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Produced by the [IDS Health and Development Information](#) team in collaboration with [Eldis](#) and the [DFID Health Resource Centre](#)

## **National AIDS Commissions :** HIV and AIDS reporter, 20th November 2007

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- [The Three Ones in Action: Where we are and where we go from here](#)
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## **Feature: National AIDS Commissions**

National AIDS Commissions (NACs) have been set to tackle the escalating HIV epidemics in many African countries. Their role is to lead and coordinate the national response to HIV/AIDS. Although they are relatively young institutions, NACs perform a wide range of functions. These include policy development, strategic planning and guiding the implementation of the National HIV and AIDS Action Framework (NAF). They are also responsible for partnership building with stakeholders at all levels, advocating and disseminating best practice and managing monitoring and evaluation of HIV and AIDS

activities.

To date, countries with NACs have experienced significantly improved access to, and coordination of, financial and other resources, and there is a growing diversity of funding mechanisms and a substantial increase in funding. The increased pressure placed on NACs means that clarity in roles and relationships, and enabling political, legislative, policy and institutional environments are more important than ever. Clear and robust institutional arrangements and legal status are important for NACs to effectively deliver their mandates, for example a lack of adequate human resources is preventing some NACs delivering on their core work. Constant adaptation of the NAC model to better suit local contexts is fundamental to future viability in the increasingly complex aid environment and evolving HIV responses.

This feature is based on a new Eldis HIV and AIDS key issues guide on National Aid Commissions. The guide provides an introduction and brief history of African NACs, looks at their financial and governance arrangements and reviews their efforts to harmonise and align stakeholders to reduce the burden of HIV/AIDS.

### More information:

- National AIDS Commissions - key issues guide  
<http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/key-issues/national-aids-commissions>
- HLSP briefing paper on National AIDS Commissions  
[www.hlspinstitute.org/files/project/109400/National\\_AIDS\\_Commissions.pdf](http://www.hlspinstitute.org/files/project/109400/National_AIDS_Commissions.pdf)

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## Recommended readings on National AIDS Commissions

### **1. Report of the Global Task Team independent assessment**

Publisher: UNAIDS, 2007

This report from UNAIDS assesses the implementation of the Global Task Team (GTT) recommendations in two key areas: technical support provision to the national AIDS response as brokered by the UN system; and harmonisation and alignment of international partners. The report findings, conclusions and recommendations are based on an independent assessment, conducted by HLSP during January-May 2007.

In the area of technical support, the report concludes that the UN has made significant progress in establishing joint teams on AIDS and recognises that they are beginning to enable the UN to speak and act as "one" on HIV/AIDS issues. However differences in commitment to joint working and in skills and capacity between agencies combined with high work loads are putting pressure on these teams. The harmonisation and alignment agenda needs strong leadership from headquarters about the importance of joint working. Staff incentives such as well structured job descriptions and performance appraisals that hold staff accountable for joint working should also be pursued. Barriers such as Inter agency differences in operational systems including accounting, contracting and procurement

procedures make joint working harder. [adapted from author]

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=33893&type=Document](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=33893&type=Document)

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## **2. The Three Ones in Action: Where we are and where we go from here**

Publisher: UNAIDS, 2005

Stakeholders engaged in the global, national and local responses to AIDS have agreed on the "Three Ones" -one national AIDS framework, one national AIDS authority and one system for monitoring and evaluation"as guiding principles for improving the country-level response. This report from UNAIDS looks at progress on implementing the "Three Ones" principles to the end of 2004, and describes the aims and targets the UNAIDS Secretariat has set for 2005 and beyond.

At the end of 2004, adoption of the "Three Ones" principles globally has been good with a high proportion of countries reporting some level of progress in building national AIDS systems. However, the mere existence of these systems is insufficient for effective multisectoral and participatory responses. The report sets out step by step practical advice for achieving the "Three Ones" by highlighting some of the barriers and providing suggestions to improve compliance. Barriers to full implementation include insufficient human resources capacity and the need to establish adequate disbursement and monitoring and evaluation systems to put the money to work effectively. Suggestions to circumvent these barriers are provided and the report concludes with a range of opportunities for donors in engaging civil society in the future. [adapted from author]

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=33891&type=Document](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=33891&type=Document)

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## **3. AIDS councils as catalysts for unlocking citizen power**

Publisher: Institute for Democracy in South Africa, 2005

This manual, published by Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA), aims to provide information for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to develop and mobilise civil society's engagement with AIDS councils and build effective governance of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The guide contains a step by step approach to organising a one and a half day workshop. This workshop enables participants to understand the role of AIDS councils in building multi-sectoral partnerships to tackling HIV/AIDS, identify potential collaborative partners and promote community ownership of HIV and AIDS issues.

Operational details include information on the optimal number of participants and venue selection through to trainer's notes and workshop outcomes. There is a detailed programme with sessions such as facts about AIDS councils and tapping into diversity. Also included are thorough instructions for each session outlining the aims, learning outcomes and materials

needed. There are handouts of the workshops timetable and several background documents on the composition, structure and functions of AIDS councils, as well as roles of AIDS council members and other stakeholders. The manual also stresses the importance of taking local context into consideration when the workshops are given. The authors aim is for this manual not only to be used by civil society but also by the AIDS councils themselves.  
[adapted from author]

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=33869&type=Document](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=33869&type=Document)

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#### **4. Understanding the institutional dynamics of South Africa's response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic**

Authors: A. Strode; K. Barrett Grant

Publisher: Institute for Democracy in South Africa, 2004

This report from the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA) assesses the external and internal factors that affect the organisational performance and outputs of the South African National Aids Council (SANAC). It analyses the structure, organisational culture, management systems and processes and people of SANAC and highlights its strengths and weaknesses.

Among SANAC's strengths are a simple structure that is clearly understood by its stakeholders and the presence of sectoral representatives, which allows for those sectors to encourage, develop and enhance the HIV/AIDS response. However, SANAC has generated very few outputs from its first term of office. This is because few meetings were held, little interaction took place with the various sectors and the council did not mobilise broader society to respond to the urgent issues relating to HIV/AIDS. Further weaknesses include domination by cabinet ministers, which limits involvement from other sectors; absence of structural links between the various parts of SANAC or between SANAC and the public and the absence of a strategic plan.

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=33712&type=Document](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=33712&type=Document)

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#### **5. Committing to results: Improving the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS assistance. An OED evaluation of the World Bank's assistance for HIV/AIDS control**

Publisher: World Bank, 2007

This evaluation report from the World Bank's Operation Evaluation Department (OED) assesses the development effectiveness of the Bank's country-level HIV/AIDS assistance. The report examines the evolution of the Bank's HIV/AIDS response from the "first generation" of completed country level programmes to the 24 ongoing projects in the African Multi-Country AIDS Programme (MAP). The evaluation comes from a host of sources including individual project evaluations, interviews and surveys with Africa MAP staff and

reviews of national AIDS strategies in 26 countries.

The report concludes that Bank assistance has persuaded governments to act earlier or in a more focused and cost-effective way. It also finds that whilst Bank assistance has helped raise political commitment, these pledges have sometimes been overestimated and need to be constantly addressed in the country context. The authors recommend that the Bank, in order to have a sustainable impact on the HIV/AIDS epidemic, should help governments use human and financial resources more efficiently and effectively. They also recognise the need to strengthen local monitoring and evaluation practices and help improve the local evidence base for making decisions. [adapted from author]

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=33886&type=Document](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=33886&type=Document)

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## Latest additions from the HIV and AIDS resource guide

### **1. Barriers to prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child (PMTCT) in a resource poor setting in the Eastern Cape, South Africa**

Author: Karl Peltzer; Thabang Mosala; Olive Shisana; Ayanda Nqueko; Nolwandle Mngqundaniso

Publisher: Women's Health and Action Research Centre, 2007

The aim of this study was to investigate knowledge of prevention of mother to child HIV transmission (PMTCT) programmes and to describe potential barriers that might affect their acceptability in a resource poor setting in South Africa. Based on interviews with over 1500 pregnant women, their families and five communities around the PMTCT clinic areas, the authors found that there are several major potential barriers in implementing PMTCT programmes in a resource poor setting.

Overall poor knowledge of PMTCT services was a common problem; whilst most pregnant women, their mothers/in-laws and husbands/partners have relevant HIV knowledge, only one-third were aware of PMTCT. Antenatal clinics provide a good opportunity for HIV counselling and testing of pregnant women, but two thirds of women said that transport costs prevented them from attending. In addition to this an overwhelming majority of women chose not to receive a HIV test because of stigma and fear of being HIV positive, a lack of awareness of where to get tested, and lack of confidentiality of test results. The authors suggest that increased access to HIV testing and counselling would be one of the most effective ways of reducing perinatal transmission. They state that this can be achieved by ensuring that expectant mothers receive antenatal care from trained staff throughout their pregnancy and have a skilled professional childbirth attendant.

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/health&id=34093&type=Document](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/health&id=34093&type=Document)

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## **2. HIV-TB co-infection: meeting the challenge**

Author: The Forum for Collaborative HIV Research

Publisher: The Forum for Collaborative HIV Research, 2007

Ten per cent of individuals infected with TB develop the active disease but this is greatly increased in those whose immune systems have been weakened by HIV. This report from the Forum for Collaborative HIV Research highlights the difficulty in managing the co-epidemic of HIV and TB that is rapidly spreading in Sub-Saharan Africa. The report is based on a symposium and roundtable discussion held in Sydney, Australia, during the International Aids Society (IAS) conference in July 2007.

The report identifies priority areas in need of further research: better population-based data on the incidence of drug-resistant TB is required, especially in African countries that have a high burden of the disease. Increased laboratory capacity is needed to make the currently difficult diagnosis of co-infection of HIV-TB accessible to a larger proportion of Africans. Thirdly, more child-specific research is needed especially on paediatric drug formulations. The low uptake of drugs that treat co-infection remains a real problem, with concerns over drug efficacy and the creation of drug resistant strains of TB cited as the main reasons. The report concludes that strategies for dealing with TB and HIV currently exist in isolation, often reinforced by vertical programme financing. Efforts must be made to integrate these disease treatment programmes which will involve stakeholders working together within an evidence based collaborative framework. [adapted from author]

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/health&id=34068&type=Document](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/health&id=34068&type=Document)

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## **3. The viability of local pharmaceutical production in Tanzania**

Author: K. Losse; E Schneider

Publisher: Deutsche Gessellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit, 2007

This study analyses the economic potential of pharmaceutical production of Anti Retroviral Drugs (ARVs) in Tanzania. This includes an analysis of the pharmaceutical sector in the country and the potential to export ARVs to the region. The study shows that production of pharmaceutical products in Tanzania is on the rise and can become viable in the long term. Even though the overall drug market is rather small, public health related drugs have a significant, largely donor based, market.

Whilst the paper concludes that there is a case for promoting the local production of pharmaceuticals in Tanzania, it also highlights a number of challenges that need to be addressed. These include the extent to which Tanzanian producers will be able to meet foreign standards and consumer expectations, and their ability to compete with large producers from India and China in regional or international markets. The severe lack of human resources in Tanzania is a further challenge to production. Given this, the authors recommend that donors have a role to play in facilitating technology transfer and South-South cooperation. They can also support initiatives by stakeholders in the private and public

sectors, for instance by supporting training for pharmaceutical assistants or supervisors.

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/health-systems&id=33925&type=Document](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/health-systems&id=33925&type=Document)

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#### **4. Women's [HIV/AIDS] Treatment Literacy Toolkit**

Author: Southern African HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service

Publisher: Southern African HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service, 2005

Southern Africa remains by far the most affected region by the HIV and AIDS epidemic. This toolkit aims to empower girls and women in communities to make informed decisions when accessing and demanding their rights to full participation in anti retro viral (ART) treatment programmes, strengthen their coping mechanisms in adhering to ART and be able to support the ongoing care of their counterparts.

It comprises a number of separate PDF documents including information fact-sheets, illustrative stories and diagrams, posters, stickers and a treatment calendar. Issues covered include:

- basic facts about HIV and AIDS
- preventing HIV infection after being exposed to transmission through post exposure prophylaxis
- taking antiretroviral medicines and their effect on women's life cycle
- preventing and treating women-specific opportunistic infections
- relationships with children including parent-to-child-transmission
- making the most of support from other women, including advocacy

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/health-systems&id=33899&type=Document](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/health-systems&id=33899&type=Document)

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#### **5. Evaluation of the World Bank's assistance in responding to the AIDS epidemic: Ethiopia case study**

Author: D Vaillancourt; S Chakraborty; T Taha

Publisher: World Bank, 2005

This evaluation report from the World Bank's Operation Evaluation Department (OED) assesses the effectiveness of the World Bank's country-level HIV/AIDS assistance in Ethiopia. It is based on a review of published and unpublished documents on HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia; structured interviews with various stakeholders; field visits to Ethiopia and analysis of epidemiological and behavioral data. The report finds that the World Bank was late in launching a dialogue with and in providing support for the Ethiopian government.

A number of lessons learned from the Ethiopian project are relevant to other countries. For instance, the adoption of HIV/AIDS coordinating institutions to satisfy eligibility criteria

established by the Bank does not automatically ensure deep or sustained commitment by the multitude of actors necessary for an effective response. In addition, the creation of a multi-sectoral institution does not necessarily foster a multi-sectoral approach and, if not founded on local institutional analysis, risks alienating key actors like the Ministry of Health. Within the context of a multi-sectoral approach, the prominence of the health sector as a major leader and implementer in the fight against HIV/AIDS is unequivocal. [adapted from author]

Available online at: [www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/health-systems&id=33884&type=Document](http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/health-systems&id=33884&type=Document)

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See the complete list of latest additions at: [www.eldis.org/hivaids](http://www.eldis.org/hivaids)

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## Announcements

### **AIDS Scenarios Workshop: Scenario building - planning for a future with HIV/AIDS. A tool for political and socio-economic dialogue, London, UK, 23-25 April 2008**

This workshop is organised by Scenario Development, in collaboration with LSEAIDS, the multidisciplinary department at the London School of Economics. The workshop is aimed at senior professionals in the private and public sectors and from NGOs. It will guide participants through a methodology of building and using scenarios as well as how to work with existing scenarios. The sessions will be interactive and strengthened by the high-caliber of experienced and skilled participants.

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids&id=32300&type=Item>

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### **2nd Global Summit on HIV/AIDS, Traditional Medicine & Indigenous Knowledge, 10-14 March 2008, Accra, Ghana**

The general objectives of the 2nd Global Summit on HIV/AIDS, Traditional Medicine & Indigenous Knowledge are as follows:

1. To promote the best practices of traditional medicines in the prevention and management of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, cancer, sickle cell, anaemia, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, stroke and mental disorders; and
2. To identify mechanisms for the enhancement and protection of traditional medical knowledge.

The conference will have the following specific objectives:

- To serve as a forum for the identification of traditional medicines and practices of

established value used in the prevention and management of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, cancer, sickle cell, anaemia, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, stroke and mental disorders, for further evaluation of safety, efficacy and quality standards.

- To promote respect for traditional healing practices and a mutual understanding between practitioners of traditional medicine and conventional medicine based on the guiding principles which drive the science of these two distinct disciplines.
- To identify mechanisms for fostering sustainable partnerships between traditional health practitioners and conventional health practitioners for accelerating the prevention and management of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, cancer, sickle cell, anaemia, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, stroke and mental disorders; and
- To promote the review and development of jurisdictions and patent laws that adequately capture intellectual property rights emanating from Traditional Medicine, international, regional, state, local laws and legislations, taking into account, relevant intellectual property rights regimes to ensure adequate protection of traditional medical knowledge and allowing its sustainable development. The conference provides post-conference volunteering opportunities at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital and Tepa District Hospital, guided field trips to Africa First's Medicinal Farm and seminar on Modernization of Traditional Medicine Practice at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, designed to enhance participants' academic, professional and cultural experiences in the African community settings.

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids/hiv-events-and-opportunities&id=33906&type=Item>

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The IDS Health and Development Information team promotes health and equity in developing countries through the provision of high quality, accessible information to policymakers and practitioners. IDS Health and Development Information currently has three flagship products:

- Health Resource Guide - <http://www.eldis.org/health/index.htm>
- Health Systems Resource Guide - <http://www.eldis.org/healthsystems/index.htm>
- HIV and AIDS Resource Guide - <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/hiv-and-aids>

The HRC provides access to technical assistance and information for the Department for International Development (DFID UK), and its partners, in support of pro-poor health policies as well as health systems, service delivery and public health topics and programmes.

Eldis currently includes descriptions and links to over 4,500 organisations and over 22,000 full-text online documents covering development and environmental issues. It can be

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