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## Structural Arrangements

The multi-sectoral national response is managed by various structures at different levels. Each government ministry has a focal person and team responsible for planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring HIV and AIDS and STI interventions. The implementing agencies are the provinces, local authorities, the private sector and a range of CBOs. Structures in the different sectors vary according to size of organisation, degree of organisation of the sector, as well as the profile of HIV and AIDS programmes in the organisation.

The following presents a brief overview of some of the important structures at national and provincial levels and their specific roles and functions relating to HIV and AIDS.

### 9.1 Cabinet

The Cabinet is the highest political authority in the country. HIV and AIDS issues are not regularly discussed at the weekly cabinet meetings as this responsibility has been deferred to the Inter-Ministerial Committee on AIDS (IMC) and SANAC.

### 9.2 South African National AIDS Council (SANAC)

SANAC is the highest body that provides strategic and political guidance, as well as support and monitoring for sector programmes for HIV and AIDS and STIs. In 2006, a process of restructuring SANAC was undertaken and consensus on the broad structural arrangements was reached as follows:

- A National AIDS Council - The high-level overall coordinating body
- Sector level coordination
- Programme level coordination

The specific objectives of SANAC are to:

- advise government on HIV, AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) policy and strategy, and related matters;
- create and strengthen partnerships for an expanded national response to HIV and AIDS in South Africa;
- receive and disseminate all sectorial interventions to HIV and AIDS and consider challenges;
- oversee continual monitoring and evaluation of all aspects of the NSP.

The Deputy President is the Chairperson of the Council and sector representation is at highest level (President/Chairperson). The Health Ministry is an ex officio member at all levels. The Health Department also serves as the secretariat of SANAC.

### **9.3 The Inter-Ministerial Committee on AIDS**

The Inter-Ministerial Committee on AIDS (IMC) has been appointed by Cabinet to support and monitor work on HIV and AIDS, including that done by SANAC. It is chaired by the Deputy President and is composed of the Ministers of Health, Social Development, Education, Agriculture and Land Affairs, Mining, Public Service and Administration. The IMC serves at the interface between Cabinet and SANAC, providing leadership on urgent matters that may arise between SANAC meetings. It represents government at the high level Council.

### **9.4 The Policy Committee of the National Health Council (NHC)**

The Policy Committee of the NHC consists of the Minister of Health, the Deputy Minister of Health, the Director General of Health, all the Deputy Directors General in the DOH, all provincial health MECs and their Heads of Department. The committee meets every six weeks, and is the body that approves national policies and guidelines. HIV and AIDS related matters are discussed as it becomes necessary and relevant policy decisions are made. The role of the National Health Consultative Forum (a structure of the National Health Act) in this regard is being defined.

### **9.5 Government clusters**

Government departments at national and provincial level are organised around five clusters (economic; social; governance; justice; crime prevention and safety; and international relations), to ensure greater collaboration around cross cutting policy and implementation issues. Clusters meet at both Ministerial and official (DG) levels and are repeated at provincial level. The Social Sector Cluster is the main cluster that deals with health and social matters. HIV and AIDS is one of the programmes on Government's Programme of Action for which the Social Sector Cluster is responsible. The social cluster is well placed to provide leadership and support to other clusters and public sector departments to ensure maximum discussion and government-wide programming on HIV and AIDS at both national and provincial level. The Social Cluster is well placed to perform this function at both national and provincial government levels.

### **9.6 HIV and AIDS units in government departments**

Each government department has a focal person to manage the implementation of relevant HIV and AIDS programmes. HIV and AIDS issues are brought to the attention of the above national bodies by the HIV & AIDS Units. It is the responsibility of these units to prepare briefing documents for the national forums, and attend meetings to provide further information to aid decision-making in national committees and bodies. They are also responsible for development of relevant strategies, policies and programmes; ensuring availability of finance and other resources; and for providing support to implementing agencies in their departments. This cluster HIV and AIDS in the DOH also provides secretariat support to SANAC. Government departments, as well as sectors of civil society, report regularly to SANAC.

### 9.7 Implementing agencies

These are mainly provinces, districts, and local authorities. The private sector and NGOs augment the services that are provided by government. The structures for different government departments are designed to suit the specific needs of the departments, but the principle of inter-governmental relations are the same. It is envisaged that at provincial and district level, the same national level structures will be replicated so that the critical mass of human resources for effective programme implementation is in place.

Figure 8: Structural Organisation

