



# Progress on the development of a Strategic Framework for Mainstreaming HIV and AIDS in the Water Sector



water & forestry

Department:  
Water Affairs and Forestry  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

June 2009



# Contents

- Introduction
- Background
- Scope of Work
- Key Focus Areas
- Key Points to Consider
- Progress to Date
- Way Forward



# Background

- (WSSLG), now known as the Water Sector Leadership Group (WSLG) reacted in 2004 to a need for a co-ordinated response to the HIV & AIDS pandemic through the formation of the HIV&AIDS Core Group
- The decision to mainstream HIV & AIDS in the water sector came in 2005.
- Directorate WS: Policy and Strategy serves on the Core Group is tasked with facilitating the development and approval of a DRAFT STRATEGY for mainstreaming HIV & AIDS in the Water Sector



# Scope of Work

Output	Status
Consider internal and external mainstreaming	Done
Outline linkages between water, sanitation and HIV & AIDS	Done
Identify issues to be addressed in internal and external mainstreaming	Done
Review sector initiatives on HIV & AIDS	Done
Consider implications of sector initiatives for water sector mainstreaming	Done
Outline policy recommendations for mainstreaming and implications thereof	Done
Develop HIV & AIDS mainstreaming policy statement	Draft developed
Develop HIV & AIDS mainstreaming strategic framework	Draft developed
Liaise with other mainstreaming processes	Ongoing
Consult with key sector partners on outputs	Pending
Finalise documents & present to WSLG	Pending



# Key Focus Areas

1. Access to Safe, Reliable and Sufficient Water
2. Identifying and Targeting of HIV & AIDS Priority Areas
3. Water Provision Systems: Location, Design, Construction and Use
4. Policies, Plans and Guidelines
5. Training, Education and Awareness Raising
6. Water Decision Making and Tackling of Stigma
7. Water Resources Planning
8. Internal Mainstreaming
9. Cross Cutting Issues



# Key Points to Consider

- WS → vital role to play in reducing opportunistic infections, improving productive life & dignity of sufferers, and reducing vulnerability to infection;
- Design & location of water systems is key;
- Need for regional approach in many instances. Household approach will single out infected and affected;
- Emphasis on geographical prioritisation → high priority areas identified based on backlogs, infection rates & socio-economic conditions;
- Managing informal settlements is key → highest infection rates and lowest service delivery;



# Key Points to Consider (cont.)

- Propose increase FBW allowance to **50 litres per capita per day**, at least in **high priority urban areas**;
- In high priority areas, increased FBW allowance matched by WS in closer proximity (yard or home) & backlogs targeted;
- Reliable prevalence data at DM and LM level needed;
- Cost recovery policies from PLWHA (increased medical costs, decreased earnings potential) a strong concern.
- Funding issues are key: NT, MIG, co-funding approaches and Donor Assistance;
- Need for collaboration and partnership approach in sector is critical;
- Relevant training & inductions to include water perspective;



# Key Points to Consider (cont.)

- Revisions/additions to number of policies needed (e.g. WSDP Guidelines & Checklist, SFWS, PWSPs, WS Bylaws Guidelines, Monitoring Guidelines etc.
- WR and WS interface essential to monitor demographic changes and affect of increased water needs of PLWHAs;
- Water institutions → key role to play in assisting employees, reducing infection rates, tackling stigma and managing HIV related risks;
- Water institutions heavily impacted by epidemic to be identified and provided staff/financial support;
- Emphasise gender mainstreaming in policies, programmes, poverty alleviation projects and recruitment in EPWP initiatives.



# Progress to date

A submission on the HIV and AIDS Strategy has been made to DDG: Policy & Regulation to request permission to further liaise with stakeholders.


A meeting will be held between DDG: Policy & Regulation and CD: Water Services to inform the DDG on the role of the Water Services Policy and Strategy directorate and the Sector Collaboration Unit regarding the development of the HIV and AIDS Strategy and sector implications.

The HIV and AIDS Strategy is then to be presented to Top Management for endorsement and approval for submission to WSLG



# Progress to date (Cont...)

A 5-year business plan was developed that detailed the following activities:

- Support and capacity building to Regional offices in the development of regional HIV & AIDS implementation plans (Active Regions: NW, GP, FS and LP)
  - Two pilot projects where the integration of HIV & AIDS aspects were addressed: Evarton Community based project (GP) and Isulabasha project (KZN)
  - Further projects initiated: De Hoop Dam (LP) and Willow Park community (NW)
  - Roll-out of Best Practice model for internal mainstreaming of HIV & AIDS in water utilities
  - Identification of activities with WIN-SA for information dissemination, learning events and conferences
  - Awareness campaigns with sector partners to commemorate World AIDS Day
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Thank You