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**MAINSTREAMING OF HIV/AIDS IN THE WATER SECTOR  
Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) Project**

**DRAFT PROJECT PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2008 – MARCH 2009**

**Draft 1**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This document presents a draft research plan for CSIR to deliver research and technical support to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) on mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into the water sector in South Africa. The research plan is developed within the context of an overarching contract between DWAF and the CSIR to support the management and coordination of cross-cutting issues for DWAF, including HIV/AIDS. Although some work has been done to date under this contract, the current research plan focuses on CSIR inputs between October 2008 and March 2009 on HIV/AIDS mainstreaming. The research plan has been developed following discussions with DWAF representatives and will be finalised following their inputs and approval.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

DWAF has long recognised the importance of HIV/AIDS to the water sector as well as the potential role that the water sector can play in the fight against HIV/AIDS. A business plan was previously developed by the CSIR for DWAF under the banner of the Masibambane: National HIV/AIDS Programme to support DWAF efforts to address HIV/AIDS. A flexible scope of work was suggested which included:

- Planning and coordination support
- Input into the Strategic Framework for Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in the Water Sector
- Research on HIV/AIDS and water and sanitation
- Capacity building and implementation support

The current research plan is being developed to define specific actions that are worthwhile contributions to DWAF that can be undertaken within this financial year (until March 2009). The actions laid out in this plan are aligned with the mainstreaming process in DWAF. To date, a draft Strategic Framework has been developed by the DWAF Policy and Strategy directorate. This Strategic Framework will guide the implementation of HIV/AIDS initiatives within the water sector. The draft Strategic Framework is currently being finalised and will be submitted for approval. Within this calendar year, CSIR may be required to make some inputs to the Policy and Strategy team developing the Strategic Framework. In addition, the CSIR team will continue to provide planning and coordination support as well as capacity building support should it be required during the year. The core focus of

CSIR work will however be to undertake relevant research that support the implementation of the Strategic Framework and provides recommendations to improve water service delivery to people living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

### **3. APPROACH TO BE ADOPTED**

In order to meet DWAF's needs for technical support in mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into the water sector, the CSIR will focus on three main areas up until March 2009, namely, strategic planning and coordination support to DWAF; policy support in communicating and implementing the Strategic Framework; and research on water and sanitation challenges for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The primary focus will be on the research work but resources will be set aside for ad hoc support on the first two areas. A brief description of the work to be undertaken is as follows:

#### **3.1 Strategic planning and coordination support to DWAF**

The CSIR and its sub-consultants will assist DWAF in planning and coordination activities. This will include coordination and integration with the other cross-cutting issues, stakeholder interaction, review of policies to include HIV and AIDS information and inputs into the HIV and AIDS Core Group. DWAF may also request the CSIR project team's involvement on other activities which may arise.

#### **3.2 Communication and implementation of the Strategic Framework**

At present, the finalisation of the Strategic Framework is being undertaken by DWAF P&R with the support of NEMAI Consulting. Once the Strategic Framework has been approved, DWAF will begin the process of rolling out the document to stakeholders and developing implementation guidelines and monitoring and evaluation tools. CSIR may be involved in tasks related to this process at DWAF's discretion including such tasks as developing guidelines for dealing with HIV/AIDS on major water and sanitation construction projects. A budget will be set aside for tasks that will be determined by DWAF at a later date.

### **3.3 Research project on improving water and sanitation service delivery to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS**

Both the Strategic Framework and the literature survey of the socio-ecological role of water in relation to HIV/AIDS and governance in the Water Sector (CSIR, 2008) identified a need to investigate improved service delivery options for high prevalence and low service delivery areas in South Africa. The CSIR will undertake research to carry out this investigation and identify best practice approaches that can be utilised by municipalities in high prevalence areas.

The research will focus on two high prevalence and low service delivery areas and identify the opportunities and constraints to different service delivery to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. In particular, informal settlements and rural areas will be targeted. The applicability of appropriate technology, which has already been identified through research, within these contexts will be investigated through the involvement of water sector institutions and civil society. In addition, the opportunity for water to support growth and development of communities affected by HIV/AIDS will also be explored.

Given the fact that the Strategic Framework will be guiding mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS in the water sector, the research will be linked to actions identified in the draft document. In particular the research will provide outputs that:

- Investigate the health and hygiene education in the study areas and make recommendations for their improvement through the inclusion of HIV/AIDS information (7)
- Ensure gender is considered in the opportunities and constraints to service delivery and mainstream gender issues in all recommendations of the study (8)
- Develop best practice cases for use by municipalities in high prevalence areas (10)
- Identify the financial constraints of indigent communities to acquisition of services and make recommendations for support to such communities (11)
- Provide recommendations for HIV/AIDS sensitive implementation strategies by water sector institutions and municipalities in the study areas (18)

Throughout the research, the CSIR will engage with water sector stakeholders. More specifically, two case study areas will be identified for greater stakeholder engagement including obtaining inputs from civil society and water sector institutions. The study will draw on research already completed by other organisations such as the Water Research Commission and the University of Venda.

In addition, the research will investigate linkages in service delivery to other cross-cutting issues.

#### **4. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY FOR RESEARCH PROJECT ON IMPROVING SERVICE DELIVERY**

Subject to the approval of DWAF, the CSIR will carry out the research study through the following tasks:

##### **4.1 Review of recommendations coming out of research on the challenges of people living with HIV/AIDS in terms of water and sanitation**

It is recognised that there has been some valuable research into the issues of water, sanitation and HIV/AIDS. This study will draw on earlier research and take it a step further by testing the feasibility of the research findings in a real-world context. The first task will thus be to identify the recommendations that have been put forward for improving service delivery to high prevalence areas and analysing them against the Strategic Frameworks for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS, gender and environment in the water sector. The recommendations will also be tested with stakeholders in the two case study areas in task 4.4.

##### **4.2 Review of best practice in implementing appropriate technologies to enhance service delivery to people living with HIV/AIDS**

The Strategic Framework identifies some good practice in water and sanitation service delivery in South Africa that supports people living with HIV/AIDS including the communal ablution system of the eThekweni Municipality. Such practice will be identified in consultation with DWAF and investigated to understand how they operate, the challenges to implementation and how they address the cross-cutting

issues of gender, HIV/AIDS, environment, water for growth and development and appropriate technology.

Due to time constraints, it will not be possible to implement the good practice in the case study areas and analyse their success. Instead, the research team will explore the feasibility of implementing the good practice examples in the two case study areas with stakeholders and municipalities. This will be done by presenting the case studies to stakeholders and getting their inputs on whether they would be successful in the high prevalence/ low service delivery areas of the case studies. In this way, the research team can understand the potential replicability of good practice as well as draw out the opportunities and constraints that individual municipalities have in improving service delivery.

#### **4.3 Identification of two high prevalence and low service delivery sites for detailed study**

The CSIR will identify two high prevalence and low service delivery areas to engage with stakeholders on service delivery issues and potential implementation of appropriate technologies. At a high scale, the Ukhahlamba District Municipality in the Eastern Cape and the uMgungundlovu District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal have been identified by the HIV/AIDS and Gender project teams. The two teams will work jointly in these areas to maximise integration of the research. Within these two district municipalities, CSIR will narrow the case study areas. Attention will be given to identifying areas that include informal settlements and under-serviced rural villages in the two district municipalities. The final selection of study sites will be submitted to DWAF for approval.

#### **4.4 Facilitation of a workshop with stakeholders to understand their needs, challenges and successes**

Working through DWAF, the CSIR project team will identify relevant stakeholders and engage with them to understand opportunities and constraints to improved service delivery for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. It is envisaged that stakeholder engagement will include facilitated workshops with a large group of stakeholders, one-to-one meetings with municipalities and water sector institutions and focus group discussions with community members.

#### **4.5 Investigate feasibility of technologies in case study areas**

Through the course of the discussions as well as through the research team's own analysis, the feasibility of implementing research recommendations and good practice in the case study areas will be investigated. Due to time and resource constraints it will not be possible to pilot the technologies in the communities and monitor the success of implementation. Instead, the research will test the theory with stakeholders to obtain input on the likelihood of different recommendations improving service delivery in the area. The facilitated workshops will be used as a mechanism to interrogate the technologies and options available to improve service delivery to people living with HIV/AIDS in the local areas. In addition, the research team will assess the institutional capacity and intergovernmental partnerships to implement recommendations in the case study areas with water sector institutions. Community input will be obtained to understand the user perspective on what is required to improve service delivery and how useful research recommendations really are in the local socio-economic and cultural context.

#### **4.6 Analyse the critical factors in successful implementation of improved service delivery options for municipalities, including intergovernmental relations**

The findings of all the above tasks will be critically analysed by the CSIR project team to draw out conclusions on the essential requirements to improving service delivery; the main challenges faced by service delivery bodies and communities; the feasibility of implementing research findings and technologies to different local contexts and success factors to mainstream HIV/AIDS at the local level.

#### **4.7 Document the lessons learnt and best practice in selected cases**

The findings of the studies and particular of task 4.2 will be documented in a user-friendly format. A document will be compiled which collates the successful practice and identifies how it supports improved service delivery to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. It is envisaged that such an output will be useful for municipalities and water sector institutions tasked with mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in their own work.

#### **4.8 Develop guidance for water sector institutions and municipalities in high prevalence areas**

The final task of the research project will be to highlight the findings of the study in the form of a guidance note targeted at municipalities in high prevalence areas. The guidance note will include sections that identify available technologies for improving service delivery, highlight the challenges to improve service delivery and potential mechanisms to overcome them, describe the opportunities for stakeholder partnerships and inter-governmental cooperation on HIV/AIDS mainstreaming and more.

### **5. DELIVERABLES**

The outputs of the project will include the following deliverables:

#### **5.1 Strategic planning and coordination support to DWAF**

- Minutes of all meetings between DWAF and the CSIR
- Minutes of HIV/AIDS Core Group meeting for October 2008
- Ad hoc outputs submitted at DWAF's request

#### **5.2 Communication and implementation of the Strategic Framework**

- Comment on the Free Basic Water and Free Basic Sanitation policy (Shantal to confirm if this is still required by DWAF)
- Specific outputs related to the roll-out of the approved Strategic Framework on Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in the water sector at DWAF's request

#### **5.3 Research project on water and sanitation challenges of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS**

- Proceedings of workshops with stakeholders in two case study areas
- A best practice document highlighting the lessons learnt from case studies of enhanced service delivery to people living with HIV/AIDS
- A guidance document for municipalities in high prevalence areas based on the findings of the two case studies

## **6. BUDGET**

A budget of R800 000 (excluding running costs) is available within this financial year to complete the project for DWAF. A rough break-down of the budget across the three main areas is as follows:

- R200 000 for strategic support to DWAF
- R100 000 for policy support in communicating and implementing the Strategic Framework
- R500 000 to undertaken the research project within this financial year

Please note that the exact available budget is not confirmed as some of the outstanding amounts from work carried out between June – September 2008 must still be reconciled.

## **7. CONCLUSION**

This document presents a suggested structure for CSIR's inputs into the mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS in the water sector by DWAF within this financial year. A detailed break-down of the timeframe for the various tasks will be compiled once the tasks themselves have been finalised. The document is being circulated to obtain comments and approval before the CSIR initiates any research. Your inputs will be greatly appreciated.