

### 2012

Advocacy plays a key role in building strong health systems. The Health Policy Project (HPP) is a catalyst, working to ensure that those most affected by policy decisions have a voice throughout the policy process and to strengthen the capacity of advocacy partners around the world.

#### Family Planning and Reproductive Health

- In Nigeria, HPP support to the Family Planning Action Group helped the commission successfully advocate the Federal Ministry of Health for the release of US \$3 million to the UN to procure family planning commodities—the first time that the Federal Government of Nigeria had ever designated funds for family planning commodities. As a result, the UN system will purchase more contraceptives during 2012 and improve contraceptive availability.
- HPP has trained Muslim and Christian religious leaders in Mali to use advocacy tools that promote healthy behaviors amongst their congregations and constituencies in the district of Kita. They have reached more than 4,000 area residents through community education sessions to discuss birth spacing, malaria prevention for pregnant women and children, HIV prevention, and the fight against stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV.

#### HIV

- HPP released the [\*Policy Advocacy and Analysis Decision Model for People Who Inject Drugs\*](#) in June 2012, which is already being used as an advocacy tool in several Eastern European countries. The decision model is also being adapted to assess access to medication-assisted therapy at the provincial level in Ukraine.
- In partnership with the Stigma Action Network, HPP has helped increase global access to country-level data and advocacy materials on the [\*Stigma Action Network website\*](#), catalyzing action and commitment locally, regionally, and globally to reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination through knowledge sharing, dialogue, and partnerships among diverse stakeholders.

#### Maternal Health

- HPP's partnership with the White Ribbon Alliance helped launch the [\*Respectful Maternity Care Charter: the Universal Rights of Childbearing Women\*](#) and accompanying advocacy tools to build a positive global standard for respectful maternity care and advocate for maternal health as a basic human right grounded in key international declarations.

#### Gender

- In Guatemala, HPP helped to launch two new indigenous women's networks to advocate for policy changes that improve access to reproductive health services, education, and nutrition among indigenous women and families in rural areas. These networks also successfully advocated for the official publication of the Healthy Motherhood Law Regulations, eliciting a written commitment from the Minister of Health for continued support to women's health issues.