

Zambia Capacity Development Decentralisation

Gender, HIV/AIDS and the Environment Mainstreaming Cross cutting Issues into the Decentralisation Process

Introduction

As cross cutting issues, Gender, HIV/AIDS and the Environment are integral to the **Support to Decentralisation Implementation (SDI)** programme of the German Development Cooperation. Cross cutting issues are enshrined in the project goals. The anticipated outcome is that the Ministry of Local Government and Housing (MLGH) will attain the necessary capacity to effectively mainstream cross cutting issues into MLGH's and Local Authority operations. The cooperation also includes the Decentralisation Secretariat (DS), which is housed in the MLGH, to ensure that it integrates cross cutting issues into the decentralisation process.

SDI pursues a twin-track approach to cross cutting issues mainstreaming; on one hand, mainstreaming Gender, HIV/AIDS and Environment across the thematic areas i.e. the main issues to be addressed, and on the other, having a separate thematic area under which subject specific activities are carried out at national and sub-national level. SDI also mainstreams internally within the programme, ensuring that technical and support staff are trained in and informed of Gender, HIV/AIDS and Environment issues.

Situation Analyses

SDI works primarily with the focal districts of Kalomo, Mazabuka and Sianzongwe. Situation analyses have been carried out regarding the Councils' ability to mainstream cross cutting issues into their operations. These analyses are; "**A Situation Analysis of Gender in District Planning**," "**District Council HIV/AIDS Interventions in Sinazongwe and Kalomo**" and "**A situation analysis on Environmental mainstreaming in Local Authorities**." SDI's interventions involve addressing those areas that were found deficient, primarily; planning, coordination and networking, legal and institutional frameworks and capacity building.

Mainstreaming Activities

A key activity is to develop a strategy for the implementation of national Gender policy in local authorities. After a situation analysis was completed and recommendations for mainstreaming for improving Gender mainstreaming were made, a seminar "**Gender in District Development Planning**" was held for the focal councils and Provincial Administration. The workshop input documents were designed as reference documents for the council staff and an action plan was produced that outlined a methodology for creating Gender equality strategies for the focal districts. Steering committees were devised for this purpose and as a result, two districts, with technical advice from SDI, have completed "**A District Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality**". Additionally, the District Gender Focal Point Persons (GFP) have had their positions formalised and their responsibilities enshrined in their job descriptions. Furthermore, the Provincial Administration plans to replicate this methodology to develop Gender equality strategies in the other districts in Southern Province.



Mazabuka District World AIDS Day celebrations 2009

Training in cross cutting issues also includes "**HIV/AIDS Workplace Programmes**" and peer educator training for local authority personnel. Seminars were held for council staff and Provincial Administration in "**Environmental**

Mainstreaming” which included basic concepts in Environment and techniques for mainstreaming Environmental management into council operations. Additionally, Council staff from three districts as well as SDI staff attended the Sustainability Institute of Stellenbosch University in “**Development planning and Environmental Impact Analysis**”. Furthermore, female civic leaders, with SDI support, attended the International Colloquium on Women’s Empowerment in Liberia in March 2009. Findings from this colloquium were shared with the Livingstone Women in Business organisation and the organisation is pursuing an action plan for women’s empowerment.

The Alliance of Mayors’ Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level (AMICAALL), the coordinating body for HIV/AIDS for all Local Authorities in the country, received financial support to extend its operations. This support financed training for community leaders, HIV/AIDS steering committees and workplace policies in HIV/AIDS and other life threatening diseases as well as directories of HIV/AIDS service providers at ward level.

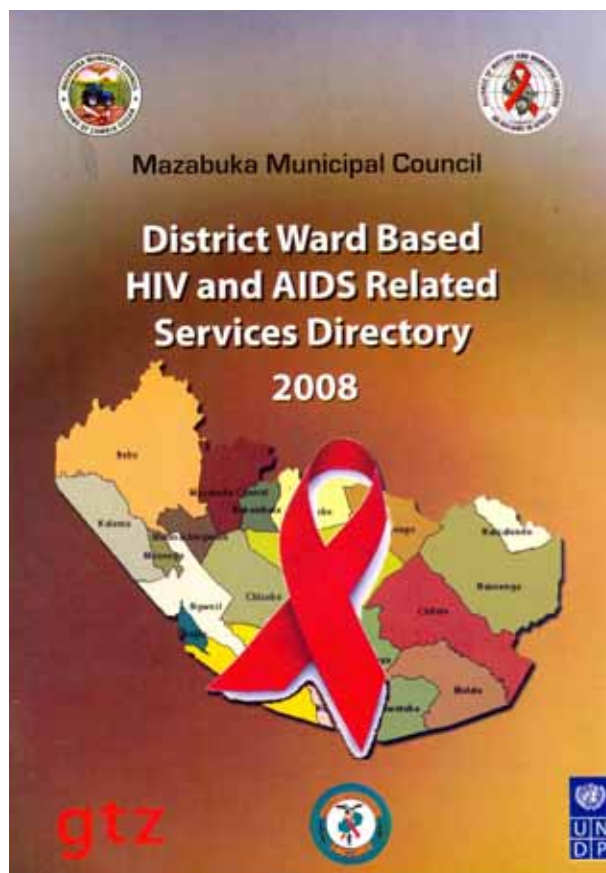
HIV/AIDS workplace programmes in eight districts have received support through peer education and focal point person training, the development of work place action plans, collaborating in World AIDS day celebrations and through the supply of condoms and information and education communication material.

Technical advice to mainstream cross cutting issues develops the ability of Local Authorities to integrate Gender, HIV/AIDS and Environment in their operations in; planning and budgeting and in the development and implementation of revenue enhancement, participation and communication and human resource strategies. SDI also facilitates the coordination and networking of Local Authorities with national level and building and strengthening partnerships within government, NGOs and private sector.

At national level, SDI mainstreams cross cutting issues in its partnerships with MoFNP, MLGH (Decentralisation Secretariat) and through technical advisory services such as integrating Gender and HIV/AIDS in the DS’s annual work plan and providing training for HIV/AIDS focal points in line ministries.

Integrating cross cutting issues has resulted in an increased knowledge and capacity to integrate cross cutting issues into Local Authority operations. The MLGH has stipulated that all local authorities must budget for Gender, HIV/AIDS and Environment. Districts have increased budget allocations to cross cutting issues and

are actively seeking to improve their response. Furthermore, focal point persons have reported that there is a greater awareness of and response to workplace programmes among council employees.



One of the products of district level collaboration between SDI, AMICAALL and MMC

The Future of Cross cutting Issues in SDI Cooperation

Since the collaboration began, the MLGH made important steps in mainstreaming cross cutting issues for example the inclusion of Gender, HIV/AIDS and Environment in their 2010 budget Call Circular. GRZ has also reiterated its commitment to the three subjects. This not only paves the way for SDI’s continuing cooperation with Local Authorities but also officially recognises that Local Authorities are crucial to the attainment of national Gender, HIV/AIDS and Environment objectives.

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Factsheet 2

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