

# 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 2007 UNAIDS Report of the Global AIDS Epidemic, South Africa has one of the highest HIV adult prevalence rate in Sub-Saharan Africa, estimated at 19 percent. UNAIDS estimates that there are 5.5 million HIV infected people in the country.

In response to the epidemic, the South African government implemented the national "Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Care, Management and Treatment Plan" in 2004. With support from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, South Africa embarked on a rapid scale-up of HIV/AIDS testing, treatment, prevention and

care services. CDC/South Africa collaborates with the South African Ministry of Health (MOH) to build the capacity of national and provincial HIV/AIDS programs.

## 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 are delivered through twinning relationships to three provinces and direct technical support to one province. NASTAD's twinning is defined as a bi-directional exchange of information, training, and technical assistance between two individuals/organizations.

### Twinning Relationships

Since 2004, NASTAD has facilitated twinning relationships between U.S. state health departments and provincial health departments in South Africa. NASTAD has supported twinning 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); and the Indiana Health Department (ISHD) and the Free State Province Health Department (FSPHD).

### PLWHA Mobilization

Since 2004, NASTAD has supported PLWHA mobilization and capacity building in South Africa. Initially in the Eastern Cape Province, supporting the creation and growth of MANEPHA, a PLWHA

network and then in the Northern Cape and Free State provinces providing trainings to support group facilitators targeting PLWHAs. From these trainings, NASTAD has developed a training module for Support Group Facilitators as well as a Train the Trainer (TOT). NASTAD also delivered sensitization trainings to local NGOs on men who have sex with men (MSM), in Cape Town and in the rural, underserved districts in the Western Cape. NASTAD's on-going work with local NGOs continues, particularly in assisting NACOSA in curriculum development, and capacity building to MANEPHA as it becomes its own NGO and builds a training unit to provide TA in the future.

### Leadership Development

NASTAD, through its twinning with the provinces since 2007, 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 management, 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*

### Evaluation

In 2008, NASTAD conducted an External Assessment of the technical assistance provided in 2006 and 2007. Respondents were overall very satisfied with technical assistance, citing quality of

work and a high level of expertise. South African HIV/AIDS administrators also noted the benefits received from the twinning partnerships, particularly in development of management skills. The evaluation found that the South Africans had high expectations which had been met by NASTAD's TA over the previous two years.

### Next Steps

In 2009 and beyond, NASTAD plans to focus on the sustainability of its PLWHA mobilization and leadership development programs through a close collaboration with PLWHA networks at the national and provincial levels. In addition NASTAD plans to transfer skills to local academic institutions to continue the leadership development support to the provinces.



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