

AIDSTECH : technical interventions for the containment of AIDS / Family Health International.

Contributors

Family Health International (Durham, North Carolina)

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FAMILY

HEALTH

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AIDSTECH

Technical

Interventions

for the

Containment of

AIDS



AIDSTECH: Goals and Objectives

The goal of AIDSTECH is to prevent HIV infection and control the spread of AIDS by the provision of technical assistance to developing countries. The AIDS pandemic is an international health problem of extraordinary scope and unprecedented urgency. If the disease continues to spread in developing countries it will present a profound threat to much that has been achieved in improving the health of adults and children. Those countries so affected are likely to undergo a severe setback to their socioeconomic development.

The challenge of the AIDSTECH program is to identify and control those behavioral and pathological factors which affect the risk of transmission of AIDS and are open to change.

AIDSTECH will focus on initiatives

- to develop and implement surveillance of HIV infection and AIDS
- to prevent transmission through blood transfusion systems
- to reduce high-risk behaviors that cause sexual transmission, and
- to identify and implement appropriate interventions to reduce AIDS transmission through skin-piercing practices.

AIDSTECH will not provide therapy or treatment for AIDS.

AIDSTECH is a part of a global strategy to combine financial and human resources, scientific and technical skills, and experience in management and coordination to strengthen institutional capabilities to confront the AIDS crisis. Under the sponsorship of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the AIDSTECH program will work with the AIDSCOM program to complement the leadership efforts of the *World Health Organization's Special Programme on AIDS*.

SERVICES

Technical Assistance/Technology Transfer

AIDSTECH will contribute to expanding an international capability to control and prevent HIV infection. AIDSTECH seeks to strengthen national programs, define and quantify risk factors, define the socioeconomic impact of AIDS, and provide short- and long-term technical assistance.

Training

Service providers, health educators and community outreach workers will be trained in primary AIDS prevention techniques: AIDSTECH will provide assistance in training staff in family planning and health programs. Training will be available for decision-makers and administrators in planning and financing of AIDS intervention programs. AIDSTECH will develop materials and provide training through workshops and seminars.


Applied Research

AIDSTECH will work with researchers in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to plan and carry out research that better defines the behavior, pathologies and other factors that affect the risk of HIV transmission.

AIDSTECH will conduct research on the cost effectiveness of alternative AIDS interventions and the economic impact of AIDS.

Information Dissemination

AIDSTECH will transfer technology by the dissemination of information to encourage needed action and to publicize the potential impact of AIDS and the most effective intervention strategies. The program will



distribute information on a timely basis to heads of health and family planning organizations, other non-governmental organizations and to governmental bodies responsible for policymaking.

In several of these services, AIDSTECH will work in close collaboration with the AIDSCOM (communication) component of the AIDS Technical Support Project, an A.I.D. program.

Equipment and Commodities

AIDSTECH will provide equipment and commodities for the diagnosis of HIV infection and to ensure a safe blood supply through screening.



ROUTES OF TRANSMISSION

Sex

Sexual transmission is the greatest single threat for the spread of AIDS in developing countries. AIDSCOM and AIDSTECH efforts will concentrate on immediate and well-focused efforts to contain the disease through prevention of high-risk sexual practices. Consideration will be given to programs that are replicable in design and that:

- Educate men and women to reduce the risk of acquiring AIDS by limiting the number of sexual partners and avoiding unsafe sexual practices.
- Bring about changes in sexual practices, especially the use of condoms and/or spermicides.



Blood Transfusions

AIDSTECH is concerned with the transmission of HIV through contaminated blood supplies.

AIDSTECH will provide equipment, skills and training to help countries establish systems that:

- Establish appropriate criteria that limit blood transfusions to well-defined lifesaving situations.
- Identify high-risk donors and exclude them from the donor system.
- Ensure safe blood supplies by instituting HIV antibody screening.

Needles

Skin-piercing instruments are a potential source of HIV infection. AIDSTECH will work to improve sterilization and disinfection of needles and other instruments used by modern and traditional service providers.

Research on the risks of infection through this route of transmission is needed. Results will be presented to policymakers and health care providers and incorporated into ongoing service delivery programs.

AIDSTECH PROGRAM

AIDSTECH is made up of an integrated and internationally mobile team with multidisciplinary technical and managerial skills. The program has an office in Washington, D.C. and a core of technical experts located at Family Health International's North Carolina headquarters. The program was designed by A.I.D. to provide rapid technical assistance services and to work in conjunction with the AIDSCOM communication project, headed by the Academy for Educational Development (AED) in Washington.

AIDSTECH will help each country that requests our assistance to develop appropriate intervention programs. This can only be achieved through inter-organizational cooperation among FHI, AED, A.I.D. and its overseas Missions, the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, host country governments, ministries of health, and other international public organizations and private foundations.

Please communicate any program need or interest to:

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Family Health International (FHI) is a not-for-profit biomedical research organization that studies reproductive health, contraceptive safety and health service delivery. FHI is committed to improving all aspects of reproductive health, from reducing maternal mortality to slowing the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. Since 1971 FHI has worked at the invitation of governments and with private organizations in eighty countries worldwide.

FHI's work in AIDS follows from its many years of international experience in clinical trials, reproductive and sexually transmitted disease epidemiology, and social science research applied to family planning service delivery. FHI was the first private U.S. research organization to commit its funds to the design and rapid implementation of interventions to reduce the transmission of AIDS abroad.

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