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Purpose of the Strategic Plan 2007-2011

The NSP 2007-2011 is designed to guide South Africa's response to HIV & AIDS & STIs control in the next five years. This strategy document draws on lessons learned in responding to HIV and AIDS in the last decade. The NSP builds on existing strengths and successes, considers the policy and legal environment, developments in scientific evidence, international practices, estimated needs for treatment and current coverage rates, demonstrable capacities, projects potential achievements by 2011, is informed by resources available, looks at innovative ways to address areas of weakness, and sets ambitious targets to meet the broad aims the national response to HIV and AIDS and STIs. Linked to this plan is a Framework for Monitoring and Evaluation.

Practically the new NSP seeks to strengthen and improve the efficiency of existing services and infrastructure and introduce additional interventions based on recent advances in knowledge.

The two main goals of the Operational Plan for Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Care, Management and Treatment for South Africa are to provide comprehensive care and treatment for people living with HIV and AIDS and to facilitate the strengthening of the national health system. The NSP 2007-2011, however, is not a plan for the health sector alone. Instead, it seeks to be relevant to all agencies working on HIV and AIDS in South Africa, within and outside the government.

The underlying basic premise is the recognition that no single sector, ministry, department or organisation can by itself be held responsible for the control of HIV and AIDS.

It is envisaged that all government departments and sectors of civil society will use this plan as a basis to develop their own HIV and AIDS strategic and operational plans to achieve a focussed, coherent, country-wide approach to fighting HIV and AIDS. It will be used as a basis for engagement with national and international partners on matters that pertain to HIV and AIDS.

Where there are policy gaps, these will be addressed, and financial and other resources will be mobilised accordingly. This alignment and harmonisation of efforts will also enable consistent and effective monitoring and evaluation of the national response to HIV and AIDS, which will enable further revision and improvement of interventions.





