Goal and Outcomes

The overall goals of this project are to 1) strengthen the technical competency and organizational capacity of national civil society organization (CSO) networks in Botswana to deliver strategic and high quality HIV services, and 2) to strengthen district level systems and structures to provide coordinated HIV services in hard-to-reach areas of Botswana. NASTAD Botswana’s goal, as one of the project’s core partners, is to strengthen partnership and collaboration between CSOs and district level government structures to ensure an effective, coordinated and cohesive district response.

Strategy and Approach Used

NASTAD Botswana partnered with Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLG&RD), the National AIDS Coordinating Agency (NACA), district level structures, FHI360, BONASO, NCONGO, and other district coalitions to create an enabling environment for communication, coordination, and project implementation.

NASTAD Botswana conducted an initial baseline assessment in four focus districts (Chobe, Ghanzi, Okavango, Northwest Ngamiland) to understand the current status of CSO/local government engagement in addressing HIV as part of the district level response, and how such engagement could be strengthened to enhance the health outcomes and quality of life for communities. The baseline assessment helped to plan and develop a tailored technical assistance and capacity development work plans for the targeted districts.

Results

- **Guidelines on CSO Representation at DMSAC:** This guideline defines the District Multi-Sectoral AIDS Committee (DMSAC) membership requirements regarding CSO representation as proposed in the DMSAC Terms of References.

- **DMSAC Orientation Package:** This package was designed to address specific needs of new District Multi-Sectoral AIDS Committee members as newcomers in the committee, including familiarizing them with their respective roles and responsibilities. The DMSAC Orientation Package provides information to DMSAC and Technical Advisory members about the committee, the national and district HIV response and governance.

- **District HIV and AIDS Coordination Model:** This toolkit was designed to provide practical tools and skills to CSOs, government and private sector staff to improve and strengthen the local district response to HIV in hard-to-reach areas. Among other things, the model address issues of coordination and collaboration, effective communication, CSO representation, planning, capacity development, resource mobilization and monitoring and evaluation of the district HIV and AIDS response.
Summary of Outcomes and Impact
NASTAD Botswana:

- Helped five districts (Ghanzi, Chobe, Okavango, and Northwest Ngamiland and Charleshill) to develop district level government coordination and collaboration plans in line with the baseline assessment, the National Plan of Action of NSF II and CSO Capacity Building Strategy. Among other things, the district plans addressed issues of government/CSO coordination and cooperation, joint planning and communication, resource mobilization and sharing, joint program monitoring and evaluation, and CSOs representation.

- Facilitated dialogue between district local government and CSOs to redefine and build consensus on relationships, roles and responsibilities as reflected in the DMSAC Terms of Reference, DMSAC Communication Strategy and CSO Capacity Building Framework. The roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders were clarified and well defined. As a result, government and CSOs have been able to perform their roles individually and more importantly, collectively in an effective manner, to create a cohesive, seamless, cost effective and sustainable HIV and AIDS response service delivery.

- Supported the establishment of same service provider’s forum for orphans and vulnerable children, voluntary HIV counseling and testing, home based care and community TB care programs and supported the initial planning and review meetings of these forums. These forums strengthened joint planning, collaboration and information and best practice sharing among the service providers so as to avoid duplication of services and strengthen sharing of resources.

- Collaborated with NCONGO, BONASO and FHI360 to support districts in expanding participation of stakeholders and community leaders in the district response by initiating annual reflection and review meetings for service providers, stakeholders and the community at large. Solutions generated in these meetings have been very instrumental in shaping the district HIV and AIDS planning processes.

- Provided technical support to both government and CSO staff through training, regular mentoring and supportive supervision activities.

The technical assistance and support provided in this project has significantly enhanced the district level partnership, collaboration and coordination frameworks between government and CSOs and strengthened the technical and organizational capacity of CSOs to deliver strategic and high quality HIV services in Botswana.

Putting Learning Into Action Planning, MAATLA Workshop, Botswana

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