HEALTH POLICY PROJECT / **JAMAICA**

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

Overview

The Health Policy Project (HPP) partners with the Jamaican government, academic institutions, and civil society to combat HIV-related stigma and discrimination (S&D), promote gender equality, and reduce gender-based violence (GBV).

HIV prevalence rates are dramatically higher among males who have sex with males (MSM) and sex workers than among the general population, and Jamaica's National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS (2007–2012) addresses the need for services targeted toward key populations. Nevertheless, widespread homophobia and discrimination hinder implementation of a targeted HIV response.

Since 2010, HPP/Jamaica has addressed S&D, GBV, and harmful gender norms by

- Enhancing the coordination of policies and programming across sectors, including increasing the participation of civil society in policy dialogue
- Increasing the availability and use of data to inform policies and programs for sexual and reproductive health
- Strengthening institutional capacity at the community, district, and national levels

Policy

Coordination

HPP/Jamaica seeks to build linkages across sectors, promoting collaboration among government, civil society, and academic institutions to build long-term partnerships and identify policy solutions. The project promotes the use of evidence for advocacy, strengthens the communications capacity of partners and engages different actors in the policy process. Highlights include

- Assisting the Ministry of Health (MOH) with the development of the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS (2012–2017)
- Working with the MOH to conduct analysis of confidentiality policies and implementation
- Supporting the development of a stronger National HIV Discrimination Reporting and Redress System for people living with HIV (PLHIV)

Policy monitoring and analysis

Recognizing the importance of incorporating evidence into policy and planning processes, HPP/Jamaica strengthens the capacity of academic institutions, civil society, and organizations of PLHIV and key populations to engage in data collection and monitoring for policy development. Highlights include

Photo by: Health Policy Project

A JN+ coordinator facilitates an advocacy workshop to promote PLHIV leadership on policy change.

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As part of its advocacy work, HPP partners with prominent Jamaican HIV activist Ainsley Reid, the national response coordinator for the Greater Involvement of People living with AIDS (GIPA) National Capacity Building Program.

Capacity Development

HPP/Jamaica works with the government of Jamaica and civil society to strengthen the capacity of key populations, civil society organizations, and PLHIV leaders by providing grants and mentoring.

- Partnering with the University of the West Indies HIV/AIDS Response Program (UWI HARP) to increase the availability and use of data by improving information exchange and policy analysis across institutions
- Supporting the feasibility testing of a new GBV screening and referral protocol

Advocacy

HPP/Jamaica collaborates with the Jamaica Network of Seropositives (JN+) and the Ministry of Health Unit for Greater Involvement of Persons with HIV and AIDS (GIPA) to build the advocacy capacity of PLHIV. These efforts focus on

- Addressing gaps in health services for PLHIV and other HIV-affected populations
- Ensuring confidentiality in health service facilities
- Mobilizing support for networking and capacity development for JN+

Governance

HPP/Jamaica builds the social capital of marginalized populations to effectively participate in policy dialogue and implementation. Building on Positive Health, Dignity and Prevention (PHDP)—the global policy framework issued in 2011 by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, HPP works with the GIPA Unit to strengthen PLHIV involvement in the national HIV response. Highlights include

- Collaborating with partners to develop a PHDP curriculum for PLHIV leaders
- Supporting the involvement of PLHIV and key populations in Jamaica's Country Coordination Mechanism—resulting in increased funding for targeted programming for key populations at the national level
- Bringing key population communities together to discuss emerging issues and advocacy agendas
- Strengthening the organizational capacity of JN+ in leadership and governance

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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