



MANAGEMENT SCIENCES *for* HEALTH

Focus on Southern Africa



Nurses in Malawi in their infection prevention T-shirts

MSH brings 36 years of experience in more than 135 countries to improving the availability, affordability, and quality of health services. MSH manages a major program in South Africa and works throughout Africa in pharmaceutical management, HIV & AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, reproductive health, maternal-child health, human capacity and leadership development, and systems strengthening.

SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

Reducing Child Morbidity and Strengthening Health Systems in Malawi

MSH collaborates with health staff at the central, zonal, and district levels to improve child and maternal health services and build the capacity of Malawi's health system. By focusing on improving the management and quality of services, scaling up Integrated Management of Childhood Illness, and training health staff, MSH has improved childhood health and scaled up HIV testing from 2003 to the present to reach more than 243,000 people in eight districts. More than 5,500 malnourished children have been enrolled in a community care program. A new district planning and budgeting process has been adopted nationwide, and hospitals have improved infection prevention practices.

How MSH Works to Strengthen Health Systems, Improve Services, and Build Capacity

Experience and Expertise MSH is an experienced and successful USAID partner in southern Africa. We manage the BASICS child survival program and major projects in Malawi, Rwanda, and South Africa, as well as two USAID-funded global programs: Rational Pharmaceutical Management (RPM) Plus and Leadership, Management and Sustainability. MSH is a leader in the Partnership for Supply Chain Management through the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and a partner in the Tuberculosis Control Assistance Program (TuberculosisCAP).

We apply our extensive experience in coordinating with multiple stakeholders—including the public, private, and nonprofit sectors and civil society—and donors to involve people in innovative approaches to improving public health. Our partnerships include work with the educational sector, community volunteers and associations, private service providers, religious leaders, and companies that operate health services. We have developed public-private partnerships such as a primary health care initiative with the Nandi Hills Tea Growers Association in Kenya and the Bambisanani Project, which provides HIV & AIDS care in South Africa.

Technical Leadership MSH is actively involved with US initiatives and international groups, such as PEPFAR, the President's Malaria Initiative, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and foundations. We help identify and resolve bottlenecks in financial and material resources, as well as identify and resolve issues of capacity in the management and oversight of national HIV & AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria programs and the Global Fund's country-level institutions.

MSH Management of Large, Multisectoral Programs

- Through the \$139 million REACH Program (Rural Expansion of Afghanistan's Community-Based Healthcare, 2003–06), MSH contributed to increasing the rate of births attended by a skilled attendant from 12% to 23% and contraceptive use from 16% to 26% in 13 of the country's 34 provinces.
- In Haiti, MSH has built a network of 27 nongovernmental organizations that provides health services to 2.8 million people in 150 public and private sites. The project has launched 170 HIV voluntary counseling and testing/prevention of mother-to-child transmission services centers.
- MSH has supported the decentralization of health services in the Philippines by managing a matching grant program that strengthened the performance of cost-effective public health services in more than 450 Local Government Units. These units represent one-third of the national population, and over half have succeeded in having at least one facility certified.

Highlight: Lesotho

Lesotho is among the top three countries in the world most affected by HIV & AIDS. The current adult HIV prevalence rate is about 23% nationally. MSH brings its long experience in southern Africa to address the challenges of scaling up HIV & AIDS and related services in Lesotho.

- Advance Africa (2000–05) supported repositioning of family planning, improved access to and quality of reproductive health services, and contributed to mitigating HIV & AIDS through major country programs in Angola, DR Congo, Mozambique, Senegal, and Zimbabwe. In Zimbabwe, Advance Africa and the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council implemented the highly successful Expanded Community-Based Distribution Programme in 16 districts.
- MSH assists PEPFAR to combat the AIDS pandemic throughout southern Africa. We carry out Emergency Plan–supported activities in prevention, treatment, care, and management. For example, as a result of an MSH-managed program in Zambia, 16,000 people are on antiretroviral therapy. MSH has helped develop and implement laboratory-quality monitoring systems and set up an HIV testing laboratory in Ndola, the country's second largest city. MSH is also working to strengthen laboratory management in Lesotho and Swaziland.

Lesotho is facing major challenges in deploying and managing a sufficient health workforce. The availability and retention of trained personnel, particularly in the public sector, are critical

if Lesotho is to meet its population's needs. MSH knows how to help.

- A team from the Lesotho Ministry of Health and Social Welfare participated in the first MSH Virtual Leadership Development Program for human resource managers in 2006. The team has since made progress on its action plan to develop an orientation program for health workers, and MSH is now conducting a Leadership Dialogue in Lesotho as part of the Southern Africa Human Capacity Development Coalition Project.
- Teams from the Capacity Project—of which MSH is a partner—visited Lesotho to help align key players around a human resource strategic plan and prepare for its implementation.

Medicines and supplies are another critical need. Under the USAID Regional HIV & AIDS Program for Southern Africa, RPM Plus focuses on management of sexually transmitted infections at health facilities at cross-border sites, where transmission of HIV is high. Through this initiative, known as Corridors of Hope, MSH assessed pharmaceutical management in Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. MSH is now working in Swaziland and through our office in Lesotho to improve drug and commodity supply systems in support of the scale-up of HIV & AIDS programs. MSH also conducted workshops to plan implementation of the pre-service curriculum for Pharmaceutical Management in Support of ART for the National University of Lesotho.

For additional information go to www.msh.org or please contact Lonna Milburn, Vice-President and Director of New Business Development, at +1 617.250.9159 or lmilburn@msh.org



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Saving lives and improving the health of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people by closing the gap between knowledge and action in public health