

The NASTAD Global Program

WHAT IS NASTAD?

NASTAD, founded in 1992, is the only officially established organization that represents AIDS directors of all 50 U.S. states and territories. A membership driven, participatory, and peer-led organization, NASTAD works on behalf of states with federal agencies and partners, and builds state AIDS program capacity through exchange of member skills and experiences.

NASTAD's mission is to strengthen state and territory-based leadership, expertise, and advocacy, and bring them to bear on reducing the incidence of HIV infection and providing care and support to all who live with HIV/AIDS. NASTAD's programs help it to achieve its mission, and include Public Health Advocacy, Care and Treatment, Prevention, Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities, Viral Hepatitis, and Global.

NASTAD'S GLOBAL PROGRAM OVERVIEW

NASTAD's Global Program is funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Global AIDS Program (CDC/GAP), through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Modeled after the domestic peer-to-peer technical assistance (TA) program, the Global Program is designed to facilitate peer exchange between U.S. state AIDS directors and state and national AIDS programs overseas.

NASTAD is uniquely positioned to support state and national AIDS programs in other countries because:

- **NASTAD can assist states/districts to interpret and implement national policy and guidelines.** NASTAD's experience providing peer support helps states understand and best respond to national HIV policy and guidelines according to their individual profiles and capacity.
- **NASTAD can assist national programs to understand state needs and perspectives.** NASTAD is experienced

in developing productive and long-term relationships with national AIDS programs and in advocating on behalf of states on national policy and program implementation issues.

- **NASTAD can respond effectively to state/district diversity.** U.S. states vary immensely in the size and nature of their HIV epidemics, as well as in their capacity to respond. NASTAD draws upon the diverse pool of knowledge and experiences of **all** states to match one state/district to another to respond to a TA request.
- **NASTAD can draw on the HIV-specific program management experience of U.S. state AIDS directors.** While many provincial public health officials may have strong program management skills or public health backgrounds, their experience managing HIV/AIDS programs is often limited, as many of these programs are in their early stages. U.S. state AIDS program managers usually have attained their positions after at least 15-20 years of continuous experience within state and community-based HIV programs. As such, they bring to their roles a deep understanding of all aspects of HIV program design, implementation, management, and evaluation, from prevention to care to treatment.
- **NASTAD uses a peer-based learning model that places country HIV management experience at the center of its training and TA methodology.** The NASTAD Global Program draws upon the same peer-based, participatory, and experiential approaches proven to be of value to U.S. state AIDS directors in NASTAD's domestic programs, including training of trainers, peer mentorship, twinning, study tours, and peer-led conferences.
- **NASTAD promotes sustainability.** NASTAD works to build capacity, systems, and skills of the indigenous state and regional government entities that are ultimately responsible for sustaining and expanding their nations' HIV control efforts.

SNAPSHOT OF NASTAD'S GLOBAL PROGRAM TA ACTIVITIES

NASTAD has more than five years of experience working with states and districts in countries across the globe. The following list describes some of NASTAD's Global Program TA activities in country to date:

- **Botswana:** Since 2003, NASTAD has worked with all 27 districts around evidence-based planning, as well as prevention program implementation.
- **Cambodia:** Voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) training and TA in community planning.
- **Brazil, Ethiopia, South Africa:** Twinning between U.S. state health departments and those in Brazil, Ethiopia, and South Africa.
- **Caribbean:** The Caribbean Coalition of National AIDS Programme Coordinators (CCNAPC) received TA on board development, program planning, and implementation. NASTAD also developed a Community Planning Module.
- **China:** Delegation visits to the U.S. to examine state role and programming in the U.S.
- **Ethiopia:** Since 2001, NASTAD has worked with states on community planning for AIDS funding proposal development, community mobilization around ART treatment adherence.
- **Haiti:** NASTAD continues to provide TA in support of improved surveillance. In 2006, NASTAD initiated a relationship with the Ministry of Health's AIDS Coordinating Unit, as well as the Department of Epidemiology.
- **Ethiopia, Nigeria, Guyana, Madagascar, Botswana, Brazil:** TA in the area of HIV/AIDS surveillance.
- **India:** NASTAD provides technical support in the design and delivery of a Public Health Field Leader Fellowship targeting mid-career public health professionals.
- **Jamaica, Guyana, China:** TA in development of Global Fund applications.
- **Mozambique:** In collaboration with I-TECH and the Ministry of Health, NASTAD conducted management training with Provincial AIDS Directors and District Health Coordinators.
- **Nigeria:** NASTAD worked with State Action Committees on AIDS (SACAs) to develop a model for state level HIV planning.
- **Zambia:** NASTAD provides TA in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and community planning to Provincial and District AIDS Coordinators, TA to the University of Zambia on establishing an M&E Center of Excellence, and TA to the Zambia National AIDS Council on coordination and dissemination of HIV/AIDS research.

NASTAD'S GLOBAL PROGRAM COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

State AIDS programs and NASTAD provide true peers to their colleagues abroad, and gain equally from this exchange. To meet the demands of their full-time domestic health department positions, yet build critical relationships and maintain momentum in overseas TA, these providers must work as a team. This approach allows NASTAD to provide continued TA in country and ensures success in both technical and interpersonal dimensions of international TA.

For more information about the NASTAD Global Program,
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