

Southern Africa Capacity Initiative (SACI)



United Nations Development Programme

Like all families, they deserve the best. But what kind of future can they expect if their community loses its battle with AIDS?

In southern Africa, HIV & AIDS are claiming the lives of society's most productive – farmers, doctors, teachers, civil servants, scientists, tax payers, employees, bread winners, workers and more.



What will they Eat?

- Will they be too incapacitated by HIV & AIDS to grow – or afford – the food they need?
- Will others produce enough for them to buy at the market?
- Will they get the advice they need on farming techniques?

Food production is declining as workers succumb to HIV & AIDS or leave farms to care for the dying. In some southern African countries, output of agricultural goods has been cut nearly in half by AIDS. Others are projected to lose a fifth or even a quarter of their agricultural workforce to HIV & AIDS by 2020.

How will the children LEARN?

- Will they drop out of school to care for a sick relative?
- Will they become AIDS orphans too poor to afford school?
- Or will they become like so many other teacherless students?

Every day, southern Africa loses more and more teachers to AIDS. In some countries, teachers are dying of AIDS faster than new ones can be trained. And the high number of children orphaned by AIDS is placing increased demand on teachers to provide emotional support for these vulnerable students.

Who will CARE for them?

- Will there be a doctor, nurse or midwife left at their local clinic?

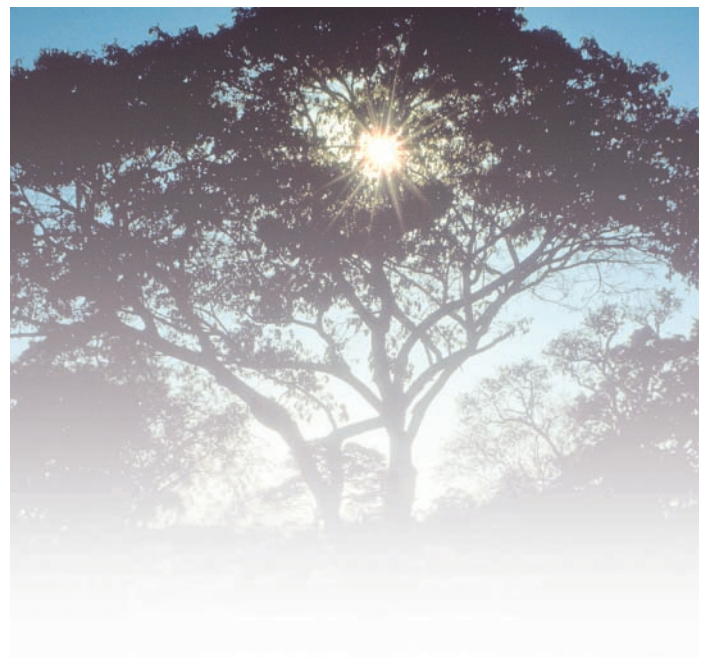
More and more health care facilities are being overstretched by the demands of HIV & AIDS. Health professionals are also contracting the virus faster than the general population. Those who stay healthy face low morale and high absenteeism as they try to cope with the burden the disease is placing on their work and families.

These Challenges Can Be Overcome!

UNDP believes that the most seriously HIV & AIDS-impacted southern African countries should be able to sustainably plan, manage and deploy human resources to provide essential social services to their populations.

Targeting the most seriously affected countries in southern Africa, the Southern African Capacity Initiative (SACI) aims to ensure that by 2008, these countries will have:

- offset the capacity erosion in key sectors (e.g., health education, agriculture); and
- set the foundation for the management, planning and utilization of national human resources and for the provision of key social services in an HIV & AIDS era.



Southern African Capacity Initiative

About SACI

The United Nations system is developing a strategy to respond to the interlocking challenges of HIV & AIDS, food insecurity and governance. SACI represents UNDP's direct contribution to those efforts.

What is SACI?

SACI aims to help Southern African countries with very high HIV & AIDS prevalence rates to arrest the capacity erosion caused by the epidemic in key sectors and meet their development challenges for a brighter future. These countries, already struggling to deliver essential public services to their populations under the best of circumstances, now must cope with the crippling loss of valuable human resources to HIV and AIDS.

SACI will be implemented differently in different countries, depending on the specific circumstances and needs, as well as on initiatives already under way. We will make maximum use of technological innovations to improve capacity and expand outreach.

How does SACI work?

Through SACI, UNDP is working to support governments' efforts in the following areas:

- **Adapting and developing policies** to effectively respond to the unique challenges of providing services in the HIV & AIDS era – developing leadership capacity and skills, and empowering institutions to continue functioning and delivering services
- **Promoting new and expanded options for delivering key services** – fostering effective new partnerships between and among governments, businesses, schools, and religious and other civil society institutions, bringing them together to strengthen capacity and finding innovative technology solutions to support their efforts
- **Meeting intensified demands for skills** resulting from the HIV & AIDS epidemic – finding ways to accelerate skills training in key areas, strengthening the learning infrastructure and expanding learning and training opportunities
- **Stabilising capacity** to offset the immediate loss of skilled human resources in affected sectors by mobilizing volunteers locally, regionally and globally to confront critical lost capacity in the short term – and establish the foundations for a sustainable long-term strategy

Why target southern Africa?

While southern Africa represents only about 2% of the world's population, it is home to over 30% of all people living with HIV and AIDS worldwide. It has the world's highest levels of HIV infection. These figures point to the pressing need to assure the continued availability of essential skills, services and know-how that are being depleted by the impact of HIV & AIDS. SACI will target the most seriously affected countries in the region.

Why focus on the impact of HIV?

SACI focuses on confronting the *impact* of HIV & AIDS on capacity – an area which has received little or no attention until now. Traditional approaches to planning and service delivery will not solve the HIV & AIDS capacity crisis. These approaches assume a minimum level of local capacity and do not sufficiently account for the particular challenges imposed by the epidemic: sick and dying service providers, overstretched institutions, accelerated brain drain and dramatic shifts in service supply and demand.



How can YOU help to address the capacity challenge?

- **Remain HIV negative**
- **If living with HIV, remain healthy to make a contribution to your community**
- **Bring SACI and the capacity challenge to the attention of your local leaders**
- **Talk about the capacity challenge in your community or workplace**
- **Join your community in confronting its capacity gap**



UNDP is the global development network of the United Nations system. It advocates for change, and links countries to the knowledge, experience and resources their people need to improve their lives

For more reading on SACI and the impact of HIV on capacity, visit www.undp.org

For more information on UNDP's work in Africa, visit www.undp.org/rba