



HEALTH POLICY PROJECT / **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

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

Overview

The Health Policy Project (HPP) works with local partners to strengthen HIV prevention efforts in the Dominican Republic (DR). The project's approach prioritizes efforts targeting key populations, such as sex workers, migrant farm workers, and men who have sex with men (MSM). Although the rate of new HIV infections in the DR has dropped dramatically over the past decade, these populations—who accounted for one-third of all new HIV infections in 2010—remain underserved and vulnerable.

The project also works with partners to address gender-based violence (GBV) and HIV-related stigma and discrimination (S&D), which undermine HIV prevention efforts and act as barriers to accessing HIV prevention and treatment services.

Capacity development—for both government and civil society partners—lies at the heart of HPP/DR's approach. The project works to strengthen the organizational capacity and sustainability of two lead nongovernmental organizations to

- Increase coordination and partnerships among local civil society organizations (CSOs) involved in advocacy on GBV and S&D
- Improve CSOs' participation in policy dialogue and implementation
- Build the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity of local CSOs

Policy

HPP/DR seeks to create an enabling environment to address GBV and S&D, increase demand for the integration of GBV and S&D services into existing HIV services, and improve HIV prevention efforts targeting key populations. The project works with CSOs to foster meaningful policy dialogue on GBV and S&D within and among the Dominican government, key populations, affected communities, and society at large. Key contributions include

- Supporting the development of facility-level GBV protocols and codes of conduct
- Conducting baseline studies to measure HIV-related S&D against key populations in health facilities
- Encouraging the participation of key populations in the policy process
- Strengthening government-CSO linkages at the national and local levels to address GBV and S&D



Photo by: Health Policy Project

Capacity Development

HPP/DR capacity strengthening efforts include technical assistance, training, coaching and mentoring, and grants management. These efforts are designed to

- Improve dialogue among government CSOs, and other stakeholders
- Build new partnerships and networks
- Support collaborative efforts to hold the government accountable for its commitments on GBV, HIV, and S&D

Advocacy

HPP/DR builds the advocacy capacity of CSOs to enable them to keep the needs of key populations on the government's policy agenda and support the implementation of existing laws and policies that include targeted GBV and S&D services for key populations.

Key contributions include

- Facilitating collaborative advocacy efforts to magnify impacts
- Conducting sensitization and planning workshops with key stakeholders to raise awareness of the need for action on GBV and S&D
- Building a strong evidence base to inform advocacy by gathering data on gaps in and barriers to accessing GBV services, and on the progress of integrating GBV and HIV services
- Fostering collaboration among government agencies, CSOs, and key populations

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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