



# HEALTH POLICY PROJECT / WEST AFRICA

Building capacity for improved health policy, advocacy, governance, and finance.

The Health Policy Project (HPP), funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), contributes to improved health through strengthening the efficiency, effectiveness, and equity of health systems.

To learn more, visit HPP at: [www.healthpolicyproject.com](http://www.healthpolicyproject.com)

## Overview

The Health Policy Project (HPP) works to strengthen the capacity of local partners throughout countries in West Africa to develop effective policies and increase the commitment to improving access to family planning (FP), reproductive health (RH), and HIV services. With some of the fastest growing populations in the world, countries in West Africa continue to address the need for adequate access to high-quality family planning services, which can improve health and economic development.

In February 2011, representatives from eight francophone West African countries attended the "Population, Development, and Family Planning in West Africa: An Urgency for Action" Conference in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. These eight countries make up the Ouagadougou Partnership, and committed to improving access to FP services and information. In addition, while HIV prevalence in West Africa is relatively low, transmission among key populations, including men who have sex with men (MSM) and female sex workers, remains high.

HPP/West Africa focuses on

- Ensuring increased resources for family planning and the efficient and effective use of these resources through the development of costed implementation plans (CIPs) for FP in select countries
- Strengthening country-led FP/RH policy dialogue and action through the generation of evidence and analysis of key operational policy issues in focus countries
- Strengthening the evidence-based approach to key population policy and program implementation

## Policy

HPP supports governments in West Africa to develop and disseminate policies and guidelines by strengthening the evidence-based approach to key population policy and program implementation and country-led FP/RH dialogue and action. The project has provided technical assistance in key countries in the development of

- Costed Implementation Plans for FP: Evidence and analysis of key operational policy issues such as pricing policies, task shifting, and budget tracking for FP commodities and policies
- Assessment of gaps in policies, policy implementation, and programs for key populations
- The multi-regional consultation with the International AIDS Society on the effectiveness and efficiency for sustainable HIV response for francophone countries



Photo by: Paul W.



Photo by: Diana Mtazikawa

## Capacity Development

HPP/West Africa works closely with country governments and stakeholders at various levels to strengthen institutional and organizational capacity:

- Coaching and mentoring Ministry of Health staff in the CIP for FP ten-step process
- Enhancing country capacity to build the evidence base for effective policy and programming
- Analyzing the organizational capacity of civil society organizations working with key populations

## Advocacy

HPP works in close collaboration with country stakeholders to build a public policy foundation that supports access to, implementation and scale-up of evidence-informed services. The project's contributions include

- Collaborating with national ministries of health to organize "Resource Mobilization Advocacy Days" for FP to provide an opportunity for national governments to publicly commit resources and disseminate the results of the national CIPs and mobilize additional resources to fund the plan
- Collaborating with partners to design advocacy tools that address identified barriers and persuade governments to allocate more funds to contraceptive commodities in national budgets
- Using HPP's *Policy Analysis and Advocacy Decision Model for HIV-Related Services: Males Who Have Sex with Males, Transgender People and Sex Workers* to help local stakeholders create an inventory of country policies, analyze these policies against international best practices and human rights frameworks, assess policy implementation, and create a strategic advocacy plan

## Health Financing

HPP works in close collaboration with partners to improve health financing and budgeting in West Africa. The project's contributions include

- Providing technical assistance to implement CIPs that are in line with the commitments made at the Ouagadougou Conference in selected countries
- Conducting budget tracking analysis for family planning commodities and policies

## How to Work with Us

For over 40 years, Futures Group has managed large and complex international health and development projects for a range of major development players, achieving significant results on the ground in more than 100 countries. Host-country partners with interest in receiving project assistance should contact their USAID Mission. All Missions may participate through field support. For information on how to work with the Health Policy Project please contact:

### USAID

Linda Cahaelen, ScD  
AOR, USAID/Washington  
lcahaelen@usaid.gov  
Tel: +1 (202) 712-4138

### Futures Group

Suneeta Sharma, PhD  
Director, Health Policy Project  
ssharma@futuresgroup.com  
Tel: +1 (202) 775-9680

### HPP/West Africa

Modibo Maiga  
Program Director  
mmaiga@futuresgroup.com  
Tel: +1(223)-675-23-59

## Contact Us

Health Policy Project  
One Thomas Circle NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20005  
[www.healthpolicyproject.com](http://www.healthpolicyproject.com)  
[policyinfo@futuresgroup.com](mailto:policyinfo@futuresgroup.com)

The Health Policy Project is a five-year cooperative agreement funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development under Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-10-00067, beginning September 30, 2010. It is implemented by Futures Group, in collaboration with CEDPA (part of Plan International USA), Futures Institute, Partners in Population and Development, Africa Regional Office (PPD ARO), Population Reference Bureau (PRB), RTI International, and the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood (WRA).

The information provided in this document is not official U.S. Government information and does not necessarily represent the views or positions of the U.S. Agency for International Development.