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**HEALTH POLICY
INITIATIVE**

**Semi-Annual Report: South Africa
Futures Group International, LLC**

1. TO Number	GPO-I-02-05-00040-00
2. Location	Pretoria, South Africa
3. Title	USAID Health Policy Initiative in South Africa
4. Activity Description	This task order aims to build and strengthen the capacity of organizations and institutions across all sectors to design, implement, and evaluate comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, care, and support programs and policies. Specifically, the project seeks to ensure that national and local HIV/AIDS policies and programs, based on local and international best practices, are adopted and implemented. The project also helps to develop, strengthen, and support effective public sector and civil society champions and networks to assume leadership in policy implementation.
5. Achievements	See below.
6. Name of USAID COTR	Nellie Gqwaru
7. Name of USAID CO	Martin Fischer, RCO
8. Name of COP	Shaida Asmall, COP
9. Date of Award	October 1, 2007
10. Projected End Date	September 30, 2010
11. Ceiling Price	\$8,999,982.64
12. Obligations to Date	\$6,000,000
13. Cumulative Expenditures	\$3,442,312
14. Balance (pipeline based on obligations to date)	\$2,436,525
15. Subcontractors	Futures Institute
16. Final Invoice Submission	N/A

Period of performance for SAR: April 1, 2009–September 30, 2009

Program Overview: The USAID | Health Policy Initiative (HPI) in South Africa assists government departments, the business sector, and civil society with formulating, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating HIV-related policies and programs. HPI’s HIV strategy resonates with South Africa’s National Strategic Plan (NSP) for HIV and AIDS & STIs (2007–2011) and contributes to PEPFAR’s *Prevention, Care, Strategic Information, and Health Systems Strengthening* program areas.

Summary of Major HIV Activities:

Prevention (Abstinence & Be Faithful) Education

In the prevention (A&B) portfolio, HPI works in collaboration with South Africa's faith-based organizations (FBOs) and traditional leaders (TLs) to address the critical areas of risk-reduction behavior, such as the reduction of concurrent multiple-sex partners; abstinence; delayed sexual debut; fidelity; and the reduction of gender-based violence.

Collaboration with traditional leaders. From April to September, 2009, HPI helped organize eight large community meetings in the Limpopo and Kwazulu-Natal (KZN) provinces, reaching 30,345 people with HIV prevention messages. HPI not only collaborated with local, traditional leaders previously trained by HPI under the HIV prevention capacity-building program but also provided the necessary promotional materials. Speakers at the meetings included representatives of other government departments and HPI technical specialists.

Collaboration with faith-based organizations (FBOs). HPI trained 76 leaders (4 males and 72 females) of the Peniel Church on HIV prevention and stigma and discrimination from July 13–15 in Gauteng Province. Peniel is an FBO comprising women, youth, and orphans from diverse social sectors. The organization works with other FBOs and civil society partners to educate women and youth in rural and peri-urban communities in Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West, and Northern Cape provinces about causes of HIV, HIV prevention, gender, stigma and discrimination, and access to local support services. With HPI's support, Peniel conducted five community activities on HIV prevention, reaching 23,750 people. HPI's Gender Specialist actively participated in these events and recommended strategies to enhance the impact and quality of future prevention interventions. The collaboration with Peniel clearly demonstrates the value of investing in capacity development for FBOs, as the reach is wider and most effective in understanding local traditions and culture.

Assisting and developing the capacity of traditional leaders and FBOs contributes to fulfillment of the NSP's strategic intervention of using government, community leaders, and civil society to help reduce new infections by 50 percent by 2010.

Peer Education Program. From May 11–13, HPI supported a three-day training program for 100 peer educators (21 males and 79 females, ranging in age from 12 to 17 years old) from Arena Park Secondary School. The training was facilitated by Sandy Dehaloo, a teacher at the school, who had participated in HPI's Policy Champions Program. HPI will continue to offer technical support to the peer educators as they implement HIV prevention activities in their school and community.

The training culminated in a certification ceremony for the newly trained peer educators at the school assembly attended by 1,145 learners, 35 educators, and 70 parents. HPI used this event to educate the wider learning community about gender and HIV prevention and to distribute information, education, and communication materials. The messages urged all learners to uphold both primary and secondary abstinence and to avoid early sexual debut, alcohol and substance abuse, and any other behavior that increases the risk of contracting HIV. Speakers urged the educators and parents to support children in their endeavors to maintain positive behavior.

During a luncheon address to 30 educators, Dr. Shaidah Asmall, HPI Chief of Party, emphasized the need to address HIV and AIDS as part of the Department of Education's policy implementation of learners' life skills development and support for positive behaviors. The Policy Champion, with the trained peer educators (learners), gave presentations on HIV prevention messages at 10 assemblies at schools in

Chatsworth and surrounding areas, helping to strengthen the role of these learners as peer educators and role models.

Other Prevention

Despite the development of coordinated strategies to improve women's reproductive health, South Africa still lacks national policies and guidelines to address men's reproductive health. In support of the SA National Strategic Plan on HIV & AIDS and STIs, HPI worked with the Women's Health and Genetics Directorate of the National Department of Health (NDOH) and other partners identified by the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) to improve male reproductive health and reduce vulnerability of men and women to HIV.

Reproductive health. At a meeting on September 4, the NDOH indicated that male reproductive health would be integrated into the broader national strategy on reproductive health and asked HPI to assist with developing it. This activity includes (1) the review of international and local literature and policies that affect the reproductive health of men and women and (2) the development of an integrated national strategic framework that will address/incorporate the reproductive health needs of males and females, including the reproductive health needs of people living with HIV. The effort will be coordinated by the Women's Health and Genetics Directorate and guided by a project steering committee to be established by the NDOH.

Male circumcision. On June 15, Dr. Shaidah Asmall and Mogale Mashapata met with Dayanund Loykissoonlal, the Acting Director of Prevention of HIV and AIDS & STIs, at the NDOH to discuss potential support to the department in drafting an MC policy and holding consultative processes on MC. The NDOH also asked HPI to facilitate a training workshop for up to 20 deputy directors on policy development and implementation.

Dr. Asmall worked closely with other partners and drafted the final MC policy, which the SANAC Plenary presented and approved. On September 21, the NDOH formally requested HPI technical assistance to revise the facility audit tool, cost the MC implementation plans, and draft non-clinical guidelines and an implementation strategy for MC implementation in South Africa. HPI is working with USAID/South Africa to reprogram funding to be able to address the NDOH's requests.

Health Systems Strengthening

HIV Leadership Course: Post-Graduate Program in HIV. In line with HPI's mandate to identify, train, and strengthen policy champions, HPI is involved in the training of Masters in Business Administration (MBA) students and Masters in Public Health (MPH) students. The program has been conducted in four universities.

On July 18, HPI trained 33 MBA students on the HIV and AIDS Business Leaders course at the University of Kwa Zulu-Natal (UKZN). To enhance sustainability, four lecturers will participate in a training-of-trainers (TOT) program and receive technical assistance enabling them to conduct future training for MBA students. On July 21, HPI conducted the HIV and AIDS Business Leaders training for 45 MBA students at North West University (NWU)–Potchefstroom Business School. MEDUNSA, in collaboration with HPI, offers the AIDS, Society, and Development Course, which focuses on the public health problems associated with the HIV pandemic in Africa. The online certificate course targets individuals from HIV-related community-based organizations. The same course is presented as an elective online module for the MPH degree. HPI developed the material used in the online course and provided technical support in the form of course facilitators. HPI held a meeting with MEDUNSA to further define the collaboration. HPI provided technical support and small grants to previous graduates based on predetermined selection criteria (assessing graduates to identify policy champions). The fourth

university involved in the program is the Africa Center for HIV/AIDS Management at the Stellenbosch University. During this reporting period, HPI assessed the gender module, delivered the stigma module as an integrated part of the section on tradition and culture, and reviewed the policy module. Two new appendices are needed on costing and monitoring and evaluation, which will be included in the modules to be delivered in January 2010.

To maximize the value of the training, HPI also conducted a TOT program on September 28 at UKZN for five full-time and two part-time lecturers. Three lecturers from NWU participated in the training for the MBA students and will participate in subsequent, focused HPI technical training to enable them to deliver the course independently.

Policy Champions Program. The Policy Champions Program is a direct product of the Postgraduate Diploma Management (PDM) project at Stellenbosch University. The graduates have to demonstrate their involvement in HIV and AIDS workplace policy development and/or implementation before and after completing the PDM course, as well as personal growth (i.e., promotion as a direct result of having participated in the course). The Community Agency for Social Enquiry (CASE) was engaged to assist with the identification of at least 20 policy champions from the PDM class of 2007. The champions will be showcased but, more specifically, HPI will provide technical assistance to support workplace policy development and implementation by some of these champions.

HPI successfully supported four policy champions who participated in the PDM course of 2006; this activity directly supports IR2.2, “Number of instances in which policy champions that were assisted by the project are actively engaged in policy dialogue, planning, and/or advocacy.” The champions conducted HIV prevention activities at two secondary schools and in a provincial hospital.

At the request of the Arena Park Secondary School (where one of the policy champions is based), HPI conducted an HIV prevention training workshop for educators and their spouses and partners May 16–17. Educators from five schools from the Umlazi District were also involved. A total of 62 people (23 males and 39 females) attended the interactive workshop, which sensitized educators regarding the epidemic and its drivers and their own perceptions of sexuality and HIV. Participants evaluated the training through a self-administered evaluation form. The evaluation indicated that (1) the workshop added extensive value to participants’ knowledge on HIV issues; (2) all educators within the school should be trained on HIV prevention; and (3) team-building sessions should be held for staff at schools to utilize their various strengths, skills, and knowledge in supporting HIV prevention activities.

HPI further assisted the policy champion to design a methodology/tool for integrating HIV into the regular curriculum. As a result, 23 out of 30 educators used this tool to incorporate HIV into their teaching in an integrated manner.

Furthermore, the policy champion arranged and hosted a “Mother and Daughter Tea” in August 2009 to advocate for positive behavior change and promote open communication between parents and their children. This activity proved that a policy champion can mobilize people and resources in their local community to advocate for policy change. The activity also caught the attention of education authorities, and HPI was asked to investigate the feasibility of expanding the program to other schools in the district.

Marelane Senior Secondary School is a rural school situated in Bizana, Eastern Cape Province. The school accommodates learners who are also young parents. On April 28, HPI supported an HIV community outreach activity arranged by the policy champion (Nambitha Sitofile). More than 200 stakeholders—including representatives from several government departments, traditional leaders, faith-based leaders, representatives from other NGOs, and the School Governing Body—participated in the event. From April 28–30, HPI supported a training workshop for 51 peer educators (26 males and 25

females, ranging in age from 12 to 23 years old) associated with the Marelane Senior Secondary School to further disseminate information. This is a direct result of the motivation of the Policy Champion to be responsive to her environment.

Stigma and discrimination (S&D) mitigation training. HPI supports the NSP priority area on human rights and access to justice through reducing barriers to effective prevention, treatment, and support for people living with HIV. In April and May, the project conducted training on stigma and discrimination mitigation for senior managers and staff at Kimberly Hospital in the Northern Cape. Stigma was impeding health workers from accessing free workplace HIV/AIDS care services because they feared that confidentiality may be compromised. The training should lead to increased use of HIV services such as voluntary counseling and testing, care and support, and treatment. This activity specifically relates to IR1.3, “Number of instances in which steps are taken to address or remove identified barriers to HIV/AIDS services and information.”

In addition, HPI conducted training workshops on stigma and discrimination mitigation for 176 people from government hospitals and NGOs in the Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, Western Cape, and KZN. The training was based on “To the Other Side of the Mountain: A Toolkit for People Living with HIV and AIDS,” which was published by HPI in 2008. The toolkit includes modules on disclosure, human rights, communication, facilitation, and advocacy and is part of a broader campaign aimed at responding to the challenges in addressing HIV and AIDS in homes, workplaces, and communities. The toolkit led to the development and approval of the National Stigma Mitigation Framework.

In summary, HPI trained 543 people between October 2008 and September 2009 under the PEPFAR indicator “Number of individuals trained in HIV-related stigma and discrimination.”

Stigma Mitigation Framework. The “Stigma Mitigation Framework—A Guideline for the Design and Implementation of Chronic Infectious Diseases-related Stigma Reduction Interventions by the South African Government and its Partners” was presented and approved at the SANAC Plenary on June 30, and is a major milestone in a long process that began as research on stigma known as the Siyam’kela Project under the POLICY Project. Following the final design, printing, and distribution of the framework, HPI will help SANAC facilitate development of the sector implementation plans, including indicators for identified SANAC sectors (women’s, children, men’s, religious, and health professionals sectors).

Support Group Guidelines. Under the guidance of the Care and Support Directorate of NDOH, HPI revised the “Support Group Guidelines to Establish and Maintain Support Groups for People Living with and/or Affected by HIV and AIDS.” HPI facilitated the last of nine consultative workshops in Johannesburg, Gauteng, on June 26, for 20 NGO and government participants to obtain feedback on the draft guidelines. The draft was submitted on September 30 to the NDOH for review and approval.

Strategic Information

Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA). HPI engaged in dialogue with the DPSA to enhance the costing of HIV policies and programs. The project met with the DPSA and the Inter-Departmental Committee on AIDS (IDC) in May and July to identify and address challenges experienced by other national and provincial departments in the application of the costing model previously developed by HPI. The IDC hosted an interdepartmental workshop, where departments presented their workplans for review and highlighted challenges. HPI then submitted a report to the DPSA, which, in turn, submitted a proposal to HPI for further technical assistance and capacity building to improve the costing of operational plans. In July, HPI, in consultation with the DPSA, revised the training material, incorporating HPI resource material—such as the “Managing HIV and AIDS in the Workplace: A Guide

for Government Departments” and “Technical Assistance Guide on HIV and AIDS for Policy and Program Development and Implementation”—as well as adding sections on HIV mainstreaming, expanding the sections on strategic and operational planning, and including a practical case study.

In August 2009, HPI conducted three two-day workshops on operational planning and costing for HIV and AIDS workplace programs in the Free State, KZN, and Gauteng provinces, in which 90 people (30 males and 60 females) received training. Participants indicated that the training helped to align the costing, strategic, and operational planning processes, but they still had difficulties in using the costing model because some fields were password protected. HPI is working to update the model prior to further rollout of the training for new government agencies and departments in October 2009.

National Department of Transport. The National Department of Transport asked HPI to assist the Transport Sector HIV and AIDS Committee with developing the Transport Sector Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan. An HPI M&E Specialist and the Quality Assurance Team reviewed the plan in 2008. Ongoing contact with the partners (Department of Transport and International Labor Organization) has resulted in a scheduled meeting for October 8, 2009, with the Transport Sector committee to finalize the approval process for the M&E plan, as well as any capacity development required for the sector.

Palliative Care

Palliative care training on the advocacy toolkit. Between April and September 2009, in all nine provinces, HPI facilitated 13 training workshops on the “Other Side of the Mountain: A Toolkit for People Living with HIV and AIDS.” The 378 participants were drawn from South Africa’s hospices, the Democratic Nursing Organization of South Africa (DENOSA), and the National Education Health and Allied Workers’ Union (NEHAWU). HPI also forged closer relationships with DENOSA and was asked to assist with the enhancement of training curricula for nurses on issues related to HIV care and support.

Provision of HIV-related palliative care, including TB. HPI approved subcontracts for two organizations to provide palliative care services, including TB care, to 9,000 individuals in the Western Cape and Northern Cape. The organizations are SANTA-Western Cape in the Western Cape and Noord Kaap VIGS Forum (NKVF) in the Northern Cape. These provinces were identified due to their high prevalence of both HIV and TB, especially as TB prevalence in the Western Cape is the highest in the world. By the end of August 2009, SANTA had provided palliative care to 1,896 patients, while NKVF had provided care to 1,173 patients.

List of Products Completed:

- Evaluation report for Arena Park Secondary School Educators’ HIV and AIDS workshop, Training workshop report, May 16–17, 2009
- Stigma Mitigation Framework – A Guideline for the design and implementation of Chronic Infectious Diseases- related stigma reduction interventions by the South African Government and its partners
- Draft of Revised Support Group Guidelines to Establish and Maintain Support Groups for People Living With and /or Affected by HIV and AIDS
- Training Manual for Strategic and Operational Planning for HIV and AIDS and TB Workplace Programs in the Public Sector in South Africa