

Global Program Country Profile: SOUTH AFRICA

NASTAD

The National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) represents the United States' chief state and territorial health department program directors responsible for coordinating, administering, and managing HIV prevention, care, and support services. NASTAD's Global Program works to build the organizational, programmatic and human resource capacity of its regional/state public sector AIDS program counterparts across the world. In South Africa, NASTAD works in partnership with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Global AIDS Program (CDC/GAP) as part of the unified U.S. response to the HIV pandemic through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

HIV/AIDS IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa is a middle income country located in the southernmost tip of Africa with a population of over 47 million. According to the 2010 UNAIDS Report of the Global AIDS Epidemic, South Africa has one of the highest HIV adult prevalence rate in Sub-Saharan Africa, estimated at 17.8 percent.

Recent trends show that South Africans often get tested for HIV when they are already quite ill, and that even if aware of their HIV status, are reluctant to seek medical treatment and care until they show signs of illness. The National Department of Health (DoH) notes that of the estimated 5.3 million PLHA, only 20% are eligible for ART, or "treatment", but highlight that 100% are entitled for "care", which can help to prolong the time

period for pre-ART, and support wellness while using ART.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Integrated Access to Care and Treatment/I ACT-Basic Care Package

As a primary partner to provincial Departments of Health in South Africa, NASTAD provides support to Free State and Mpumalanga Provinces to implement the national I ACT/BCP program

I ACT/BCP is an intervention designed to support, inform, train and empower people with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) as they begin to manage their health. The major components of the I ACT/BCP intervention include curriculum, training, support group, referral system, healthy lifestyle programs and advocacy. The goal of I ACT/BCP is to promote early recruitment and retention of newly diagnosed PLHIV into care and support programs. In addition, I ACT/BCP strives to reduce the high rate of loss to follow-up from the time of HIV diagnosis to successful commencement of ART. Although I ACT/BCP primarily focuses on newly diagnosed HIV positive individuals, it was designed to include HIV positive individuals in general and individuals who are affected by HIV and need a support group.

Nationally, NASTAD is providing technical assistance for the overall monitoring and evaluation of the I ACT/BCP intervention. At the

provincial level NASTAD provides technical assistance to Free State for overall coordination, monitoring and management of the program, and also supports I ACT implementation in two districts (Motheo and Xhariep), NASTAD delivers training of master and provincial trainers who in turn provide training to community workers to implement and manage I ACT support groups; NASTAD also provides on-going technical assistance and financial support to active I ACT support groups managed through community based NGOs. In 2010, NASTAD initiated I ACT/BCP in Mpumalanga Province focusing on three major Districts (Ehlanzeni, Gert Sibande and Mkgangala).

PAST ACTIVITIES

In 2004, NASTAD was asked by CDC/South Africa to provide capacity building support to provincial HIV/AIDS programs. NASTAD's capacity building efforts in South Africa were delivered through twinning relationships between the Massachusetts Department of Health (MDPH) and the Eastern Cape Health Department (ECHD); the Illinois Department of Health (IDPH) and the Northern Cape Health Department (NCHD); the Indiana Health Department (ISHD) and the Free State Province Health Department (FSPHD).

PLWHA Mobilization

Through these twinning relationships NASTAD collaborated with partners to i) develop a training module and TOT for PLWA Support Group Facilitators in the Northern Cape and Free State Provinces; ii) deliver sensitization trainings to local NGOs on men who have sex with men (MSM) in several locations in the Western Cape; and iii) build capacity and sustainability of the Networking HIV/AIDS Community of South Africa [NACOSA](#) and Masihlanganeni Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS MANEPHA in South Africa.

Leadership Development

Since 2007, NASTAD has addressed leadership development through exchange visits, targeted TA and the creation of a Leadership Development Toolkit, which focuses on building capacity in Provincial Departments of Health in the areas of leadership, strategic and program management, community participation and NGO coordination.

Products

- *Support Group Facilitation Baseline Survey: Administered in Northern Cape, Free State, Western Cape and Eastern Cape Provinces, South Africa, May 2008*
- *HIV & AIDS Programme Leadership and Management Toolkit: a toolkit for provincial departments of health, South Africa, 2009*
- *Building a Consumer Network: A Toolkit documenting the establishment of effective networks for PLWHAs, 2008*
- *The Northern Cape NGO Audit: A baseline on NGO capacity utilized to assess provincial capacity for the EU Partnerships, 2008*



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