps to implement, such as the U.S. Ambassadors Initiative of the Regional HIV/AIDS Program (RHAP) for Southern Africa and the pilot phase of the CORE Initiative.

To ensure that grant recipients have the absorptive capacity to efficiently use the funds they are awarded, the POLICY Project often builds a capacity development component into the small grants program itself. For example, POLICY may invite NGOs to participate in a series of workshops – covering topics such as strategic planning, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, and networking – and those NGOs that complete all of the sessions and “graduate” from the training are then eligible to apply for grants. POLICY provides technical assistance in preparing proposals, when necessary, and mentors grant recipients throughout the award period, and works to establish relationships between previous and current grant recipients where appropriate. In addition, NGOs often use the skills that participants learn, such as proposal writing, strategic planning, and advocacy, to leverage outside resources from other organizations, beyond just the POLICY grants themselves.

Examples of what faith- and community-based organizations have been able to accomplish with their small grants include:

- The **Episcopal Church of Rwanda/Diocese of Kigali** facilitated the travel of two nurses to go to rural areas to conduct education courses on HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.
- The **National Lutheran Health & Medical Board** (NLH&MB) (India) conducted a baseline survey on HIV/AIDS awareness and attitudes in 10 villages in mountainous regions in Southern India. Working with local community representatives, NLH&MB used the information to develop culturally appropriate HIV/AIDS awareness-raising activities, including skits and puppetry.
- The **Makotse Women's Club** (South Africa) has supported HIV/AIDS education workshops in 30 schools, reaching about 5,000 students. The group also conducted HIV/AIDS/STI training workshops and afternoon lessons for local women.
- The **Ohioma Foundation for Development** (Nigeria) conducted a baseline study of orphans and children affected by HIV/AIDS in Benue State. The organization is using this information to raise awareness of the needs of children affected by HIV/AIDS as well as advocate for changes in state policy, including the law governing adoptions.
- The **Khmer Buddhist Society** (Cambodia) conducted three training sessions with Buddhist leaders. The sessions, which included 64 Buddhist monks and lay people, were based on a curriculum developed in collaboration with the Cambodian HIV/AIDS and Human Rights Network. The curriculum addressed human rights, HIV/AIDS issues, Buddhist principles, and creating religious environments that foster social acceptance and support. The Khmer Buddhist Society also produced and disseminated a booklet on human rights and HIV/AIDS.
- The **Guyana Responsible Parenthood Organization** enabled 25 PLWHA to participate in workshops to build their self-esteem and life skills. Of this group, 15 participants also received more in-depth training focusing on self-support, such as entrepreneurial and business skills.

Proof Positive: More Voices from the Field

CAMBODIA:

Wat Noria Serves as a Catalyst for Change

Monks in Cambodia often face HIV-related stigma and discrimination as a result of their work with the local PLWHA community, thus causing a barrier to their participation in mitigating the epidemic. Accordingly, the Wat Noria (NPC), a monk-based NGO, facilitated a "Community Strategic Planning Workshop" from April 8-9, 2002, which resulted in the development of a community HIV/AIDS strategic plan and contributed toward overcoming this stigma. A key factor in overcoming the stigma and discrimination was the active participation in the planning and execution of the workshop by the Minister and Secretary of State for the Ministry of Women's and Veteran's Affairs, Princess Rattana Devi, the Deputy Provincial Governor, provincial monk leaders, and commune and village chiefs. POLICY trained NPC facilitators in advocacy methodologies; assisted with the strategic planning workshop and the development of the strategic plan; facilitated the involvement of the Princess and key government officials; and helped them prepare for these public events.



Children are one of the vulnerable groups that the Wat Noria tries to reach with its programs.

The workshop implemented by NPC helped to address some of the prejudices faced by monks as a result of their work with the local PLWHA community. Following the April 2002 workshop, the Eoung Thoug Buddhist High School, a monk training institution, asked NPC to conduct a "HIV/AIDS Monk Sensitization Training Workshop" for monks from five pagodas from Battambang Province. Using the curriculum devised by the monks at the previous NPC workshop, NPC facilitated the workshop on June 26-27, 2002, and successfully trained 25 monks in HIV/AIDS advocacy skills. The curriculum included a training module designed by POLICY staff to increase awareness of the recently passed HIV/AIDS legislation in Cambodia.

KENYA:

Inter-Religious AIDS Consortium Coordinates Faith-based HIV/AIDS Activities

As a result of POLICY technical assistance to the Inter-Religious AIDS Consortium (IRAC) of Kenya, the National AIDS Control Council (NACC) has made a commitment to involve IRAC in HIV/AIDS-related deliberations and to be responsive to IRAC's concerns. IRAC initiated dialogue with NACC to express its commitment to engage in HIV/AIDS issues and programs and its concerns about HIV/AIDS resource allocation and information, education, and communications (IEC) issues. IRAC is a coalition of more than 20 religious groups, including Christian (both Protestant and Catholic), Muslim, Hindu, and Sikh groups as well as representatives from the Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC). Prior to the creation of IRAC, the HIV/AIDS-related activities of religious groups were scattered and there was no effective communication between faith-based organizations and national government policymakers. POLICY helped to facilitate the creation of IRAC and provided assistance to IRAC to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS issues, strengthen its leadership, and mobilize involvement of clergy and lay leaders from IRAC's member groups. POLICY also assisted IRAC in holding an organizational, strategy, and planning workshop. POLICY's assistance has been influential in strengthening IRAC's communications skills, improving the self-confidence of its leaders, and achieving a united voice for IRAC-member organizations.

NIGERIA:

Catholic Bishops Adopt HIV/AIDS Policy

There is strong consensus that community mobilization is essential for combating the "war" against AIDS. Religious leaders, because of their standing within the community and ability to stimulate community responses, are critical to the effort to mitigate the impacts of HIV/AIDS. POLICY works with religious leaders and groups to develop HIV/AIDS policies and awareness-raising activities. On February 21, 2002, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria approved and adopted the "Catholic HIV/AIDS Policy," following extensive

assistance from POLICY in conceptualizing, drafting, and reviewing the policy. For the first time, the new policy spells out how the Nigerian Catholic Church views HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment options and how church-based health service clinics should deal with HIV/AIDS and pastoral care.

SOUTH AFRICA:

Faith Organizations in HIV/AIDS Partnership (FOHAP) Find Strength in Collective Action

In South Africa, following the national faith-based *Indaba* facilitated by POLICY in March 2002, a nine-member National Working Group (composed of different church groups representing all nine provinces), named Faith Organizations in HIV/AIDS Partnership (FOHAP), was formed to coordinate the HIV/AIDS responses in this sector and to work in collaboration with the Department of Health and the South African National AIDS Council. The *Indaba* also resulted in key vision statements in critical areas of response such as care, prevention, leadership, counseling, death and dying, and pastoral care. These statements will guide the National Working Group's coordinating role, as well as serve as a framework for strengthened HIV/AIDS interventions across different faiths and within the broader sector. FOHAP convened consultative meetings with leaders in the faith-based sector in all nine South African provinces between June and September 2002. The objectives of these meetings were (1) to explore how existing faith-based HIV/AIDS initiatives in provinces can be better coordinated and expanded through FOHAP and the broader 'Partnership Against AIDS' program, and (2) to discuss with provincial faith-based leaders the role and function of FOHAP in strengthening the sector's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

TANZANIA:

National Islamic Council Mobilizes Muslim Community's HIV/AIDS Response

The National Islamic Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) has received two small grants from POLICY to help mobilize the HIV/AIDS response of the country's Muslim community. The small grants have been used to convene meetings of faith, community, government, and other stakeholders to increase awareness, improve collaboration, and explore development of guidelines for prevention, care, and mitigation efforts. On January 30, 2002, Tanzania's highest Islamic leader, Mufti Hemed bin Jumaa bin Hemed, publicly declared "war" on HIV/AIDS at the launching of BAKWATA's policy statement on HIV/AIDS. The Mufti placed emphasis on encouraging openness in discussions on safe sex practices and enhanced moral behavior and announced that BAKWATA is establishing an HIV/AIDS unit to develop outreach activities with every mosque on the mainland. He also issued a brochure summarizing the Council's position and policy on HIV/AIDS. POLICY provided BAKWATA with a small grant in March 2001 to hold a retreat with the Mufti and the Ulaama Council (senior Islamic advisors) to discuss HIV/AIDS and prepare a policy statement. A second small grant paid for the brochure (which POLICY also helped to prepare) and events leading up to the declaration.

UGANDA:

Capacity Building and Small Grants Program Focuses Attention on Children Affected by HIV/AIDS

The Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU) was formed by the heads of the major religious communities in Uganda (e.g., Anglican, Muslim, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox) to promote health and spiritual values. Since early on, IRCU has been involved in HIV/AIDS programs and the leadership recently decided to take steps to address constraints and gaps in their efforts. Building on a strategic planning process begun by USAID and World Vision, POLICY is collaborating with IRCU to develop its capacity and management skills with regard to HIV/AIDS activities. In particular, POLICY is helping IRCU complete its five-year strategic plan as well as providing technical assistance to involve IRCU in planning, implementing, and monitoring a small grants program to strengthen the role of faith-based organizations in carrying out activities that focus on orphans and children affected by HIV/AIDS. Participation in these activities is designed to provide IRCU with lessons learned that can be used to develop its long-term strategy on orphans and children affected by HIV/AIDS. POLICY and IRCU are currently reviewing proposals from about 30 faith-based organizations seeking small grants to work on issues facing children affected by HIV/AIDS.

International and Regional Conferences and Workshops

First International Muslim Leaders' Consultation on HIV/AIDS (Kampala, Uganda)

Under the leadership of the Islamic Medical Association of Uganda (IMAU), and with technical and logistical support from the POLICY Project (through the CORE Initiative), the "First International Muslim Leaders' Consultation on HIV/AIDS" brought together Muslim community representatives and other delegates from more than 20 countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and North America. Delegates to the consultation, held in Kampala, Uganda, on November 1-4, 2001, included imams, kadhis, and muftis, as well as representatives from women's and youth groups, health professionals, Muslims living with HIV/AIDS, leaders of NGOs and government agencies, and participants from international donor organizations. It marked the first time Muslim leaders have come together in an international forum to collaborate on HIV/AIDS.



Delegates from Kenya and Uganda attend the closing ceremony.

Insights from working sessions were shared with the larger group and used to develop resolutions and an action plan. To disseminate the action plan and strategies developed at the conference, participants resolved to conduct workshops in their respective countries. They will also establish an international resource center in Uganda for coordination and promotion of an Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS prevention and care. Finally, participants agreed that it would be valuable to meet regularly to share experiences and track progress in combating the pandemic. POLICY will support a second Muslim Leaders' Consultation to be convened in Malaysia in May 2003.



A recent POLICY-facilitated workshop sought to explore how faith-based organizations in Southern Africa can improve care and support for PLWHA.

Challenging Faith-based Communities: Toward HIV/AIDS Actions that Make a Difference (Johannesburg, South Africa)

As an implementing partner of USAID's Regional HIV/AIDS Program (RHAP) for Southern Africa, the POLICY Project seeks to raise HIV/AIDS awareness and build capacity and improve networking among faith-based communities in the region. In March 2002, POLICY facilitated a workshop entitled "Challenging Faith-Based Communities: Toward HIV/AIDS Actions that Make a Difference." The objective of the workshop was to strengthen and deepen the work of selected faith-based organizations in the implementation of their current and future HIV/AIDS programs, through a participatory process of expert inputs and discussion.

More than 30 representatives from nine Southern African countries participated in the event. Country teams drafted action plans to guide their future HIV/AIDS activities, focusing on breaking the silence on HIV/AIDS through training clergy, addressing home-based care, and building capacity of traditional leaders.

The workshop formed part of a series of interventions - including a counseling course for a group of faith-based leaders held in Uganda in 2001.

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