



USAID
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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 is intended 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	Linda van Blerk, COP (until November 2008) Shaída Asmall, COP (as of May 1, 2009)
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	\$6,381,455
13. Cumulative Expenditures	\$2,418,836
14. Balance (pipeline based on obligations to date)	\$3,962,619
15. Subcontractors	Futures Institute
16. Final Invoice Submission	N/A

Period of performance for SAR: [October 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009]

Achievements: *Please include a brief description of current activities, implementation issues and remedial actions initiated, and major achievements.*

Prevention

Abstinence and Being Faithful

In the prevention A/B portfolio, USAID | Health Policy Initiative (HPI), Task Order 2 works in collaboration with faith-based organizations (FBOs) and traditional leaders (TLs). Institutions and stakeholders—including government at all levels—view FBO and TL structures as central to prevention efforts, given their significant influence in South Africa communities and ability to be powerful agents for change. This kind of collaboration will ultimately emerge as a pillar of successful HIV prevention. Leveraging a collaboration that spans a decade, HPI firmly believes that consistent and systematic capacity building of these FBOs and TLs will make a huge contribution toward successfully mobilizing communities to abandon high-risk behaviors, including reducing concurrent multiple sexual partners, as well as gender-based violence. The successes of HPI's activities in this program area are rooted in the active participation of community members in both groups and their ability to develop their own interventions for implementation on behalf of various constituencies at all levels.

Faith-based organizations. From October 24–26, 2008, HPI supported the Women's Auxiliary of the National Baptist Church of Southern Africa (NBCSA) in holding its annual Women's Meeting. The meeting adopted a national HIV prevention program of action that will be cascaded down and implemented at local churches. A total of 120 women of the NBCSA drawn from all the provinces of South Africa attended the meeting.

Traditional leaders. On November 1, 2008, and December 10, 2008, HPI supported Traditional Leader Kgoshi Malebogo of the KIBI Traditional Council and Traditional Leader Kgoshigadi Masemola of the Masemola Traditional Council, respectively, in hosting an HIV prevention community outreach event—which was attended by more than 2,000 and 1,000 villagers, respectively. At both events, HPI Prevention Program Manager Mogale Mashiapata delivered a keynote address that focused on encouraging the community to caution young people to delay their first sexual debut and address stigma and gender-based violence.

At the request of the Principal of Mereleni Senior secondary school in Bizana, Eastern Cape, HPI supported an HIV prevention outreach activity on January 27, 2009. This event was attended by 1,300 learners and 34 educators of the school who listened to an address on school-based HIV prevention strategies, including messages about reducing multiple concurrent sexual partners, delaying young peoples' sexual debut, and discouraging transgenerational relationships and gender-based violence.

HPI provided HIV prevention materials and messages to the Ntlhaveni community in Limpopo on February 17, 2009. The event was organized in collaboration with Daniel Maphophe, who HPI previously trained through its capacity-building program for traditional leaders. Mr. Maphophe is a traditional counselor in the area. Representatives of HPI and the departments of health, education, and agriculture gave speeches. The more than 2,000 villagers who attended the event received HIV prevention messages, such as reducing multiple concurrent sexual partners and the importance of abstinence, being faithful, and reducing gender-based violence.

On February 19, 2009, the project provided HIV prevention materials and messages to the Oudpan community in Limpopo. The event, attended by about 2,600 villagers, was organized in collaboration with Chief Leboho, who HPI also previously trained through its capacity-building program for traditional leaders. Chief Leboho is a traditional counselor in the area. Mr. Mogale Mashiapata delivered the keynote address, with an emphasis on reducing concurrent multiple sexual partners and gender-based violence and encouraging abstinence and being faithful.

On February 21, 2009, HPI participated in a city student welcome program organized by Mana-Mag in Limpopo. The guest speaker was Dr. Hoxani Nukeri, a former student in the post-graduate curriculum

offered jointly by the University of Stellenbosch and the project. More than 700 students received HIV prevention messages, such as reducing multiple concurrent sexual partners and the importance of abstinence, being faithful, and reducing gender-based violence.

On March 4, 2009, the project hosted a planning meeting for 11 members of the KwaZulu Natal Provincial House of Traditional Leaders and one representative of the provincial Department of Social Development. Traditional leaders and various stakeholders discussed HIV prevention activities for their communities. HPI staff made presentations on HIV prevention and upcoming community activities, as well as on the relationship between HIV/AIDS and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The speakers emphasized the key role of traditional leaders in addressing HIV/AIDS and SGBV. The Traditional Leaders expressed buy-in.

At the request of the International Labor Organization (ILO), HPI conducted a training-of-trainers (TOT) for the transport sector on March 16–20, 2009. The 24 participants included representatives from the rail, road, and marine sub-sectors; and the training focused on how peer educators could develop and implement sound and sustainable prevention programs in the workplace. Prevention topics covered the reduction of concurrent multiple partnerships, transgenerational sex, and gender-based violence.

On March 28, 2009, the project supported an HIV prevention community outreach activity hosted by Chief Tshikwhibidu. Held in Venda, Vhembe District, the event was attended by approximately 2,500 people from nearby villages. Speakers discussed community-based HIV prevention strategies, including the reduction of concurrent multiple sexual partners, transgenerational relationships, and gender-based violence.

On March 29, 2009, the community of Jerome, under the leadership of Chief Shikwanbane, held an HIV prevention community outreach event attended by 3,000 people. The main speakers were the Chief Shikwanbane, representatives of the Department of Health, and an HPI prevention specialist.

Through these activities—seven community outreach activities, one school outreach activity, one FBO conference, and two training workshops (one with the KwaZulu Natal House of Traditional Leaders and the other with the ILO TOT)—HPI reached 15,390 people with key messages on HIV prevention through abstinence and/or being faithful. All of the community outreach activities were initiated by the trained participants, conducted in their respective communities, and included face-to-face interaction with community members, including both adults and out-of-school youth.

Data quality issues. To determine the number of people reached through community outreach, proxy measures are employed, especially at big community events. The process involves counting HIV/AIDS ribbons and wristbands before distributing them to the attendees. This number is used as an estimate of people reached; the difference between this estimate and the actual number of people reached is believed to be negligible.

For training events, trainers use standardized forms, such as participant registration forms and attendance registers to capture the number of people trained. Trainers thoroughly check the forms during training to ensure that they are completed correctly. This approach enables trainers to avoid over- or under-reporting the number of people trained.

Condoms and Other Prevention

HPI works with the Women's Health and Genetics Directorate of the Department of Health, civil society organizations, and the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) men's sector to implement the Condoms and Other Prevention (C&OP) portfolio.

The project met with Sonke Gender Justice (SGJ) to discuss the continuation of work that began in FY2008, as well as the scope of work for FY2009. On November 12, 2008, HPI staff attended a

workshop, organized by SGJ and John Hopkins Health and Education South Africa (JHHESA), for all partners working in men's health and well-being. The agenda highlighted research and policy and program implementation. HPI participated in the dialogue on policy and all agreed on the need for policy developers, researchers, and implementers to collaborate in order for the initiatives to succeed.

The Women's Health and Genetics Directorate of the National Department of Health held a meeting on January 21, 2009, to plan activities for its current fiscal year and discuss the workshop reports and desk review submitted for approval; these were to form the groundwork for the development of the Guidelines on Male Reproductive Health. HPI organized another meeting with the chairperson for the men's sector at SANAC to discuss collaboration between sectors and plan for working with men. Rabichadra Gobin, the chairperson of the men's sector at SANAC, indicated that the men's sector at SANAC has many initiatives it would like to undertake, but the funding and facilitation of such initiatives is a challenge. He saw HPI as an implementation partner for this activity.

The project is briefing a subcontractor for SGJ on developing training materials for guidelines on men's involvement in reproductive health and HIV prevention, care, and support; as well as a module on male circumcision communication strategies and advocacy. The material would include videos of stories used for educating people on HIV as part of the prevention strategy. Sonke already has identified the target group for training; once the subcontract has been finalized, the target number for training will be determined. Sonke will conduct one workshop in all nine provinces, with a minimum number of 15 participants in each.

Care

Basic Healthcare and Support and TB/HIV Care

HPI seeks to address key challenges facing people living with HIV (PLHIV) by training them and their organizations using the Advocacy Toolkit. The project will work with PLHIV organizations, hospices in all provinces, institutions of higher learning, and other NGOs. The training of individuals will enable organizations to provide comprehensive high-quality palliative care to individuals infected with HIV and tuberculosis (TB). The Advocacy Toolkit for PLHIV, used to train caregivers, includes five tools that deal with disclosure, rights of PLHIV, facilitation, communication, and advocacy. These tools help PLHIV deal with their daily life challenges.

From November 25–26, 2008, HPI facilitated a two-day workshop on the Advocacy Toolkit and stigma and discrimination mitigation for 27 people (17 males and 10 females) from Metrorail in the Western Cape. The attendees included lay counselors, line managers, security personnel, and wellness staff. The wellness staff requested the training, indicating that the company was beginning to feel the impact of HIV on its staff. People were dying and were grappling with issues of acceptance and disclosure as a result of stigma and discrimination. The purpose of the training was to empower Metrorail staff to use the Advocacy Toolkit and sensitize them on the effects of stigma and how to mitigate them.

In November 2008, HPI requested proposals from organizations interested in supporting the TB control program in provinces with a high TB incidence. From the few responses received, the project selected three organizations: (1) Noord Kaap Vigs Forum in the Northern Cape Province, (2) SANTA-Western Cape in the Western Cape Province, and (3) Thembalitssha, also in the Western Cape. HPI will subcontract with these organizations to provide palliative care services through volunteer caregivers to HIV-positive people who also have TB. The three organizations have extensive experience in the field and are working in "crisis areas" declared by the National TB Control Program. They reach the hard-to-reach communities in the provinces where they operate. The three organizations will provide 3,000 individuals each (9,000 total) with HIV-related palliative care. Thembalitssha will train the existing and newly recruited caregivers on palliative care to enable them to provide good-quality care. The activities will start as soon as their subcontracts are approved.

Policy Analysis and System Strengthening

University of Stellenbosch (SUN). HPI assisted Stellenbosch University's African Center for HIV and AIDS Management with revising its HIV/AIDS workplace policy development module. The project also helped Stellenbosch University to develop two new modules to be incorporated into the Post-Graduate Diploma in HIV Management (PDM)—the stigma and discrimination and HIV/AIDS and gender modules. These modules were used at the PDM summer school program from January 12–13, 2009. A total of 340 students attended the course.

HPI also conducted a follow-up assessment to identify policy champions among the 240 PDM program graduates of 2006. The project interviewed all 240 graduates and followed up with those doing work in HIV. Based on the site visits, only 11 graduates met the project's criteria of being champions. From October 28–29, 2008, HPI trained the 11 policy champions at a workshop on the project's programs and activities, including due diligence and organizational management.

The workshop followed the COP09 workplan, which seeks to provide six small grants for implementing HIV/AIDS workplace activities. HPI reviewed the small grants, and of the 15 applicants, six were selected based on standard grant qualifications, as well as program fit (in line with the project's core business and targets).

Through the mentorship workshop, HPI provided training on institutional capacity building to the organizations in which the policy champions are employed. The project also trained the champions on applying for a small grant, following USAID grant application guidelines. The champions' six successful proposals focused on programs that meet HPI's criteria. From March 26–27, 2009, in support of one of the champions, the project trained 61 educators on HIV Workplace Policy Development in the King William's Town District, Eastern Cape Province.

Executive Leadership Program. HPI held a series of TOT workshops for a total of 19 lecturers of the Business School Unit of Durban University of Technology (DUT). The project trained three lecturers in Johannesburg from October 7–9, 2008; 12 lecturers in Durban from October 20–23; and four lecturers in Cape Town from November 10–12. The workshops focused on how to present the HIV and AIDS Guide for Business Leaders. These lecturers will continue training students and business leaders on the leadership skills required to lead HIV/AIDS programs in the business sector.

In October 2008, using the HIV and AIDS Guide for Business Leaders, the project hosted a two-day lecture for 24 Masters of Business Administration students and other business managers on leading HIV/AIDS programs within the private sector. More lectures are scheduled, but HPI is awaiting a training program for these lectures.

MEDUNSA. Thirty students—including Masters in Public Health (MPH) students in the Medical University of South Africa's (MEDUNSA) National School of Public Health—registered for the university's HIV/AIDS and Society Program. The students include professionals from different backgrounds, such as physicians, healthcare workers, nurses, and other care providers. HPI reviewed the course, which was finalized in October 2008. The four-month program comprises an online HIV and AIDS policy debate course presented through Embanet, a provider of program and development, marketing, enrollment, and technology support.

On October 6, 2008, the project trained 31 MPH students at the University of Pretoria in policy development and analysis. The workshop addressed the development of an HIV/AIDS policy backed by policy development and analysis principles.

HPI developed and finalized the HIV and AIDS Guide for Business Leaders in November 2008 and had it printed in February 2009. It will be distributed to private businesses to widen the program's reach and

provide capacity onsite at the Life Health Care group and other businesses, based on requests for training in this sector. This activity is aligned with the HIV and AIDS/STI National Strategic Plan 2007–2011, which emphasizes the importance of solid leadership within all corporate sectors to ensure the success of interventions and reaching the targets set out in the strategic plan. It also will be distributed to some government departments that receive HPI assistance.

Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA). HPI continues to assist government departments with implementing HIV/AIDS workplace programs through the DPSA, which is the national department that oversees HIV policy. The project helped the National Department of Transport and the Transport Sector HIV and AIDS Committee to draft and review a Transport Sector Framework for HIV/AIDS policy development in the workplace. The framework will guide all transport sector organizations, formal and informal, in the development and monitoring of HIV/AIDS policies in the world of work. From November 25–27, 2008, as part of the consultative process and the framework’s review, HPI organized a capacity-building workshop for policy development. The project trained 15 program managers, practitioners, and directors from different transport sector organizations on the principles and process of policy development.

Stigma and discrimination. HPI presented the first draft of the Stigma Mitigation Framework (SMF) at the Care and Support Quarterly Meeting, held from October 29–31, 2008. Sixty people representing all the provinces attended. The project provided draft copies of the framework to obtain comments before the document is finalized and approved for printing. In addition, the draft SMF has been submitted to HPI’s project technical team for review and to SANAC for its input.

Thus far, HPI has trained 340 HIV PDM students on stigma and discrimination (S&D) mitigation at the University of Stellenbosch summer school. Students carried out an online assignment on stigma and discrimination. The project also facilitated a two-day workshop on S&D for Metrorail staff from November 25–26, 2008 in Cape Town. A total of 27 staff members were in attendance, ultimately resulting in 367 people being trained (340 plus 27). The trainers used the stigma resource pack and the documents that were developed by HPI, the National Department of Health (NDOH), and the Centre for the Study of AIDS on mitigating stigma in the workplace. During training, reference was also made to the fact that a National Stigma Mitigating Framework was being developed and would be made available for the various sectors to use. As a way of supporting one of the champions, HPI plans to facilitate a workshop on S&D in Kimberly Hospital in the Northern Cape Province on a date to be determined in May 2009.

In collaboration with the NDOH’s Care and Support Directorate, HPI has begun to revise the Support Group Guidelines, as they are outdated and do not address some of the issues that support groups and PLHIV are experiencing. The project completed Phase 1 of the revision process by holding several consultative workshops (in Mpumalanga from January 21–22, 2009; KwaZulu Natal from February 12–13; and the Eastern Cape from February 19–20).

Laboratory, Policy/System Strengthening, and Strategic Information

Strategic Information

National and provincial HIV, AIDS, STI, and TB departments of health. HPI conducted two meetings at USAID on costing (December 15, 2008, and February 24, 2009). Dr. Steven Forsythe, Senior Economist with the Futures Institute, facilitated these meetings. HPI will continue to train NDOH senior managers on the costing of specific programs, such as antiretroviral (ARV) interventions. The project will also train managers from other departments, identified by the DPSA.

In addition, HPI will support the NDOH in costing the HIV treatment program based on revised ARV guidelines for the department. The guidelines were recently revised to move the stage at which an individual is eligible for ARVs from a 200 to 350 CD4 count. The project will provide the NDOH with the basic financial implications, information, and projections for implementing the guidelines. Based on these projections, HPI will present a long-term financial projection for the next three years.

National Department of Transport (NDOT). At the request of NDOT, HPI worked with the sector's HIV and AIDS committee to prepare a Transport Sector Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan. HPI/Washington is currently editing the plan. Once the Minister of Transport approves and launches the plan, the project will hold two workshops to train 60 transport sector M&E officers and program managers on the plan by June 2009. Subsequently, HPI will help NDOT and the sector's HIV and AIDS committee to cost the entire strategic plan, including the implementation plan, for rolling out the M&E system to all transport sector organizations in South Africa.