



HLSP – HIV and AIDS in Africa

HLSP is committed to bringing its experience and expertise in technical consultancy and management to supporting the global response to HIV and AIDS.

- We support global initiatives, national programmes, private sector initiatives, civil society and community based interventions.
- Our expertise includes capacity building for institutions tasked with planning, coordinating and implementing multi-sectoral responses to HIV and AIDS.
- We actively work to increase equitable access to prevention, care and treatment services..
- In addition we have an extensive track record of providing policy and technical advice and we have experience of appraising, designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating complex national HIV and AIDS programmes.

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HLSP

HLSP is an international professional services firm specialising in the health sector in both the UK and worldwide. Working with international agencies and national governments, HLSP strives to advance health systems, reduce poverty, improve health outcomes and combat HIV and AIDS through long-term sustainable solutions.

Internationally we work in partnership with governments, bi-lateral agencies such as the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), multi-lateral agencies such as the Development Banks, the European Union, and the World Bank, United Nations Agencies, Global Health Partnerships and private sector organisations.

The principal components of HLSP are:

- HLSP providing client focussed technical services, consulting and project management, including programme design, monitoring and evaluation.
- The HLSP Institute which builds on HLSP experience and expertise in health and AIDS policy and practice, health systems and aid management to inform debate and policy on global health issues.

Additionally, we manage two resource centre contracts for DFID: the Health Resource Centre focussed on communicable diseases such as AIDS and sexual and reproductive health; the Health Systems Resource Centre focused on national and international policy and health systems development. These Resource Centres assist DFID in its procurement and management of technical assistance in priority countries for its work in health and HIV and AIDS, as well as supporting DFID's policy and strategy development on these agendas.

Our early work in HIV and AIDS was built on our internationally recognised expertise in health systems and we remain committed to integrating responses to prevention, treatment and care into broader health system development. As the field of HIV and AIDS is always changing, our work experience is evolving and now focuses primarily on the following key areas:

Committed to Multi-sectoral Action for HIV and AIDS

HLSP manages the five year DFID-funded (£14.2m) Zambia Strengthening the AIDS Response Programme. The purpose of this programme is to support an effective multi-sectoral response to HIV and AIDS through collaboration with the National AIDS Council, the public and private sectors and with civil society. The key themes we will focus on over the next five years include:

- Strengthening the NAC: supporting policy development and strategic planning; co-ordination; mobilising, planning and monitoring of resources; developing management, information and monitoring and evaluation systems. The establishment of a resource centre focusing on BCC.
- Improving public sector supplies: including STI drugs, condoms and IEC materials. We will provide technical advice on the procurement, management and distribution of these supplies.
- Enhancing the response of civil society: through capacity building, lesson learning and strengthening civil society dialogue. We will establish and manage a Civil Society Fund, through which accountable grants will be provided for this work.
- Building on the work of existing private sector initiatives we will focus on workplace initiatives in prevention and care.

We will ensure that key partners will benefit from latest knowledge and evidence relevant to the implementation of the national strategic framework. We act as a facilitator of lesson learning (through the IEC Resource Centre), document best practices from the Civil Society and Private Sector Funds and disseminate lessons learned to NAC and other partners.

Working with Institutions for Effective Responses in HIV and AIDS

HLSP has extensive experience in institutional strengthening and organisational development and provides advice and support to governments and public institutions such as National AIDS Commissions (NACs). We have worked with NACs across the globe, reviewing and recommending reforms to organisational structures and developing strategic and operational plans and budgets.

In the last few years the fight against HIV and AIDS has presented significant new challenges for all those involved in planning, managing, coordinating and delivering services. We have worked in Malawi developing a medium term strategic plan for the health sector's response to HIV and AIDS and an institutional strengthening plan for the Ministry of Health's HIV and AIDS coordinating unit. This involved synthesising key issues, establishing a joint working group with the National AIDS Commission and MoHP and consultation with key stakeholders.

Earlier this year, on behalf of Development Co-operation Ireland, HLSP reviewed the organisational structure and strategic and operational plans of the Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC). After widespread consultation, HLSP set out a draft organisational plan that recommends greater autonomy, strengthened systems of accountability and a results-driven culture to enable the UAC to respond effectively to the changing HIV and AIDS environment and the challenges it presents.

HLSP has also reviewed the effectiveness of the Tanzania AIDS Commission's work in addressing HIV and AIDS. This involved reviewing the institution in terms of consistency between mandate, activities, staff composition and organisation of TACAIDS, identifying weaknesses in technical and support areas and developing a short and long term plan of strategic support.

Through the Health Resource Centre contract, HLSP has reviewed several national HIV and AIDS programmes (Malawi, Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Lesotho) which have included recommendations regarding institutional and managerial aspects of coordinating the national response in HIV and AIDS prevention, care and mitigation.

Care and Treatment

Through the DFID Health Systems Resource Centre contract, we provide ongoing technical support to the Ministry of Health in Kenya for the development of a national ART programme strategy and operational plan. This work has involved several phases including:

- a preliminary situational analysis of Kenya's public and private health infrastructure and its capacity to support a national ART programme at all levels
- support to the National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NASCOP) to identify the needs, gaps and system strengthening requirements at each level of the health system for the provision of ART
- facilitative support to NASCOP and stakeholders in the development of a five-year prioritised strategic plan for the national ART programme and a two-year operational action plan and budget.

We have also supported WHO's 3 x 5 Initiative in Kenya by providing a systems consultant for WHO's first country emergency planning mission. The objective of this planning mission was to work with the Ministry of Health to support Kenya's response to the challenge of the 3 by 5 initiative.

In 2004, the Institute undertook a study, on behalf of WHO and the Rockefeller Foundation, to evaluate the private sector potential for franchising TB and HIV and AIDS diagnosis, treatment and care in nine countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The aim of this scheme is to increase the quality, availability and use of TB and HIV and AIDS services by those least served by public healthcare programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa by working with private practitioners. The study assessed numbers, location and proportion of health professionals working in the private sector. It then assessed the licensing requirements, the prescribing practices for HIV and AIDS and TB drugs, including anti-retrovirals, and the income of private practitioners. The governments in all countries were supportive of developing partnerships with the private sector.

The study concluded that a franchising scheme for HIV and AIDS and TB services was likely to be endorsed in four countries (Cameroon, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda) and that a scheme for HIV and AIDS services only was likely to be endorsed in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Malawi and Rwanda.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Programme Reviews

HLSP has recently evaluated Development Cooperation Ireland's Uganda HIV and AIDS country strategy. This work was an integral component of a broader evaluation of joint donor partnership programmes and has also helped to inform DCI's global HIV and AIDS strategy.

In September 2003, IHSD (HLSP's former sister company) evaluated the African Youth Alliance (AYA) programme, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to reduce the incidence and spread of HIV and AIDS and other STIs and to improve overall adolescent reproductive health in Botswana,

Ghana, Tanzania, and Uganda. The objectives of the assessment were to review the performance of the programme over its first three years and to recommend ways in which to improve programme design and the potential for it to achieve its aims. The assessment made recommendations for the improved co-ordination of the AYA programme activities and continued capacity building of implementation partners. The participation of youth throughout the programme was also recommended as a way of facilitating local ownership and sustainability.

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