



# HEALTH POLICY PROJECT / GHANA

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/Ryan Olson

The Commissioner of CHRAJ, and a consultant with the Health Policy Project discuss the HIV-related discrimination reporting system, developed with support from HPP, with H.E. Kwesi Bekoe Amisshah-Arthur, Vice-President of Ghana, after its launch on World AIDS Day in Wa, Ghana.

## Overview

Ghana has the highest contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) in West Africa. However, the use of modern contraceptives is low, CPR has stagnated over the past decade, and many Ghanaians lack access to family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) services.

Even as the country works to expand access to FP/RH services, it must also respond to the challenges posed by HIV and AIDS. Although HIV prevalence is relatively low among Ghana's general population, it is considerably higher among key populations, such as men who have sex with men (MSM) and sex workers.

The Health Policy Project (HPP) supports the government of Ghana to mobilize political and financial support for and strengthen implementation of FP/RH and HIV programs.

Since its inception in 2011, HPP/Ghana has worked with local partners to

- Generate, use, and disseminate data to increase political and financial support for FP/RH and HIV programs
- Improve understanding among key government officials of the costs of delivering programs and services
- Update key policies and strategies
- Build institutional and individual capacity to generate and analyze costing data
- Combat HIV-related stigma and discrimination (S&D) and improve access to services for key populations

## Policy

HPP/Ghana works with local partners to foster a more supportive policy environment for addressing HIV and FP/RH issues. The project collaborates with the Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC) to

- Generate data to better understand the costs of program and service delivery
- Update and disseminate national HIV policies—helping ensure that policies are based on best practices and address gender equality, gender-based violence (GBV), and the needs of key populations
- Use the Goals model to analyze the effects of different funding scenarios on the impact and coverage of HIV programs
- Strengthen government responses to HIV-related S&D

HPP/Ghana also supports the National Population Council (NPC) to

- Develop advocacy tools to increase political and financial support for FP programs
- Estimate the costs of providing FP products and services



Photo by: Adam Jones

## Capacity Development

- Capacity development is central to HPP/Ghana's work. Highlights include
- Increasing institutional and individual capacity to understand and use data to craft targeted advocacy materials.
- Empowering GAC partners in HIV costing studies to present results at the 2012 International AIDS Conference.
- Training stakeholders in the development of proposals for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

## Advocacy

HPP/Ghana builds the NPC's capacity to develop and use evidence-based advocacy tools to generate greater political and financial support for FP. Key contributions include working with the NPC to

- Apply the GAP model to help decisionmakers and advocates understand and plan for the costs involved in expanding access to FP/RH services
- Apply the RAPID model to demonstrate the socioeconomic impacts of rapid population growth and show how Ghana can benefit from the demographic dividend

## Governance

HIV-related S&D undermine the human rights and quality of life of people living with HIV and key populations. Ensuring that relevant legal protections are respected and enforced can reduce the harmful consequences of such discrimination. HPP/Ghana, in collaboration with the GAC, assisted the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) to design and implement an innovative web- and SMS-based system for reporting S&D. The system helps ensure that those experiencing S&D have access to redress and/or linkages to relevant social services.

## Health Financing

HPP/Ghana supports the GAC and the NPC to generate data and build capacity for costing the delivery of health services—a key component of improving health financing and enhancing sustainability. Key contributions include:

- Determining the cost of service provision for prevention of mother-to-child transmission and key populations
- Developing user-friendly Data Use Guides to make costing information more accessible
- Assisting the NPC to estimate unit costs for the provision of FP commodities and services

## 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/Ghana

Donald Dickerson  
Program Advisor  
ddickerson@futuresgroup.com  
Tel: +233 (24) 913-1662

## 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)

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