

## HEALTH POLICY PROJECT



Photo by: Health Policy Project

## Capacity Development

### Overview

Sound policies lay the foundation for strong health systems and contribute to improved governance and accountability. Whether such policies are put into place depends largely on the capacity of government, civil society, and other stakeholders to engage in all aspects of the policy process—from problem identification and policy formulation through policy implementation and monitoring to ensure that commitments are met.

The policy process is dynamic, constantly evolving in response to changing circumstances and emerging challenges. To engage in that process, individuals and groups require a wide range of skills and abilities. Strengthening these capacities in government, civil society, and other partners helps ensure that host countries are at the center of decision making for their health programs. In-country policy capacity contributes to ownership, accountability, and good governance—all of which have a lasting impact on health systems.

### What We Do

HPP builds national capacity for sustainable stewardship of health policy and systems. We work to ensure our country partners have the knowledge and expertise they need to drive positive policy change well into the future. Our partners include parliamentarians, ministry officials, district health officers, legal and finance bodies, civil society organizations, research and training institutes, and other community groups—all of which have different capacity needs.

### We Work to

- Strengthen the capacity of policymakers, planners, and advocates to gather, analyze, and use data to inform advocacy, decision making, monitoring, and accountability
- Develop host-country capacity to design evidence-driven policies and guidelines

- Enhance the capacity of people living with HIV, key populations, women, and civil society groups to engage in the policy process
- Improve government leaders' capacity to serve as effective stewards of health programs
- Build the capacity of civil society organizations to hold governments accountable
- Increase stakeholders' capacity to forge partnerships, facilitate dialogue, and foster cooperation among the public sector, private sector, and civil society
- Prepare local partners to take on the role of capacity development in the future

Our capacity-strengthening activities focus on three principal components.

## Evidence-Informed Decision Making

The strategic use of data and information in advocacy and decision making helps strengthen health systems by promoting the efficient, equitable, and effective use of resources. HPP builds local capacity to gather, analyze, and use data to support evidence-based decision making. We support the design, adaptation, and use of innovative models and tools for evidence-based planning and enhance local capacity to strategically use data and information in advocacy and monitoring efforts.

## Broad-Based Participation

HPP champions participatory policy processes that help groups hold governments accountable for meeting the health needs of all people, including marginalized groups. We address inequities in health systems, particularly those stemming from barriers due to poverty, gender inequalities, and stigma against vulnerable populations. We provide training and technical assistance and help foster networks and coalitions to enhance local partners' ability to participate in the policy process, with special emphasis on key populations and other vulnerable groups.

## Monitoring for Accountability and Learning

Monitoring capacity is a crucial element of accountability. HPP works with government committees and advocacy groups to build their capacity to monitor commitments to national FP/RH, maternal health, and HIV programs. We enhance their ability to evaluate policies' effectiveness and impact and help them put in place mechanisms for monitoring and responding to human rights violations in the health context.

## 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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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).

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