

Foreword

I would like to thank the South African Cabinet for affording me the opportunity to develop this Detailed Operational Plan on Comprehensive Care and Treatment for HIV and AIDS, after considering the Report of the Joint Treasury and Health Task Team that costed the provision of antiretroviral therapy in the public sector.

I accepted full responsibility for the development of this Plan since Cabinet asked me to do this work, and I immediately established a Task Team of various experts to assist the Department of Health in developing the operational plan.

This exercise has given the Department of Health the opportunity to review its current programmes on HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Maternal Child and Women's Health, Nutrition and Traditional Medicines.

It compelled the Department of Health to review its organisational structure and function in order to integrate and properly coordinate the implementation of its health programmes across line functions, with other relevant departments.

This work has brought into sharp focus the need for strong and sustainable partnerships in health care delivery with the private sector and civil society, in particular the fight against the spread of HIV infection and the impact of AIDS.

The plan presents various options and choices to South Africans for the care and treatment of HIV and AIDS. These options are presented in a manner that will afford Cabinet the opportunity to analyse and evaluate, through a rational framework, and to arrive at a pragmatic and defensible decision that is based on compassion, equity, justice, fairness, universal access to basic health care, and sustainability.

Dr. ME Tshabalala-Msimang
Minister of Health of South Africa

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Minister of Health, Dr. Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, for giving us the privilege of working on this Detailed Operational Plan for Comprehensive Care and Treatment of HIV and AIDS, and for her leadership.

We would like to thank our colleagues, the Task Team members, for accepting the responsibility to develop this operational plan and working tirelessly to get this work done effectively, efficiently and on time, often at the expense of their work and family commitments.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Department of Health for their technical and administrative support, and the various stakeholders whom we consulted during the process of developing this operational plan.

Although this plan was coordinated nationally, it was built on the hard work done by provinces that provided valuable inputs and insights to the Task Team. We therefore wish to thank the MECs for Health, the Heads of Health, the Provincial AIDS Programme Managers and health workers at the heart of the service for cooperating with this effort and making it a success, and in particular members of the public that we interacted with.

In a special way, we would like to thank the William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation, led by the Chairperson Mr. Ira Magaziner, for providing invaluable technical support to the team.

Similarly, we wish to thank Mr. Vuyo Ray Mabope, the Special Advisor to the Minister of Health, for his guidance on strategic policy issues and his editorial contribution.

Special thanks to all the patients and health personnel who agreed to participate in the development of this plan, without whom the plan would not have been possible.

We hope that all South Africans who read and implement this plan will be proud to do so and that many people living with HIV and AIDS will benefit from it.

We commit and offer ourselves, and all the Task Team members, to assist the Department of Health in whatever way possible during the implementation of this operational plan.

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Dr. Anthony MBewu
Chairperson of the Task Team

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Dr. Nono Simelela
Coordinator of the Task Team

Task Team Members

1. **Dr. Anthony D. MBewu**, the Executive Director for Research at the Medical Research Council of South Africa, Chairperson of the Task Team.
2. **Dr. Nono Simelela**, the Cluster Manager for HIV, AIDS and TB in the Department of Health, Coordinator of the Task Team.
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8. **Mrs. Rose Mdlalose**, Director for Human Resources Development, Department of Health
9. **Mr. Thanduxolo Doro**, National Association for People Living with AIDS
10. **Ms. Hasina Subedar**, Registrar and CEO of the South African Nursing Council
11. **Prof. Thanyani Mariba**, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pretoria, and Chairperson of the Health Professions Council of South Africa
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15. **Dr. Mokhethi Radebe**, Major-General in the South African Military Health Services

16. **Dr. Fazel Rander**, Health Advisor to the South African Chamber of Mines
17. **Mr. Vuyo Ray Mabo**, Special Advisor to the Minister of Health
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