

7

Guiding Principles

The principles guiding the implementation of the NSP 2007-2011 are in keeping with the imperatives of the Constitution, those outlined in the Comprehensive Plan, and *Batho Pele*. These Principles are:

- **Supportive Leadership:** The NSP should be driven by South Africa's political leadership with the support of leaders from all sectors.
- **Leadership role of government:** The effective implementation of the NSP and the attainment of its goals depends on government leadership in resource allocation, policy development, and effective co-ordination of all programmes and interventions.
- **Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV:** There must be meaningful involvement of people living with HIV in all aspects of the national response.
- **Young People (aged 15-24) as a Priority Group for HIV prevention:** The trend of the HIV epidemic can be reversed if young people are informed and empowered to change their behaviour and reduce their risk. In all interventions there must be a special plan on reaching young people and consciously involving them in activities.
- **Effective Communication:** Clear and ongoing communication is an essential tool for the attainment of the aims of the plan.
- **Effective Partnerships:** All sectors of government and all stakeholders of civil society shall be involved in the AIDS response.

- **Promoting Social Change and Cohesion:** The national movement on moral regeneration and values promotion shall be enhanced to support sustainable behavioural change.
- **Tackling Inequality and Poverty:** The NSP affirms government's programmes and measures to ensure progressive realisation of rights to education, health care services and social security for all people of South Africa. HIV and AIDS interventions will be implemented in a way that complements and strengthens other developmental programmes.
- **Promoting Equality for Women and Girls:** The NSP recognises the particularly vulnerable position of women and girls to HIV, AIDS and its social impact. It commits to prioritising interventions focussing on the causes of gender inequality, and the horrific impact that HIV has on many women and girls.
- **Protecting and Respecting Children:** The impact of HIV on the rights of children is enormous. Respect for the best interests of the child dictates that children's rights and needs must be at the forefront of all interventions for HIV prevention, treatment and support.
- **Recognising Diversity:** The NSP recognises the special needs and diversity of disability rights as human rights and recognises disability as a social and developmental issue.
- **Challenging Stigma:** The stigma against people with HIV undermines dignity and hinders an effective response to HIV and AIDS. The NSP is committed to ending all stigma by creating knowledge and competence about HIV especially within our communities.
- **Ensuring Equality and Non-discrimination against Marginalised Groups:** The NSP is committed to challenging discrimination against groups of people who are marginalised, including people with disabilities, orphans, refugees, asylum seekers, foreign migrants, sex workers, men-who-have-sex-with-men, intravenous drug users, and older persons. All these groups have a right to equal access to interventions for HIV prevention, treatment and support.
- **Personal Responsibility:** Every person in South Africa has a responsibility to protect themselves and others from HIV infection, to know their HIV status and to seek appropriate care and support,
- **Building Community Leadership:** Programmes shall be informed and owned by communities and their leaders.
- **Using Scientific Evidence:** The interventions outlined in the NSP shall, wherever possible, be evidence-informed.
- **Strengthening Care Systems:** Strengthening of health and social systems, and organisational capacity of NGOs, FBOs and CBOs, is central to effective implementation.
- **Accessibility:** All essential commodities including prevention technologies, medicines, diagnostics tools, nutritional and food supplements, shall be made affordable and accessible.



- **Monitoring Progress:** All interventions shall be subject to monitoring and evaluation. A budget of between 4% and 7% of the total HIV and AIDS budget should be dedicated to M&E.
- **Financial Sustainability:** No credible, evidence-based, costed HIV and AIDS and STI sector plan should go unfunded. There should be predictable and sustainable financial resources for the implementation of all interventions. Additional resources from development partners shall be harmonised to align with policies, priorities and fund programme and financial gaps.



