

## REVIEWING ACHIEVEMENTS & SUSTAINING FUTURE PROGRESS

As we approach the end of the EU donor-funded phase of the HEAIDS Programme it is time for some reflection on what has been achieved at both institutional and sector levels, what improvements have been effected, what challenges we encountered during implementation, what problems remain to be addressed and how the necessary resources to address these problems can be sourced and allocated in HEAIDS phase three.

Over the past two years institutions have been utilising HEAIDS grant funding to strengthen and improve their HIV/AIDS programmes. This direct funding (R59.3m) enabled institutions to undertake a range of thematic activities which supported the development of comprehensive institutional responses. While some wellness infrastructure, such as campus health clinics, predates the grants many institutions took the opportunity afforded by the grants to enhance their health services and infrastructure with emphasis on meeting the needs of multi-site campuses.

Together with improvements to systems and human resource capacity, they suggest that institutional HIV/AIDS programmes should now be better positioned to systematically address identified needs. The approach advocated by HEAIDS continues to be one of sustainability. We should be able to identify to what extent we have institutionalised some actions of

our grant programmes by engaging with the following questions:

- Has action been taken to ensure that additional positions funded under the grant are absorbed into institutional staff allocations?
- Has our delivery of services improved?
- Do we have effective reporting systems in place?

Considerable funding was also allocated to sector interventions targeting critical areas for research and development. This research was underpinned by extensive consultation with key stakeholders and beneficiaries. The institutions actively participated in the development of a sector policy framework, in HIV/AIDS curriculum development for teacher education programmes, in the development of a sector framework to guide institutional workplace programmes and in the first sector-wide prevalence and behaviour study.

Research aimed at the identification and sharing of good practice in prevention should be completed in early 2010 together with the completion of research into graduate HIV/AIDS competency requirements. We want to ascertain to what extent these initiatives have enabled the emergence of a co-ordinated sector response and determine the following:

- Is our institutional policy now underpinned by institutional plans?
- Do our oversight/co-ordinating structures have the necessary mandate to effectively implement institutional and sector programmes?
- Is there synergy between institutional and sector monitoring and evaluation?
- Is there committed institutional and sector leadership and is this leadership visible?
- Do we with speak with one voice and is our collective voice being heard?

A key deliverable of the second phase was the identification of sustainable funding mechanisms to support institutional and sector responses beyond current donor funding. Costs and funding sources for existing programmes were investigated with a view to determining funding gaps. This research-driven consultative process is at an advanced stage and a series of regional workshops on the proposed funding mechanisms has been completed. The outcomes will enable a realistic costing of phase three and the evidence from sector research and institutional reporting will inform the strategy going forward.

As we implement the sector policy framework and measure progress against our agreed indicators, tangible evidence will emerge that will enable us to more systematically assess the effectiveness and impact of our strategies and interventions. It is critical that resources are appropriately allocated and used to reduce prevalence and incidence.

### A NOTE ON HEADS

The Higher Education HIV/AIDS Programme is an initiative of the Department of Education undertaken by Higher Education South Africa (HESA). It is funded by the European Union under the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development in terms of a partnership agreement with the Department. The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of HESA and HEAIDS and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union or the Department of Education.

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### NOTICES

Our new programme director, **Dr. Gail Andrews**, holds a PhD in Public Health from the UWC and has extensive successful experience in public health and programme management. As a senior lecturer in the Department of Nursing at UWC, and Head of Health Promotion in the School of Public Health at the University of Pretoria, she brings personal appreciation for the higher education sub-sector. **Ms. Managa Pillay** remains with HEAIDS in her capacity as Programme Manager.

**Ms. Margie Beatham** also joined HEAIDS on October as Procurement and Compliance Officer. Her 23 years of procurement experience includes working with the UN World Food Programme as a National Procurement Officer, managing donor funds and training the WFP worldwide on UN Procurement Policies and Procedures.

The HEAIDS PCU hosted the final workshop for 2009 in Johannesburg on 25 and 26 November. The meeting afforded the opportunity to share experiences and thoughts by engaging in:

- Sharing of institutional reflections.
- Sharing of national outputs within the Policy and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.
- Strategic planning for HEAIDS Phase three.
- Sector engagement with SANAC.

The invited guests included the HICC chairperson and four HICC members from each institution.

### GRADUATE SURVEY:

#### Investigating graduate HIV/AIDS competency requirements

The field work for this sector study began in late October 2009, upon receipt of ethical approval from the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC).

The study will explore the needs and expectations of employers with respect to graduate HIV/AIDS competencies and ascertain the higher education subsectoral awareness of and responsiveness to these needs. The study is being carried out by the Higher Education Centre for Education Policy Development and will involve interviews and focus groups with stakeholders and beneficiaries of higher education. The findings will assist in making informed decisions regarding the required competencies and how and where the identified requirements are to be addressed. HEAIDS is grateful for institutions' support in this process. Together we are developing a base-line sector picture from which to build a truly evidence-based subsectoral response.

Contact Michelle Buchler, tel 011 403 6131, email [buchler@cepd.org.za](mailto:buchler@cepd.org.za) if you have any queries. ■

### CPUT *Living Openly Positive* event encourages HIV/AIDS awareness through creativity



On 17 August, the Office of the Dean of Students hosted an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign for CPUT staff and students themed 'Living Openly Positive' at the Belville Campus Auditorium.

The campaign was the outcome of discussions held at meetings of the CPUT HEAIDS Institutional Organisation Committee (HICC), which is chaired by Dean of Students, Ms Cora Njoli Motale.

The inspiring programme featured speakers Derrick Fine and Elaine Maane from the Openly Positive Trust, who highlighted their personal experiences and discussed the responsibilities they faced after confirming their status.

They encouraged guests to come forward and fight stigma by sharing their stories and experiences of living with and being affected by HIV and AIDS. The CPUT programme also featured several operatic melodies by the Gugulethu Tenors, a group of talented local youths with powerful voices.

Launched in 2007, the Openly Positive Trust is a non-profit organisation focused on building a "supportive, stigma-free environment for people living with HIV and AIDS" and helping them to live positively and disclose their status.

The trust encourages "open living" with HIV and AIDS, by sharing the stories and experiences of people living with HIV and acts as visible role models in promoting positive living, health and non-stigmatising communication around HIV/AIDS.

Other goals include working towards equality and non-discrimination for people living with the virus and implementing the GIPA Principle (the Greater Involvement of People living with HIV

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### UP hosts *Imagined Futures IV: Sexualities and Silences*

Following on the success of the Imagined Futures Conferences I, II and III, Imagined Futures IV was hosted at the Centre for the Study of AIDS, at the University of Pretoria (UP) on 29 and 30 September 2009, to discuss sexualities and silences within university environments and facilitate networking related to campus HIV and AIDS programmes.

Audience included student leaders, peer educators, student volunteers, HIV and AIDS programme managers, researchers and academics, and together, they addressed a number of themes, including:

- Sexual and reproductive rights.
- Sexualities, gender and identities.
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues.
- Gender-based violence.
- Access to sexuality education.
- Sexuality and HIV/AIDS.

The conference sought to create a platform for students, academics and programme managers to interact with each other in order to facilitate horizontal learning. The conference strived to:

- Interrogate what we know about student and staff sexualities at African universities.
- Showcase services and programmes addressing sexual and reproductive rights and health within a broader human rights context.
- Discuss the impact of these themes on HIV and AIDS programmes.
- Identify priorities for future research and programme development.

### DUT HIV/AIDS Centre and Future Life

Over the Nelson Mandela weekend on 18 and 19 July, Durban University of Technology's (DUT) HIV/AIDS Centre, in partnership with Future Life, assisted disadvantaged children from Balindi Welfare Hospice, Inanda. Future Life gave away 10 boxes of Future Life porridge which helps to boost the immune system.

According to the HIV/AIDS VCT counsellor, Mr Nkosiyazi Ngaba: "As part of the Nelson Mandela drive, we decided to focus on helping to alleviate the problems found within poor communities. Future Life helped us by sponsoring the porridge."

Future Life is a South African company which provides health solutions. The immune boosting meal is made from micronized soya and maize which contains a rich cocktail mixture of vitamins, minerals, protein and Moducare. These powerful immune stabilisers work together to help fight illnesses.

The Head of Counsellors at DUT's HIV/AIDS AIDS programme, Mam Z, stresses: "Helping the community and promoting a healthy lifestyle should again become part of our South African culture. We are grateful for Future Life's contribution – it instils values of giving back to communities where we come from." ■

*"We are here to honour the lives of those who have fought in different ways, fighting against HIV and AIDS. We have lost so many people, our loved ones through AIDS-related illnesses."*



### Durban University of Technology observes International Candlelight Day

The HIV/AIDS Centre at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) recently held a Candlelight Memorial Ceremony in remembrance of all those who are infected, affected or have passed away because of HIV/AIDS.

This year marks the 26th Anniversary of the historic International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, which is one of the world's first public events against HIV/AIDS that continues to be led by communities, worldwide. The theme for this year's Candlelight ceremony was 'Together we are the solution'.

Mr. Rogers Phili represented the Acting Head of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Department of Health, Dr. YL Mbele, as the guest speaker at the Candlelight Memorial Ceremony. Mr. Phili is the Manager of the provincial HIV/AIDS Programme.

Addressing staff, students and representatives of non-governmental organisations, Mr. Phili applauded DUT for observing the Candlelight Memorial. He said this event brought together people, individuals, organisations, sectors and communities who are either infected or affected with HIV/AIDS.

"We are here to honour the lives of those who have fought in different ways, fighting against HIV and AIDS. We have lost so many people, our loved ones through AIDS-related illnesses.

"We want to give support to those people who have gone to our Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) facilities and have tested for HIV. We want to salute you. We are also here to support those who are living positive with HIV.

"We want to raise social consciousness about HIV and AIDS, so that we fight the stigma and discrimination associated with it," emphasised Mr. Phili.

He pointed out that HIV and AIDS is not just a disease but is a socio-economic issue. To date in South Africa, he said, there are about 5.5 million people living with HIV and over 1.5 million of those live in KZN.

Mr. Phili said KZN has demonstrated its commitment to curbing this epidemic in many ways, including increasing the funding for HIV and AIDS programmes from R35 million in year 2000 to more than a billion rand in 2008. He thanked all the caregivers who visit and

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### Wits: Changing the face of HIV/AIDS, changing our consciousness

Drama for Life, a holistic arts programme hosted by the Division of Dramatic Art at Wits University, brought the much anticipated arts festival under the theme *Changing the Face of HIV/AIDS, changing our consciousness*, which ran from 20 August to 5 September 2009.

This year's festival theme focused on renewed efforts in finding creative and sustainable ways of learning and building capacity in HIV/AIDS education and prevention.

Warren Nebe, Head of Dramatic Art Division at Wits, said the festival would be the biggest collaborative arts project between South African universities incorporating academic dialogue, creative work and training.

"It is about changing a continent's consciousness about HIV/AIDS, seeking to inspire communication through personal and interpersonal learning through the arts in Africa, introducing contemporary processes while paying respect to the rich indigenous knowledge that belongs to Africa," said Nebe.

This highly interactive and informative festival has seen a meeting of artists, researchers, development workers, trainers, theatre, music, art, dance and health practitioners from all sectors of the community engaging in dialogue, networking, learning and sharing.

An array of exciting and stimulating workshops, seminars and exhibitions was planned and provided opportunities for participants to fully explore themes relating to HIV/AIDS in an honest, supportive and caring environment.

The festival, which had sought to be all-inclusive and accessible, held performances and workshops at various venues including Wits University, Museum Africa and the Ipelegeng Community Centre in Soweto.

The DfL Festival coincided with the *Not Alone Exhibition* at Museum Africa, the *969 Festival* and *Arts Alive '09*. It also partnered with PJ Sabbagha's *When Life Happens* Festival, the Wits Counselling and Careers Development Unit, the Student Leadership and Development Unit, the Transformation Office and SATI. ■

# HEAIDS actively involved in the work of the SA National AIDS Council

*In engaging with SANAC and other sectors, it is clear that higher education needs to participate in dialogue and discussion and achieve a cohesive and collective voice.*

HEAIDS is championing the interests and participation of the higher education subsector on the SA National AIDS Council (SANAC) through representation on several levels: the SANAC Plenary, the Programme Implementation Committee (PIC), the Sector Leaders Forum, and the Prevention and the Research and Monitoring and Evaluation Task Teams.

We are one of 17 sectors represented on SANAC, which has, over the past few months:

- Appointed Dr Nono Simelela as the CEO on 1 September 2009.
- Undertaken the mid-term review of the National Strategic Plan.
- Initiated the 'Know Your Epidemic/Know Your Response' study.
- Held Sports and Recreation and Women's Sector summits.

In engaging with SANAC and other sectors, it is clear that higher education needs to participate in dialogue and discussion and achieve a cohesive and collective voice. We at HEAIDS are of the view that the subsector has much to offer in contributing to the country's attempt on delivering on the intentions of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) by utilising our collective strengths in research, teaching and learning and monitoring and evaluation.

As a subsector we can strengthen our position, and we hope to use the upcoming regional meetings in October-November as opportunities to brainstorm ideas which can be taken by HEAIDS to SANAC.

## REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

HICC chairs, finance directors, HIV coordinators and campus health representatives were invited to the important regional events, which were held recently:

**Gauteng: 27 October 2009**

UJ, WITS, VAAL, CUT, NWS and UFS

**Pretoria: 29 October 2009**

TUT, UP, Limpopo (Medunsa and Turfloop), Univen and UNISA

**Western Cape: 30 October 2009**

UCT, UWC, CPUT and Stellenbosch

**KZN: 2 November 2009**

DUT, MUT, UKZN and UZ

**Eastern Cape: 3 November 2009**

NMMU, Rhodes, Fort Hare and WSU

The workshops presented the findings of HEAIDS work on the development of funding models and mechanisms for sustainable interventions. The programme focused on the application of the norms and standards at the institutional level for comprehensive HIV interventions, provided an overview of the costing model and application at institutional levels and also individual situational analyses in regards to HIV/AIDS programme costing.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the workshops, please contact:

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### CPUT Living Openly Positive

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and AIDS) in policies, programmes and projects affecting communities. Openly Positive also conducts workshops and talks, acts as an advocate for health and human rights and develops resources distributed in the organisations and institutions they serve.

Fine and Maane, two of the organisation's four trustees, have lived with HIV/AIDS for over ten years and have authored the books *Clouds Move* and *Umzala*, which have been purchased by CPUT for campus libraries.

In the near future, the trust will publish a new collection of stories from people living positively with HIV and AIDS across Africa.

Interested parties are encouraged to visit the trust's website for more details at [www.openlypositive.com](http://www.openlypositive.com) ■

By *Thando J. Moiloa*

### DUT observes Candlelight Memorial Day *(continued from page 2)*

provide physical help to relatives and families, who are sick at home. He stated that he has observed how HIV and AIDS have progressively and negatively impacted on South African institutions of higher learning.

"Today, in this province, tertiary education institutions are regarded as high risk areas for HIV transmission. This is indeed a sad state of affairs as these are supposed to be institutions where young people acquire skills to take this beloved country of ours forward, not where dreams are lost and lives are changed forever by HIV," said Mr. Phili.

He appealed to people not to stigmatise TB, adding that TB is curable, even if one has HIV. He urged people to ensure they know their HIV status and use preventative methods to stop it spreading.

The ceremony featured musical and dance entertainment and an educative short drama. ■