

1. INTRODUCTION

Integrated development planning (IDP) is one of the key tools for local government to cope with its developmental role. The IDP process is meant to arrive at decisions on issues such as municipal budgets, land management, promotion of local economic development in a consultative, systematic and strategic manner. Integrated Development Plans, however, will not only inform the municipal management; they are also supposed to guide the activities of any agency from the other spheres of government, corporate service providers, NGO's and the private sector within the municipal area. IDP is an inter-sectoral, but priority focused planning process.

The Integrated HIV/AIDS Programme forms an integral part of the integration phase of the IDP process, and although it is not legally required in terms of the Municipal Systems Act, it does play a very important role in ensuring that all institutions and sectors involved in municipal development are educated in terms of preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS and how to deal with the consequences of this epidemic.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Integrated HIV/AIDS Programme is to determine a set of measures, that is systematic and conclusive, to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and to deal with its consequences. A broad range of role-players determines these measures, and its prevention and consequences require coordinated responses of all institutions and sections involved in municipal development.

3. CURRENT STATUS

Ficksburg and Clocolan have a higher rate of HIV/AIDS infections because of the locality in terms of Lesotho. Senekal might also have higher infections, because of the truck-inns in this town. The overall conclusion is that Setsoto has high rates of infection, but it is not higher than the average rates of HIV/AIDS infections in South Africa.

4. PROPOSED PROJECTS

A number of workshops and discussions were held with the representatives of the Setsoto district municipality and various projects were identified for the IDP. The following table is a summary of the identified projects, their project number and the people being affected by these projects identified during 2001/2002.

Table 4.1: The proposed projects and the people being affected by it

Project No.	Proposed Project	People being affected
3.7.3.12	Welfare "care" centres	Entire Setsoto community
3.2.1.3	Health care personnel	Entire Setsoto community
3.1.1.1	Permanent clinic	Entire Setsoto community
3.1.2.2	Mobile clinics	Setsoto rural areas
3.2.2.4	Ambulance and medical equipment	Entire Setsoto community
3.8.4.16	Emergency centres	Entire Setsoto community

During 2002/2003 the following progress have been made with the above-mentioned projects:

Permanent Clinics (3.1.1.1):

- VCCT (Voluntary Confidential Counseling and Testing) facilities were made available at one clinic in each town. Voluntary counselors were trained in all 4 towns to support nursing staff with counseling.
- Neverapine are provided at all clinics to pregnant HIV positive patients in collaboration with the district hospitals.

- Clinics are effectively managing the spread of STI's (Sexually Translated Infections) according to the syndromic approach.
- Awareness campaigns are held through the year, e.g. candlelight memorial services and Aids day events.

Mobile Clinics (3.1.2.2):

- Awareness campaigns are held throughout the year, but mobile personnel are not doing any more than health education.

Health Care Personnel (3.2.1.3)

- Professional nurses are assisted by voluntary counselors and have also been trained as HIV/AIDS counselors.
- Home based care-coordinators were trained in each town to assist health care personnel to render home based care.

Ambulance and Medical Equipment (3.2.2.4)

- More vehicles for commuter services (transport between district and regional hospitals) were made available.

Welfare Care Centres (3.7.3.12)

- In partnership with the district hospital a "step down" facility is rendering services for the community of Ficksburg / Meqheleng. Gethesmane was established and are supported by the Roman Catholic Church. Terminally ill patients and other that do not have proper care at home are admitted.
- Angels Home is also situated in Ficksburg and HIV / Aids orphans are accommodated there.
- SHARP a cross border organisation from Lesotho is supporting services at Ficksburg to establish an HIV / AIDS centre.

5. THE CAUSES OF HIV / AIDS

- Ignorance and misconceptions regarding HIV/AIDS forms the core reasons for the causes of this epidemic.
- Poverty plays an important role in the spreading of HIV/AIDS, because in many cases women have to resort to prostitution for an income to be able to care for her family and children.
- Unemployment is regarded as a cause of the spreading of HIV/AIDS. Mainly because this may lead to prostitution, and because people are idling away their time, when they should have been working.

6. THE PREVENTION OF HIV / AIDS

The most important factor in the prevention of HIV/AIDS is to abstain from having sexual intercourse outside of marriage. If this is not possible, always use a condom in this regard. It is also very important to educate people on the great dangers HIV/AIDS holds and on how to avoid the spreading of HIV/AIDS.

7. IMPACT / CONSEQUENCES OF HIV / AIDS

- The social impact will be that there will be an increased demand for coffins. The need for cemeteries will also increase.
- The environmental impact will be that more trees will have to be cut down for the provision of these coffins.
- The economical impact will be that the economically active group, or employment force, will decrease severely in numbers, and this will lead to a major economic decline.
- A serious consequence is the large number of orphans that are left behind. It will result in many social problems having children to grow up without grown-ups to look after them and put severe pressure on the

limited resources the state has available for orphans. There will have to be a drastic change in the social programmes that are currently implemented by the different government departments.

- The impact on planning for future housing and infrastructure needs will definitely be negative as it is impossible to correctly predict the population growth rate and plan accordingly.
- HIV/AIDS has a serious impact on the conventional working environment. Different rules to what people are used to will have to be set in place in order for people to live a dignified and quality life, but also to limit the impact on the broader economy of the country.

This is but a few of many complex consequences and impacts the disease has on society. It is very important to know that the disease is not a health problem, but it can cripple the country economically and socially. It should be dealt with morally and socially.

8. RELEVANT ROLE-PLAYERS

The role-players involved in assisting the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS are the following:

- Government
- Municipalities
- NGO's
- Businesses
- Welfare organizations (Hospice, for example)

These organizations all have a very important role to play in assisting the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS, but it is important to note that responsibility for this does not only lie with these organizations, but with everyone in the Setsoto district.

9. FUNDING FOR HIV/AIDS PROGRAMMES

The Free State HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Communicable Disease directorate in the department had budgeted an amount of R1 million for NGO and CBO funding for the year 2001/2002. These funds are part of the partnership campaign launched in October 1998 for government, NGOs, CBOs and Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) to join hands in the fight against HIV/AIDS and TB.

Funding is allocated according to district consortiums which are NGOs, CBOs and FBOs clusters based on different roles these structures play in the fight against HIV/AIDS, whether awareness or care. Furthermore the funding is based on provincial priorities, namely:

- Information, Education and Communication (IEC)
- Counselling
- Training
- People Living With Aids support services
- Legal issues and consultation on HIV/AIDS
- Rural programmes and outreach
- In and out of school youth programmes
- Women programmes
- Condom education, promotion and distribution

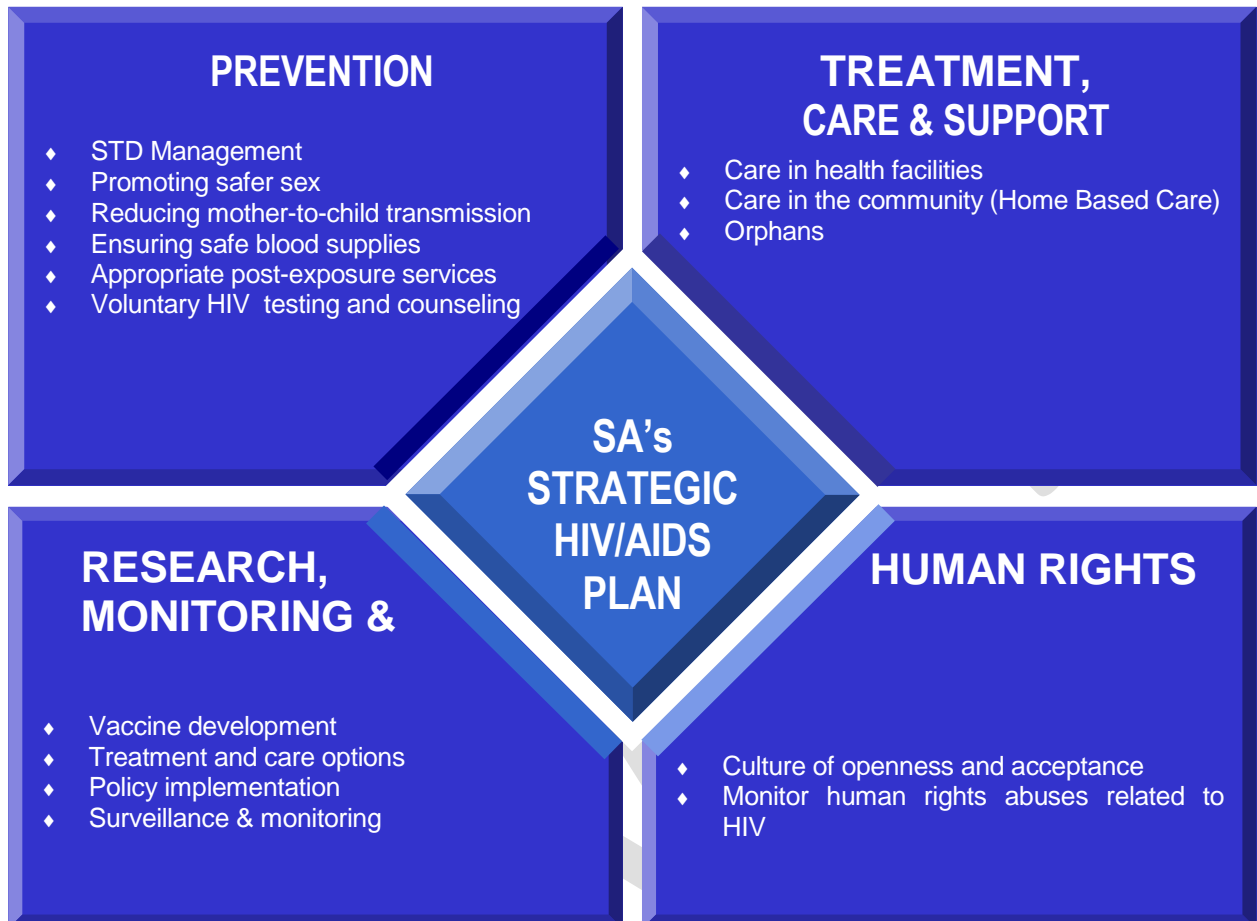
The main criteria for funding was as follows:

- NGO, CBO and FBO consortiums must be according to district needs and recommendations.
- Consortium to comprise of NGOs, CBOs and FBOs with good track record on HIV/AIDS.
- Members of the consortium who were previously funded to submit audited financial statements.

- Organizations were funded as consortiums/clusters not as individual organizations.

10. POLICY FRAMEWORK

The National HIV/AIDS & STD Strategic plan focusses on four priority areas, each with its own goals as illustrated below:



11. CONCLUSION

HIV/AIDS is not just a health problem. The epidemic, its prevention and its consequences require coordinated responses of all institutions and sections involved in municipal development. While municipalities may need further guidance through national programmes to know how to respond, the municipal management has to ensure that appropriate measures are being implemented on the ground. For this it is important to realize the causes and effects the spreading of HIV/AIDS will have socially, environmentally and economically. The municipality has only begun to touch on some of the strategies that is mentioned in the policy framework and can deal with many more of the issues. These areas of intervention will have to be identified during the review of the IDP.

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