

CDS support to the South African Government

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT (CDS)

The CDS project (2014-2019), funded by USAID/South Africa, contributes to the goal of mitigating the impact of HIV, STIs and TB by providing capacity strengthening to civil society organizations and the South African Government, increasing their effectiveness in achieving expanded and high-quality services.



Siziwe Nqcwabe, seconded to the South African Government's Department of Social Development under the Isibindi Project from December 2014 to September 2017

South Africa is a richly diverse country of nearly 55 million people “united in a diversity of religious beliefs, cultures and languages.”¹ Approximately one in three residents are under 15 years old, and two-thirds of the population is under 35 years old. The country transitioned to full democracy in 1994, and began a process of providing equal services and opportunities to all residents. Partly due to its history, the South African Government is faced with significant challenges in sectors such as health and social development. The country has the largest number of people living with HIV in the world, at over 6 million. Youth unemployment is estimated to be 36%, and more than half of the country's households require support from the Government's social assistance program.²

These challenges require skilled and dedicated civil servants working in all sectors and levels of government. The Capacity Development and Support (CDS) project, funded by USAID, is supporting the South African Government to address capacity gaps by seconding Technical Advisors into various departments to fulfill critical roles over a two- to three-year period.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

For more than 25 years, FHI 360 has been working as a strategic partner to the Government of South Africa and South African civil society. We have implemented a wide range of technical assistance projects at national, provincial and community levels to strengthen policies and programs that prevent the transmission of HIV, provide high-quality HIV care and treatment, strengthen nutritional assessment and counselling and support, improve reproductive health, increase access to family planning, and strengthen partners' technical and organizational capacity.

CURRENT TECHNICAL ADVISORS

CDS has seconded nine Technical Advisors under three departments. These positions include:

Department of Health

- DREAMS³

¹ South African Government website: www.gov.za

² Ibid.

³ DREAMS is a PEPFAR-led initiative to reduce HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women in 10 sub-Saharan African countries, including South Africa. Read more at: www.pepfar.gov/partnerships/ppp/dreams/

About FHI 360

FHI 360 is a nonprofit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions. Our staff includes experts in health, education, nutrition, environment, economic development, civil society, gender, youth, research, technology, communication and social marketing – creating a unique mix of capabilities to address today's interrelated development challenges. FHI 360 serves more than 70 countries and all U.S. states and territories.

- Condom Program
- High Transmission Areas and Key Populations
- Primary Health Care
- HIV Prevention and HIV Counselling and Testing
- Nutrition
- Adolescent Girls and Young Women (KwaZulu-Natal province)

Department of Social Development

- Isibindi Project⁴

The National Treasury

- Conditional Grant (Health Economics)

A UNIQUE MODEL

CDS developed and is applying a Performance Management Framework to monitor and support Technical Advisors in collaboration with the relevant department. This process ensures that the Technical Advisor's efforts, which are directed by a detailed terms of reference, contribute to the objectives of the department and CDS. Each Technical Advisor develops a baseline assessment report and results framework, with an overall goal, intermediate results and sub-intermediate results, each with specific indicators and targets.

CDS provides ongoing supervision and support to promote optimal performance by the Technical Advisor, and holds regular management meetings with the Technical Advisor and his/her supervisor at the South African Government to assess progress and address challenges. CDS also holds monthly meetings with all Technical Advisors to identify synergies and facilitate collaboration among them and with other CDS programs.

ACHIEVEMENTS

CDS Technical Advisors have contributed to the following achievements:

- Development and dissemination of key policies and guidelines such as the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy
- Improving management and reporting systems, leading to improved service delivery for orphans and vulnerable children, key populations, and adolescent girls and young women
- Supporting district-level program implementation such as the development of condom distribution plans
- Facilitating collaborative relationships with other stakeholders, resulting in resource mobilization and support
- Establishing the South African Health Product Regulatory Authority and its listing as a public entity

⁴ Isibindi is a community-based program that responds to the holistic needs of children and youth at risk throughout South Africa.

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