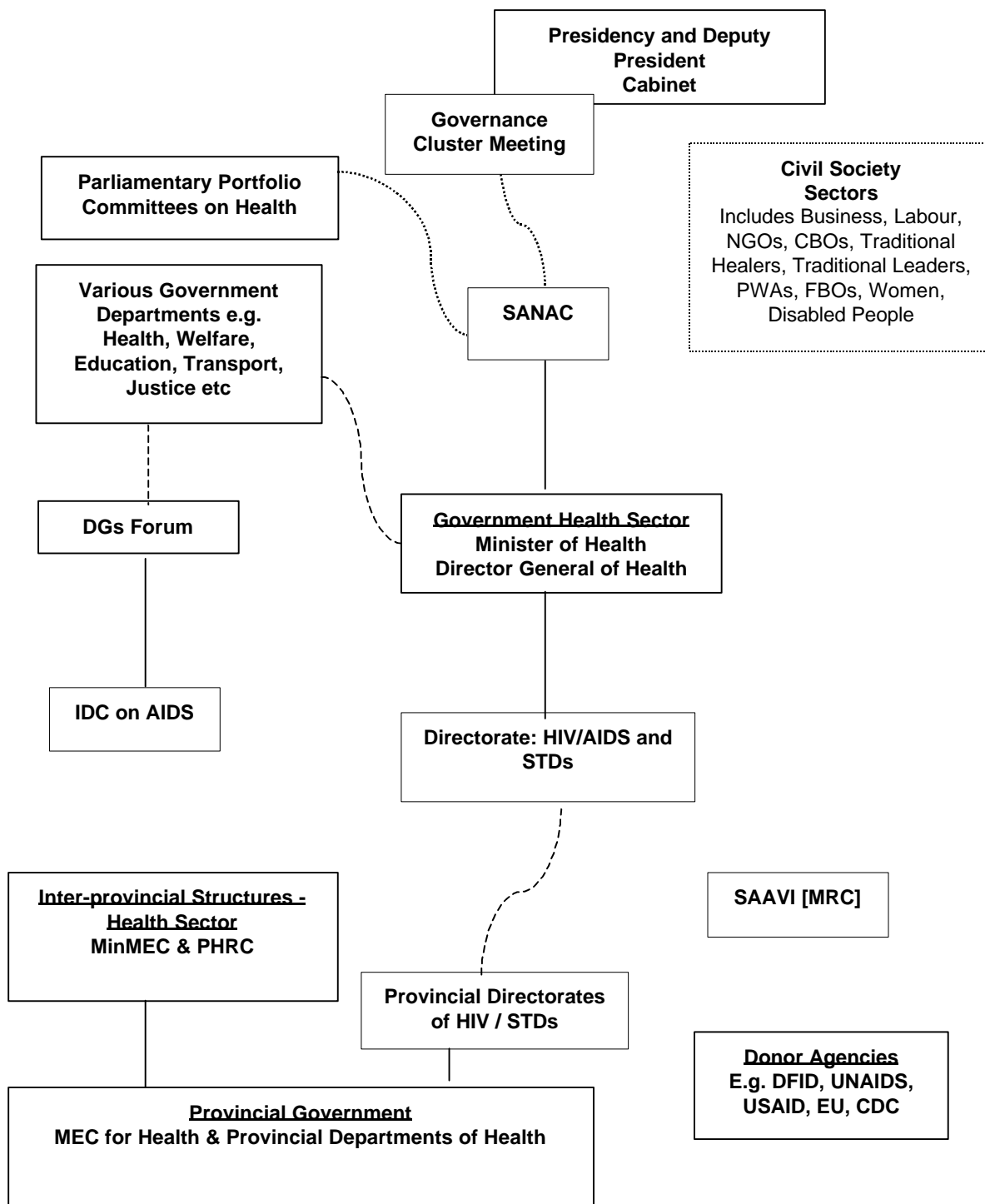


Diagram 1: Relevant National and Provincial Structures



PROVINCIAL HEALTH RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE (PHRC)

This committee consists of all Provincial Heads of Health and meets on a monthly basis to discuss the strategic issues of national and provincial importance. HIV/AIDS is a standing agenda item where reports from the National HIV/AIDS/STD Directorate and Provincial HIV/AIDS Co-ordinators are discussed. Once the PHRC has discussed and approved documentation, it is referred to the MinMEC for the political approval.

DIRECTOR-GENERALS FORUM

This forum consists of Director Generals from all the National Government Departments and meets regularly. HIV/AIDS is a standing agenda item where reports from the IMC are discussed.

HIV/AIDS AND STD DIRECTORATE, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

HIV/AIDS issues are brought to the attention of the above national bodies by the Department of Health's Directorate of HIV/AIDS and STDs. This Directorate prepares briefing documents for these national forums, and attends meetings to provide further information to aid decision-making in these national committees and bodies.

4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles for HIV/AIDS and STD prevention, treatment and care efforts for South Africa have been previously adopted in the *National AIDS Plan for South Africa, 1994 – 1995*, and the Department of Health *White Paper for the Transformation of the Health System in South Africa, 1997*, and are reaffirmed.

- ⌘ People with HIV and AIDS shall be involved in all prevention, intervention and care strategies;
- ⌘ People with HIV and AIDS, their partners, families and friends shall not suffer from any form of discrimination;
- ⌘ The vulnerable position of women in society shall be addressed to ensure that they do not suffer discrimination, nor remain unable to take effective measures to prevent infection;
- ⌘ Confidentiality and informed consent with regard to HIV testing and test results shall be protected;
- ⌘ Education, counselling and health care shall be sensitive to the culture, language and social circumstances of all people at all times;
- ⌘ The government has a crucial responsibility with regard to the provision of education, care and welfare of all people of South Africa;
- ⌘ Full community participation in prevention and care shall be developed and fostered;
- ⌘ All intervention and care strategies shall be subject to critical evaluation and assessment;
- ⌘ All sectors of government and other stakeholders in civil society shall be involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS;
- ⌘ A holistic approach to education and care shall be developed and sustained;

- ⌘ Capacity building will be emphasised to accelerate HIV/AIDS prevention and control measures; and
- ⌘ STD prevention and control are central elements in the response to HIV/AIDS.

5. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND LEAD AGENCIES

The primary goals are to:

- ⌘ Reduce the number of new HIV infections (especially among youth); and,
- ⌘ Reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS on individuals, families and communities.

The following general strategies will be stressed:

- ⌘ An effective and culturally appropriate information, education and communications (IEC) strategy;
- ⌘ Increase access and acceptability to Voluntary HIV Counselling and Testing;
- ⌘ Improve STD management and the treatment of opportunistic infections and promote increased condom use to reduce STD and HIV transmission; and
- ⌘ Improve the care and treatment of HIV positive persons and persons living with AIDS to promote a better quality of life and limit the need for hospital care.

The Strategic Plan is structured according to the following four areas:

- ⌘ Prevention;
- ⌘ Treatment, care and support;
- ⌘ Human and legal rights; and
- ⌘ Monitoring, research and surveillance.

In addition, the youth will be broadly targeted as a priority population group, especially for prevention efforts.

NATIONAL SET OF PRIMARY INDICATORS AND SURVEILLANCE DATA FOR THE COUNTRY

South Africa as a whole needs a set of key indicators that can be used to track the overall response of the country to the epidemic. This means not only tracking the course of the epidemic over the next five years, but also tracking changes the attitude, social values, health care practices, socio-economic conditions and behaviours that act as predisposing factors of the epidemic.

The following list of indicators are proposed as a combination of various indicators, that collectively can be used to judge how well the country is doing in terms of tackling the HIV epidemic. Where necessary, mechanisms to collect the required data will be developed.

General trend of the epidemic

1. Prevalence of HIV amongst ante-natal clinic attendees (using national sentinel surveillance procedure)

Youth

2. Prevalence of HIV amongst ante-natal clinic attendees below the age of 18 years (*using national sentinel surveillance procedure*)
3. Teenage pregnancy incidence and rate

Prevention

4. Proportion of STD cases effectively managed using syndromic treatment in a) the public sector; b) the private sector
5. Percentage of sexually active women using condoms
6. Proportion of children leaving primary school who are fully informed of the causes and methods of transmission of HIV

Socio-economic indicators predisposing to HIV transmission

7. Proportion of household living below the minimum poverty line
8. Unemployment rate

Abuse of women

9. The number of reported rape cases
10. The number of cases of workplace legislation abuse related to employees contracting HIV

Social values, human rights and acceptance in the community

11. The number of VCT clients
12. The number of homeless children, as a proxy indicator of the capacity of society to care for AIDS orphans.
13. The number of people “coming out” as people living with AIDS

The following section focuses in more detail on those strategies to be pursued in the next 5 years in order to bring about meaningful change in the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa.

PRIORITY AREA 1: PREVENTION

- Goal 1: Promote safe and healthy sexual behaviour
- Goal 2: Improve the management and control of STDs
- Goal 3: Reduce mother-to-child transmission (MTCT)
- Goal 4: Address issues relating to blood transfusion and HIV
- Goal 5: Provide appropriate post-exposure services
- Goal 6: Improve access to Voluntary HIV Counselling and Testing (VCT)

PRIORITY AREA 2: TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT

- Goal 7: Provide treatment, care and support services in health facilities

Goal 8: Provide adequate treatment, care and support services in communities

Goal 9: Develop and expand the provision of care to children and orphans

PRIORITY AREA 3: RESEARCH, MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE

Goal 10: Ensure AIDS vaccine development

Goal 11: Investigate treatment and care options

Goal 12: Conduct policy research

Goal 13: Conduct regular surveillance

PRIORITY AREA 4: HUMAN AND LEGAL RIGHTS

Goal 14: Create an appropriate social environment

Goal 14: Develop an appropriate legal and policy environment

PRIORITY AREA 1: PREVENTION

GOAL 1: PROMOTE SAFE AND HEALTHY SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

Objective	Selected Strategies	Lead Agencies
Promote improved health seeking behaviour and adoption of safe sex practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Produce and disseminate IEC material and messages to different stakeholders b) Implement life skills education in all primary and secondary schools c) Increase the number of trade unions who have implemented HIV/AIDS & STD policies and programmes d) Facilitate and support the trucking industry's AIDS High Transmission project 	DOE, DOH, NGOs, Trade Unions, DOL, DOH Youth Sector, DOHA
Broaden responsibility for the prevention of HIV to all sectors of government and civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop sector-specific policies and plans for the prevention of HIV/AIDS/STDs, focussing specially on the following sectors: Government sectors: Health; Education; Welfare; Local Government; Transport; Justice; Police; Correctional Services; Home Affairs; Civil society sectors: Traditional leaders; Youth; Faith-Based Organisations; Business; Entertainment and media. 	DOH, SANAC, All Sectors
Implement HIV/AIDS prevention for migrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop an health programme with an HIV focus as part of the Maputo corridor project b) Facilitate cross-border interventions c) Work in partnership with other SADC countries 	DOH, SADC, UNAIDS
Develop and implement counselling and care programmes for all national government departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Create public awareness of HIV/AIDS & STDs in all government departments b) Identify, train, and support peer educators c) Distribute condoms in all government department buildings 	DOH, Government Departments
Improve access to and use of male and female condoms, especially amongst 15-25 year olds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Expand condom distribution through non-traditional outlets b) Improve access to condoms in high transmission areas (e.g. truck stops, borders, mines and brothels) c) Increase acceptance, attitudes, perceptions, efficacy and use of condoms as a form of contraception among the youth 	DOH, All Sectors