



# HEALTH POLICY PROJECT / **CARIBBEAN REGION**

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)



Photo by: Health Policy Project

## Overview

HIV prevalence rates in the Caribbean region are among the highest in the world, particularly among key populations at higher risk of HIV infection, including sex workers and men who have sex with men (MSM).

The region's HIV response is hindered by stigma and discrimination (S&D), which undermine HIV prevention efforts and pose barriers to accessing care and treatment services. The impacts of S&D fall hardest on key populations and limit their access to life-saving services.

Reducing HIV-related S&D is a top priority for the Health Policy Project (HPP) in the Caribbean region. The project

- Supports ministers of health and national HIV programs to create an enabling policy environment for regional and national HIV responses
- Builds the stigma-reduction capacities of the Pan-Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP), a collaborative alliance of governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), academic and professional networks, and development partners from across the region
- Strengthens national and regional policy frameworks to guide responses to HIV
- Promotes non-stigmatizing service provision
- Facilitates networking for evidence-based advocacy

## Policy

HPP/Caribbean works with local partners to foster a more supportive policy environment for combating and responding to HIV. The project

- Strengthens policy frameworks by supporting the drafting of national HIV policies
- Helps countries develop coordinated responses to HIV-related stigma—the PANCAP Stigma Reduction Framework for HIV and AIDS: National Actions to Reduce HIV-Related Stigma and Discrimination and Improve Health Outcomes was created in partnership with PANCAP
- Works with local partners to put the stigma-reduction framework into practice—HPP collaborates with the national AIDS programs in Dominica and St. Kitts & Nevis to apply the framework and a package for “stigma-free” services, which includes
  - baseline stigma measurement in health facilities
  - stigma-reduction training for health facility staff and leaders of nongovernmental organizations

## Capacity Development

To reduce S&D in the health system, HPP/Caribbean builds the capacity of institutions and individuals at the regional, national, and health-facility levels.

### *Individual*

- Facilitator training

### *Institutional*

- National policy development
- Mentoring to support development of facility-level codes of conduct

### *Systems*

- Creation of a stigma-reduction framework to guide national health systems in policy development, training, and measurement to reduce stigma in healthcare settings

- development of policies and facility-level codes of conduct geared toward stigma reduction
- routine monitoring

## Advocacy

HPP works closely with CSOs, including networks of people living with HIV and key populations. It builds their capacity to advocate for policy change and access to high-quality, non-stigmatizing health services. The project

- Supports civil society partners to develop and refine a regional advocacy agenda
- Strengthens national-level advocacy to combat HIV-related S&D
- Builds the advocacy and strategic planning capacities of MSM and civil society partners, such as the Caribbean Vulnerable Communities coalition (CVC)

## 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:

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