

**AN INTERIM REPORT OF PROJECTS  
FACILITATED BY THE POLICY PROJECT**

**For the period 1 July 2001 to 30 November 2002**

- **The US Ambassador's Initiative on HIV and Aids and Small Grant Program. Lesotho, Swaziland and Botswana.**
- **Sector specific Regional Workshops.**

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**By Anna van Esch  
Regional Manager**

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## INTRODUCTION

International recognition of the tragedy of the African HIV and Aids epidemic has recently gained tremendous momentum. In June 2001 the United Nations held a special session of the General assembly dedicated to HIV and Aids, and moves are afoot to establish a global fund to tackle the pandemic, especially in Southern Africa.

During the past few years there has been an exponential growth of HIV infections in Sub Sahara Africa. This growth has been accompanied by ever greater visibility of the epidemic, especially in the ever increasing numbers of Aids cases and related deaths. Experts agree that Southern Africa now faces the multiple challenges of the worlds most severe HIV and Aids epidemic.

Globally, according to UNAIDS, 34.7 million adults and 1.4 million children are living with HIV. With 14 500 new infections taking place every day of which 47% are women and young girls in the age range 15 to 25 years. 79% of all Aids related deaths have been in sub Sahara Africa with 30% of these deaths being due to TB.

In Southern Africa, the worlds region hardest hit, country prevalence rates range from 35.8% in Botswana, 25.3% in Swaziland, 23.6% in Lesotho, 25.1% in Zimbabwe, 24.5% in South Africa, 19.5% in Namibia and 13.2% in Mozambique..

Predisposing factors that continue to make Southern Africans susceptible to this particularly severe epidemic include:

- Established epidemics of other sexually transmitted infections. which act to increase the likelihood of transmission of HIV.
- Disrupted family and communal life due to migrant labour patterns and high levels of poverty in the region.
- Good transport infrastructure and high mobility, allowing for rapid movement of the virus into new communities.
- Resistance to the use of condoms, based on cultural and social norms.
- The low status of women in society and within relationships. Economic dependency and the threat of physical force, in particular, make it difficult for women to protect themselves from HIV infection.
- Social norms that accept or encourage high numbers of sexual partners, especially amongst men.
- Parallel norms that frown on open discussion of sexual matters, including lifeskills and sex education for children and teenagers in school.

In order to successfully meet the challenges of this emergency now is the time for courageous and insightful leadership at all levels of society in Southern Africa. Critical to this is for all of us to increase our efforts to prevent new infections, whilst at the same time finding humane, cost effective and practical ways to care for and support those already infected.

To this end the Regional HIV/Aids Program (RHAP) who's primary aim is to target high transmission areas with appropriate interventions as well as to provide much needed technical assistance to the countries of Swaziland, Lesotho and Botswana, the three countries who do not have USAID missions, has been engaged in a number of specially designed and focused activities .

**Country Specific report: Swaziland.**  
**Grant year 2: 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002**

Country Plan

At a planning meeting held on 7 June 2001 the following operational plan was approved for the second grant year of the US Ambassador's HIV and Aids initiative and Small Grant programme.

Workshops

- A two day capacity building workshop to encourage leading women's organizations in Swaziland to mainstream HIV and Aids in October 2001
- To continue to build the organizational capacity of 25 leading NGO's through a 3 day, follow up workshop in March 2002
- A two day workshop for professional media representatives from both the print and broadcast media in February 2002

Small Grant programmes

- To continue to manage, monitor and support the 6 NGO grant recipients from grant year 1 who will complete their funding period at the end of November 2001
- To award and manage 3 new small grants, for women's organizations in December 2001
- To manage a second term of small grant funding for 6 successful NGO's from May 2002.

Award scheme

- Consideration is being given to a monetary "award" for a journalist who submits work/articles of excellence.

**Report Back on Activities**

"Winning Women's Organisations: HIV and Aids – Strengthening our responses" A workshop held at the Piggs Peak Hotel, Swaziland on 23 to 25 October 2001.

Women's organizations were identified as an important sector to enlist in Swaziland to encourage them to undertake HIV and Aids activities within their organizations. For the workshop it was

envisaged that so called “Winning Women’s Organisations” would be targeted – firstly to determine what makes a winning organization and secondly to look at ways in which they can begin to integrate HIV and Aids activities into their work programmes and thirdly to encourage them to actively mentor or set an example for smaller NGO’s/CBO’s in their area to motivate them in turn to take on HIV and Aids activities. The initiative will also offer a limited number of small or seed funding as a way to encourage them to start with HIV and Aids activities.

The programme design was based on the results of a needs assessment which was sent to relevant women’s organizations as well as on information gathered about the HIV and Aids pandemic in Swaziland as it pertains to women. A programme resource pack and workbook were developed for the workshop. A final report is also available on request.

23 women attended the workshop which they rated as highly successful and useful. From the final feedback and way forward sessions it is evident that these organizations will take up the challenge of HIV and Aids in their communities. To monitor this, contact will be made with each person in 5 to 6 months time.

Funding proposals for the small grants are due for submission to the US Embassy on 30 November 2001.

#### Follow up NGO workshop

This workshop forms part of a capacity building intervention with 25 leading Swazi NGO’s which is planned over a number of years. To date we have met with this group 4 times. This workshop which is still in the planning stage, will focus more in depth on project management and fundraising skills.

#### Workshop for Media professionals.

Planning has started for this intervention the aim of which will be to give editors and journalists from both the print and broadcast media an opportunity to examine and discuss the media’s role in the fight against HIV and Aids. The two day workshop will emphasise stigma reduction as well as the role the media can play in shaping public opinion as well as in correcting dangerous misconceptions and myths

about the disease which remain the principal obstacle in effectively confronting HIV and Aids in the region. The facilitator for this workshop will be Darrell Ward, medical journalist at Washington University and author of the *AmFAR AIDS Handbook: The complete guide to understanding HIV and Aids*.

#### Follow up of the 6 NGO's who have received small grants

Mid term site visits were conducted for each of the 6 organizations by Julie Cory of the US Embassy together with various members of the Swaziland grant committee. By all accounts the NGO's are reasonably on track with their projects which are due to be completed by end November 2001 when the final reports and financial statements are due to the Futures office in Washington.

#### Winning Women's organizations small grants

Three small grants will be awarded. Deadline for receipt of proposals is end November after which the final three will be submitted to Washington for processing and transfer of funds. The envisaged time frame for these grants is from 1 March till 30 September 2002.

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### **Country Specific report – Lesotho**

#### **Grant year 2: 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002**

##### Country Plan

After a series of consultative stakeholder meetings held in Maseru during July 2001 the following operational plan was developed for the US Ambassador's Initiative on HIV and Aids and Small Grant Programme for Lesotho.

##### Workshops

- A series of three, 2 day workshops for NGO's to encourage them to mainstream HIV and Aids in September, October and November 2001.
- To continue building the capacity of 20 leading Lesotho NGO's through a 3 day follow up NGO Capacity Building workshop

with a focus on project management and fund raising in April 2002

- A two workshop for media professionals from the print and broadcast media in February 2002.

### Small Grant Programmes

- To continue to manage, monitor and support the 7 NGO grant recipients from grant year 1 who will complete their funding period by end February 2002.
- To award and manage a second series of small grants for some /or all of the original 7 NGO's who received funding from April 2002.

\* At present the budget for these initiatives is being re-worked to see if it will be possible to award an additional limited number of small grants to the new NGO's who received training this year.

\* In the new year, discussions will be held with Michel Russel, the POLICY Project and senior trainers from CARE, IDM and IEMS with regard to these organisations taking on more of the management role for the Lesotho Regional HIV and Aids programme.

### **Report Back on Activities**

#### Three capacity building workshops to encourage NGO's to Mainstream HIV and Aids

- 1) "HIV and Aids and You – Exploring the connection" A workshop held at the Mmelesi Lodge, Thaba-Bosiu on 11 and 12 September 2001.
- 2) "Actioning Aids – Developing skills in strategic planning and proposal writing." A workshop held at the Maseru Sun Hotel, Maseru on 16 and 17 October 2001.
- 3) "Are we on the right road? Enhancing monitoring and evaluation skills". A workshop held at the Maseru Sun Hotel, Maseru on 13 and 14 November 2001.

21 participants, representing a range of NGO's in Lesotho involved in HIV and Aids care and prevention programmes attended these practical hands-on workshops the main aim of which was to

familiarize participants with HIV and Aids as it impacts on their personal lives as well as within their organization and country as a whole. To learn how to think strategically with regard to project planning and development and to gain a better understanding of sustainable projects through effective monitoring and the evaluation of impact. Workbooks and handouts were prepared for each workshop which are available on request.

#### Workshop for Media professionals.

This workshop will take a similar form as the one being planned for Swaziland with Darrell Ward facilitating.

#### Follow up of 7 NGO's who have received small grants

A full week of mid term site visits and a half day motivation workshop were conducted during October by Vicky Mboka-Boyer from the Embassy and the POLICY project. All NGO's seem to be managing their projects really well and are on track with their planned objectives and time frames with a few minor adjustments needing to be made within budgets. Mid term reports and financial statements have been submitted.

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### **Country Specific report – Botswana.** **Completion of projects for Grant year 1**

#### Workshops

The second in a series of NGO Capacity Building workshops entitled "HIV/AIDS and You - the challenges and opportunities". Was held at Riley's Hotel in Maun, Botswana from 18 to 20 September 2001 for participants from the northern and western regions of the country.

For this workshop the POLICY Project identified BOFWA in Maun as project partners. They assisted with project design, in tracing and inviting the participants who attended the first workshop as well as workshop facilitation. 27 participants attended the workshop which was aimed primarily at stigma reduction and mitigation of the spread of HIV as well as encouraging these grass-root organizations to get

actively involved in HIV and Aids projects within their own communities.

## **Grant Year 2**

To date no country activity plan has been submitted.

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### **Sector Specific Regional workshops**

#### **Grant Year 1: 1 August 2000 to 30 June 2001**

“Strategizing towards Success: Enhancing Project Management and Fundraising skills of PLWA Leaders in Southern Africa” a 3 day capacity building summit held in Lusaka, Zambia from 20 to 23 August 2001.

Although only a small percentage of persons living with HIV have openly disclosed their status, they have – the world over – become powerful catalysts for change: giving not only a human face to the statistics but increasingly as social commentators. To assist with the management and facilitation of this summit the POLICY Project partnered NAP+ (The Network of African People Living with HIV/Aids) a forum which aims to strengthen the voice of PLWA’s. 30 participants from eight Southern African countries attended the summit, the main aim of which was to strengthen the capacity of PLWA’s to become more effective managers of their current and future projects as well as to strengthen coordination and communication of the NAP+ secretariat. A workshop manual was developed for distribution as well as a variety of useful journals and booklets. A full workshop report is available on request.

#### **Grant year 2: 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002**

##### **Report back on activities**

“HIV and Aids Care and Communication skills for Faith Based Leaders from Southern Africa” A one week counseling skills course held from the 1 to 5 October 2001 at the Mildmay International Study center in Uganda.

Aimed primarily at equipping leaders of Faith Based Organisations (FBO's) with effective communication skills about a variety of HIV and Aids related issues as well as effective counseling skills to enable participants to interact compassionately with people living with HIV and Aids, their families and community.

22 participants from 7 Southern African countries attended the course which was a collaborative venture between the Mildmay Study Centre who's trainers facilitated the course, and the POLICY Project. A number of local HIV/AIDS project site visits were arranged.

A follow up workshop, probably to be held in Johannesburg, is being planned for March 2002.

"Challenging faith Based communities" A workshop for faith and religious leaders from Southern Africa held at the Kopanong Hotel, Johannesburg, South Africa on 12 to 15 November 2001.

The main aim of this capacity building workshop was to empower and equip religious leaders with depth understanding about HIV and Aids as it impacts both personally and in the region, to explore model HIV and Aids projects which faith organizations could/should get involved in as well as to focus more specifically on effective project management and fund raising skills. 27 participants from 8 Southern African countries attended the workshop. They participated with great enthusiasm and by all accounts gained a lot of useful information. This we hope to verify once the evaluation forms have been analyzed. The intention is to contact participants 5 months after the workshop to ascertain which projects they have managed to initiate within their congregations.

### **Projects in the planning stage**

- Regional workshop for Editors and Journalists.

### **Projects on hold**

- Regional workshop for the Agriculture Sector
- Regional workshop for Parliamentarians

## **Projects undertaken by POLICY Project Washington**

- Aim Presentations for Lesotho and Swaziland
- Review, updating and dissemination of the “HIV/Aids in Southern Africa” booklet
- A review of HIV/Aids Policies in Southern Africa, commissioned by SADC.
- Resource allocation initiatives for Lesotho and Swaziland
- Population projections for Swaziland.

Anna van Esch  
24 Novmeber 2001.

# **Project Photo Gallery.**

**Dedication  
Prayer  
For  
HIV/Aids**