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GENERAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE CONTRACT (GMAC)

Contract No: 674-C-00-01-00051-00

HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming Programme

Grant number: 0152-0205-G-GA47



This report was produced for review by the USAID.
It was prepared as a performance milestone under Mega-Tech, Inc.'s prime contract.

The contents of this report address activities performed under USAID/South Africa's **Strategic Objective No. 6: Increased Access to Shelter and Environmentally Sound Municipal Services**

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Activity Summary and achievements:

The overall objectives for the HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming Program were to:

- Analyze strategic challenges posed by HIV/AIDS in the development, governance and service delivery of South African cities;
- Collect, collate, analyze, assess, disseminate and promote best practices in HIV/AIDS mitigation strategies and policies within large city government in a South African context;
- Develop a cadre of practitioners and 'communities of practice' within the SACN member cities to improve the quality and effectiveness of the response of those municipalities to HIV/AIDS;
- Facilitate a shared-learning partnership between network members in order to develop a comprehensive response by South African cities to the HIV/AIDS epidemic; and,
- Improve the quality of response to HIV/AIDS within municipal workforces and among the larger community through technical assistance in the development of strategic and long-term plans of action at city level.

The program addressed these objectives through three major areas of activity:

- Research and occasional papers;
- Skills Building and Training;
- Knowledge Management.

The attached Final Report presents the program and its achievements in more detail.

Contents of this report:

1. Final Report (December 2005)
2. Grant Activity Completion Report (March 2006)

GMAC Grantee Narrative Report

Grantee: South African Cities Network

Agreement No.: 0152-0205-G-GA47

Report for period: May 01 to December 31, 2005

This narrative report outlines activities undertaken through the USAID fund in the period May to December 2005.

PROGRAMME RESULT AREA: RESEARCH AND OCCASIONAL PAPERS

SACN has continued to produce relevant research reports on good management and development practices in City level responses to HIV and AIDS. Partnerships have been developed with other donor agencies such as Sida, research institutions and government agencies to identify issues and challenges that need to be researched further with the aim of providing recommendations on how cities can manage them. USAID funding has enabled the SACN to identify and appoint competent researchers who have also worked in the areas of local government to conduct research in two of the HIV and AIDS related challenges confronting city managers today. One researcher focused on the implications of HIV and AIDS on Urban Poverty and the other focused on the implications for Migrations patterns. These began by unpacking the nature and magnitude of the migration and poverty challenges. They then related these challenges to HIV and AIDS to explore any relationships with the aim of making recommendations to city managers and other stakeholders within the cityscape on how to respond to the challenges. It is acknowledged that numerous other similar and related studies had been conducted and the researchers scoped the environment to search for these and to consolidate all findings. Besides understanding the nature and magnitude of the problem, it was also important to understand the various role-players who are or should be playing a role in addressing these challenges. These role players were identified and packaged in a way that city managers can access and co-operate with them in various ways that may be agreed on. The studies have been published together with another study funded by Sida on the implications of HIV and AIDS on land use planning and management. 1000 copies of this publication have been printed and have begun being disseminated.

All these findings were also consolidated for inclusion in the State of Cities Report. A recommendation has also been made by the State of Cities Report writing team to highlight issues of HIV and AIDS. This will enable the findings of the studies funded by this grant to be entrenched into the SOCR 06 and be circulated widely. The State of Cities of Cities Report also allows the challenges and recommendations to be contextualised into City Development Strategies as a whole.

The studies have begun being quoted and informing various strategies the most important of which being their inputs into a national framework for an integrated response to HIV and AIDS being developed by the department of provincial and local government. SACN and dplg have agreed to co-operate in all HIV and AIDS related activities.

PROGRAMME RESULT AREA: SKILLS BUILDING AND TRAINING

There are various policies, strategies and plans that have been developed to facilitate HIV and AIDS responses at the municipal workplace. A few of these are progressive and comprehensive while others are still inadequate. A challenge that has arisen is that of ensuring that everyone who has a responsibility to implement these has the proper understanding and skills to facilitate the implementation. A series of activities beginning with a symposium held at the beginning of the year demonstrated that there is no clear framework that is understood by all practitioners to respond to the pandemic at the workplace. The skills building event consolidated policies guidelines frameworks and lessons from a variety of sources from both the public and private sector to develop general guidelines that were then used as materials to aid a skills building workshop held in Johannesburg in August 2005. The workshop discussed and interrogated the guidelines presented at the workshop thus providing very valuable feedback that was then utilised to develop the final guidelines which are now ready to be disseminated widely. The partnership that was entered into with Salga now means that these guidelines will be disseminated to all 284 municipalities.

PROGRAMME RESULT AREA: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Since its inception SACN has continued to develop knowledge products as part of various programmes and disseminates them through different mediums. The evolution of SACN beyond its inception phase has widened the scope and intensity of its activities. In order to ensure that the majority of these activities yield effective and efficient knowledge sharing and management, the Knowledge Management strategy had to be enhanced. One of the Key deliverables funded by the current USAID fund has been the development of a knowledge management strategy which then contextualises knowledge management and dissemination for HIV and AIDS knowledge products into the overall Knowledge Management strategy of the SACN.

Another key deliverable has been the enhancement of SACN's website with particular attention to the HIV and AIDS sub-site. The initiation of this website enhancement has led to a partnership being developed between SACN and Health Insite for continuous enhancement of the website with information gathered by both Health Insite and SACN. Health Insite has access to a wide pool of HIV and AIDS related information from national and international sources. This initiative also entails persuading municipalities to document their experiences and post them onto the website which is now referred to as the AIDS Insite. These two sources to information will compliment the existing processes which SACN has initiated to collect its information. Nedbank – One of the major commercial financial institutions has agreed to support the pilot phase of AIDS Insite for a period of 6 months beginning 01 January 2006 until 30 June 2006. The enhanced site is now a very useful tool to disseminate a wide variety of HIV and AIDS and other knowledge products developed by SACN, its member cities and other partners.

A seminar was held on 02 December to facilitate knowledge sharing between various stakeholders from local, provincial and national levels. Different municipalities presented their policies, strategies and programmes. These included their success

areas as well as challenges which they discussed and got feedback from their counterparts from other municipalities. The national government represented by the department of provincial and local government also shared their framework for an integrated response to HIV and AIDS. This is aimed at providing guidance to all municipalities across the country in developing holistic HIV and AIDS programmes. Provincial initiatives were also demonstrated using experiences from the Gauteng province. All the research papers that had been developed by the SACN were also disseminated at the seminar. The guidelines for managing HIV and AIDS at the municipal workplace which had been developed in collaboration by SACN, DPLG and SALGA were also presented and distributed electronically to all participants. The seminar also served to launch the AIDS Insite website including guiding participants on how to use it.

In my capacity as the grantee agent, I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge, the above information is accurate.

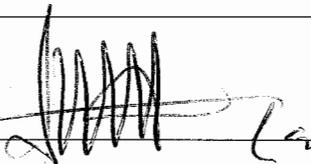
Authorised Signature: 

Date: 23/12/05

Grant Activity Completion Report

1. Name of Organisation	South African Cities Network
2. Grant Activity	
3. Briefly describe the grant objectives achievements and impact as a result of the grant activities implemented during the grant period. The grant had three main objectives: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Conducting research that helps cities and their role players to understand the dynamic s of HIV and AIS as a developmental challenge. Having understood the dynamics and challenges the research needed to identify possible interventions that cities could undertake. It was acknowledged that some interventions were beyond municipalities areas of competency which implied that the research needed to identify other stakeholders that have a role to play and co-ordinate activities of the different role players. Some of this information has begun informing development strategies for some cities and the national department of provincial and local government. It is anticipated that this will continue to inform various leaders and managers and their planning and development processes as new leadership take up office following the March 2006 local government elections.2. Facilitating skills building activities. This aims at enabling cities to utilize information, best practices and policies that have been developed in order to inform their strategies to respond to HIV and AIDS at the municipal workplaces. This required the collection and collation of information from different sources and packaging it into a set of guidelines that can be utilized for training municipal practitioners.3. The third objective relates to knowledge management. This entailed first enhancing SACN knowledge management strategy to ensure that HIV and AIDS issues are entrenched into SACN knowledge collection, packaging and dissemination channels. One of the channels includes the website which has been enhanced with a sub-site focusing on HIV and AIDS. Lastly a seminar was held in December to disseminate the findings of the HIV and AIDS programme.	
4. Briefly discuss the implementation process, including lessons learned and recommendations <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Various forums such as SACN board, reference group meetings, local level forums and individual discussions were used to identify research topics2. Researchers were sourced using SACN's procurement procedures.3. participatory research was conducted with draft reports presented at various stages of the process to ensure that they meet expectations4. publishers were sourced using SACN procurement procedures5. A skills building event was organized to invite a large forum to discuss the research particularly focusing on workplace responses.6. A seminar was organized to disseminate and discuss the findings of all reports	
5. Public Dissemination: GMAC requires that all grant activity deliverable(s) of the grant activity (e.g., a report or survey) must be made available to the general public. Briefly discuss how the grants activities and results were made accessible to interested parties. Various channels have been identified to disseminate the findings of the work: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. First the research papers have been published and a wide dissemination list has been identified. Some copies have ready been sent to some municipalities2. A subsite focusing on HIV and AIDS has been developed to load all the work that has been completed as well as any other complimentary work that can be sourced from various sources.3. seminars and workshops have been held to disseminate the work and receive feedback	

Signature of Grantee



Date

6/3/06