



## Municipalities are among the vital role-players in the fight against HIV and AIDS

Municipalities are the much-needed partners in the fight against HIV and AIDS because of their closeness to the local realities of people and communities.

Municipal Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) can be useful tools in developing local-level responses to HIV and AIDS as the developmental mandate of local government requires municipalities to make sure that their planning and budgeting procedures prioritise the basic needs of their communities in a way that fosters social and economic development.

Another effective tool for municipalities and their officials to assist in integrating and coordinating widespread and sustainable responses to HIV and AIDS-related issues are Local AIDS Councils (LACs), which are structures that help implement the National HIV and AIDS and STI Strategic Plan at the local level.

LACs have the following responsibilities:

- **Raising awareness:** Promoting HIV and AIDS awareness in the community
- **Advising local government:** Advising local government on HIV and AIDS-related matters
- **Coordinating:** Coordinating the implementation of HIV and AIDS programs and strategies
- **Monitoring:** Monitoring and evaluating the rights of people living with HIV and AIDS
- **Mobilizing resources:** Mobilizing resources for HIV and AIDS programs and strategies
- **Recommending research:** Recommending research on HIV and AIDS
- **Reporting:** Reporting to the Provincial Council on AIDS or District AIDS Council

Through their respective roles and responsibilities within municipalities, municipal officials and councillors can also assist in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

While Mayors can set the agenda for these issues in their municipalities, Speakers can ensure that councillors champion HIV and AIDS in their communities. IDP managers can use IDPs as tools to fight the epidemic by mainstreaming HIV and AIDS in IDP procedures, and municipal managers can make sure that HIV and AIDS-related issues are mainstreamed in municipal plans, programmes, and projects.

Local governments can play a crucial role in the multisectoral response to HIV and AIDS and the sector will continue to collaborate with government, civil society, and other stakeholders in the fight against the epidemic.

### Commemorative events

- The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children Campaign is a United Nations campaign, which is held annually from 25 November (International Day for No Violence Against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day).
- Other key commemorative days observed annually during this 16-day period include World Aids Day on 1 December and the International Day for Persons with Disabilities on 3 December.
- International Anti-Corruption Day is commemorated annually on 9 December in recognition of the United Nations Convention against Corruption which was signed in Mexico in 2003.
- International Human Rights Day is marked every year on 10 December with activities led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Day marks the anniversary of the Assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 18 December International Migrants Day on 4 December 2000. The International convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families was adopted on 18 December 1990 (Resolution 45/158).

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