

AIDS

Supporting Local Government Responses to HIV and AIDS

As an experienced government agency, we support governments at local, regional and central level to build effective, decentralised responses to AIDS. This includes enabling local authorities to involve community representatives in the planning, implementation and evaluation of AIDS interventions, so as to empower those directly affected by the epidemic to contribute to the shaping of their national AIDS response. At the same time, GTZ experts work with partner countries' national governments in order to promote governance practices that involve stakeholders at the local level and respond to their identified needs.

Decentralised AIDS responses and effective cooperation between authorities at local and national level are crucial steps on the way towards universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support in developing countries by 2010. This is why we help our partners to build demand-driven AIDS programmes in which the priorities of affected community members inform and guide decision-making processes and action plans and steer the resulting service provision.

GTZ's approaches and their results

In **Lesotho**, the GTZ decentralisation project has been supporting the Ministry of Local Government in implementing the **Gateway Approach**. Local governments, as gateways for an effective, harmonised AIDS response, have established HIV and AIDS impact mitigation committees with broad representation from key stakeholders in their communities. With GTZ assistance, they developed community council action plans on HIV and AIDS that inform the AIDS strategy and budget at the national level. As a result, today all district and community councils in Lesotho's southern districts are HIV and AIDS-competent. GTZ and the Lesotho Ministry of Local Government jointly developed the "**Quick and Smart**" planning methodology for district and community councils. They have published the Guidebook for Quick and Smart Planning

for Community Councils, which is now being used for local planning and budgeting throughout Lesotho.

In **Tanzania**, the GTZ health programme has assisted the National AIDS Council in the development and implementation of a comprehensive, **nation-wide capacity development programme for its Council and Ward Multi-Sectoral AIDS Committees (CMACs)**. The resulting ten training modules and a field training guide provide the essential tools for the ongoing capacity building process for a decentralised AIDS response in Tanzania.

In the Mpumalanga province, **South Africa**, GTZ supported the provincial and district governments in implementing AIDS workplace programmes for their own staff and in **mainstreaming AIDS responses** into their core work. As a result, many provincial departments have mainstreamed AIDS strategies into their five-year strategic plans, naming AIDS as a key challenge and outlining interventions to meet it.

In the western province of **Cameroon**, another GTZ programme supports mayors and municipal leaders in the identification of AIDS-related risks (through **risk mapping**) of their localities. On this basis, targeted AIDS responses are included in the local development plans and budgets, guiding the resulting service provision.



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GTZ`s service package

Building on its technical expertise in both planning and implementing comprehensive AIDS programmes, the GTZ has developed a unique approach, called AIDS mainstreaming, to engage all relevant sectors of society in a decentralised, multi-sectoral AIDS response. For each of our clients, we provide customised service packages that can meet their specific needs:

Providing policy advice: GTZ works with ministries, national AIDS councils, provincial governments and local authorities in the development and implementation of comprehensive AIDS responses. Based on our long-standing experience in policy development and programming in many regions throughout the world, GTZ experts are in a good position to provide competent policy advice to their partner institutions.

Developing capacity: GTZ experts have a wide range of methods and tools at their disposal to design capacity development measures responding to the specific needs and challenges our clients and partner institutions face.

To strengthen the capacity of its partners at ministry level, GTZ employs methods ranging from direct coaching to training in policy development, quality improvement and monitoring and evaluation. At the local council level, we work with locally adapted tools for the development, implementation and monitoring of AIDS responses, such as the "Quick and Smart" planning methodology, which is practical and easy to understand and yields results within a short time frame.

Promoting participation and stakeholder involvement:

At GTZ, we support the involvement of all sectors of society throughout the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages of an AIDS response. To ensure participation, transparency and shared ownership on the part of the programme beneficiaries, we ensure the broad engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including people living with HIV, women and youth, community-based agencies, public organisations and private businesses.

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