Progress
Report
2007-2008



### **Mission statement**

The Centre for AIDS Development, Research and Evaluation (CADRE) is a South African non-government organisation working in the area of HIV/AIDS social research, programme development and communication. CADRE was established in 2000.We are oriented towards fast-tracking appropriate and effective responses to HIV/AIDS through developing coherent strategic models and contributing to policies for intervention and evaluation.

## **Guiding principles**

#### CADRE is committed to:

- a concept of society based on democratic principles of consultation, maximising of participation, and accountability to broader society;
- mobilising a clear understanding of, and rapid response to, emerging issues in HIV/AIDS;
- fast-tracking social response to the epidemic through prioritising key areas and through making research findings, models and tools readily available:
- fostering the development of a clear understanding of the continuum in HIV/AIDS that exists from prevention through to treatment, care, support and rights;
- responding to the need for a multifaceted response to HIV/AIDS based on an understanding of the disease as a complex and layered social phenomenon.

## Organisational approach

CADRE has a South African orientation, but also conducts work in other countries. We seek to provide a critical, analytic and independent voice in the context of a complex HIV/AIDS epidemic. We place an emphasis on the development of policy and strategy based on sound research and epidemiology and are in involved in developing theoretical frameworks, conceptual models, best practice frameworks, research tools, and training approaches.

CADRE is a leading organisation in the conceptualisation and development of evaluation frameworks for HIV/AIDS programmes, and is used extensively as a consultant to governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and funders.

CADRE focuses on promoting the needs of communities directly experiencing the impacts of HIV/AIDS.

We are committed to developing people and to developing collegial and collaborative partnerships in all spheres of our work.

## **Executive director's report**

The past year has seen CADRE shift towards being a small, highly geared organisation that is involved in wide-ranging research, communication and policy-related activities. Our organisational structure remains quite fluid, involving a need to address shifts in individual needs alongside ensuring that the intensity of activities is sustained. This includes the closing of our office in Durban as a product of a shift to an individual consultancy model, although individual links and collaboration are being maintained in current projects.

In the area of HIV epidemiology we are involved in numerous studies in Southern Africa that are central to monitoring the epidemic and informing response strategies. Activities in South Africa include HIV prevalence and sociobehavioural surveys of the national population well as in the higher education sector nationally. Other surveys include a second national HIV/AIDS communication survey in South Africa and socio-behavioural and communication surveys in Namibia.

In much of our survey work it has been clear that it is crucial to combine quantitative and quantitative methods to understand the complexity of the epidemic. Our research into sexual relationships and concurrent partnerships, for example, draws on multiple data and illustrates severe gaps in understanding of underlying epidemiological and socioeconomic factors that have contributed to the hyper-endemic southern African epidemics.

A fair proportion of our research work is service-oriented including feasibility studies, sector level analyses and monitoring and evaluation. During the period we have provided support to a number of organisations funded through Johns Hopkins Health and Education in South Africa including formative research for communication programming and evaluation. In the sphere of evaluation, challenges remain with regard to drawing evaluative insights into future programming.

The peer-reviewed African Journal of AIDS Research (AJAR), has continued to grow in reputation and stature and is recognised as an important contribution to the promotion of Africa-related HIV/AIDS research by African authors. Availability of the journal online has also expanded its reach.

Tsha Tsha, which completed broadcast of a total of 78 episodes in South Africa, is being reviewed for possible broadcast in other southern African countries. The series is also mobilised through systems of secondary distribution in video and DVD formats, along with training guides. Our experiences in the development, broadcast and evaluation of *Tsha Tsha* have also formed the basis for support to other broadcast initiatives – for example, *Masupatsela*, which was broadcast by SABC Education, as well as the work of ABC Ulwazi on community radio programming.

Work in the area of local level responses to AIDS during this period focused on linkages between funding and HIV/AIDS response in southern Africa. Findings have shown that although there is overall growth in HIV/AIDS funding, many small organisations working at the community interface are marginalised and poorly resourced with little funding directed towards organisational development.

For the small team of people who make up CADRE, the work we have been involved in has been exciting and intellectually stimulating. At the same time the achievements made have required a considerable commitment to CADREs mandate, and a capacity to work creatively at a high degree of intensity. This has been by no means easy, but it does seem to point to the necessities of responding to a severe epidemic in a complex environment.

# HIV/AIDS policy, strategy and epidemiology

CADRE conducts a range of activities in the field of social research and epidemiology in South Africa and other countries. These studies inform policy and strategy in the region. This programme also includes the development and promotion of peer-reviewed research as well as critical perspectives on the relationship between HIV/AIDS and social contexts. This programme is led by Dr Mark Colvin with Dr Warren Parker.

## ALAFA (Apparel Lesotho Alliance to Fight AIDS) Project

The project was launched in Lesotho in May 2006 and it is aimed at providing prevention and treatment in the textile and apparel industry in Maseru.

The ALAFA programme provides education and prevention, voluntary counselling and testing (VCT), and management of AIDS through the roll-out of health management and treatment for HIV-positive workers. CADRE continued to play a role in the technical assistance and monitoring and evaluation of this programme in 2007.

#### **ARHAP** executive sessions Eastern Cape

Working in partnership with the African Religious Health Assets Programme (ARHAP) at the University of Cape Town and funded by US-based Vesper Society, CADRE convened a series of three two-day consultations with twelve Eastern Cape government, NGO and faith-based organisation leaders. The meetings focused on understanding faith communities as 'assets' for HIV/AIDS response and the aim was to explore challenges facing and possibilities for strengthening faith-based responses to HIV/AIDS in the Eastern Cape Province. The entire proceedings were recorded and transcribed and a process is currently underway, with support from the Eastern Cape AIDS Council (ECAC), to produce a concept document which may be used as a guide for strengthening faith-based responses in the province. This is a joint publication of all participants and it is encouraging that ECAC has chosen to take this initiative forward as a way of building a bridge between public sector and faith-based responses at community level.



#### CMRA Feasibility Study

CADRE was contracted by the Centre for Municipal Research and Advice (CMRA), a joint initiative of VNG International and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) to conduct a feasibility study for an HIV/AIDS pilot project. The study focused on HIV and AIDS prevention in the Trucking Sector in eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality.

As part of the situational analysis, a full desk review of prevention programmes in the trucking sector in eThekwini and in KwaZulu-Natal was conducted with a view to informing provincial and local government, civil society and private sector responses.

#### **Communication strategy in Mauritius**

A review and development of a national multisectoral HIV/AIDS communication strategy was undertaken in Mauritius through the Technical Support Facility (TSF) for southern Africa. The project involved a rapid assessment through interviews with key stakeholders and integration into a communication strategy to support the national plan.

The HIV epidemic in Mauritius follows a different pattern to that found in the African mainland, with very low overall prevalence and with HIV cases occurring mainly amongst injecting drug users and sex workers.



#### **DFID Multisectoral Support Programme (MSP)**

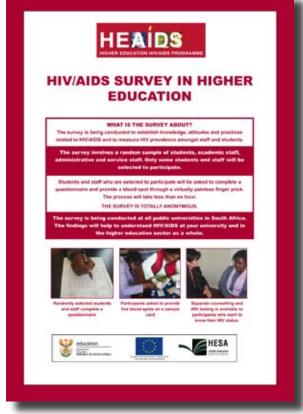
Since 2003, CADRE has been working with Constella Futures to provide technical support services in the implementation of the UK Department for International Development's HIV/AIDS Multisectoral Support Programme (MSP) in South Africa. The MSP provides support to a number of national government departments (Social Development, Health and Defence), provincial governments (Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo), and civil society organisations. CADRE provided direct support to the management unit of the MSP at Constella Futures, as well as specialised technical and advisory support to government departments and other institutions involved with the MSP. Support to the programme ended in 2007.

#### HIV/AIDS survey in Higher Education in South Africa

CADRE, in partnership with Constella Futures in the United Kingdom and Epicentre South Africa, have been commissioned to conduct a study of HIV/AIDS in all South African universities. The study will provide data on HIV prevalence as well as sociobehavioural information via quantitative and qualitative study components. The findings of the study will include risk analysis of HIV/AIDS in the higher education sector and will be available in 2009.

## KwaZulu-Natal workplace sector

South Africa has the greatest number of people living with HIV in the world



and the province of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) has the highest HIV prevalence in the country. The epidemic has impacted on all sectors of society including government, education, health and business. The impacts on the workplace include decreased productivity, rising production costs and a higher employee turnover. At the same time, employers have been under growing pressure to respond to the epidemic by providing prevention and treatment services to their employees.

The overall purpose of this project was to determine the impact that HIV is having presently and what impact it will have in the future on the business sector in KZN, with a view to guiding the mitigation of this impact.

Part One of the project consisted of conducting workplace HIV prevalence and knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) surveys in four sectors of the KZN economy (Manufacturing, Tourism, Agriculture and Transport). These surveys provide information on the extent and distribution of HIV amongst the workforce, which may be used as a basis for HIV/AIDS-related planning.

Strategies include interventions to address prevention, treatment, care and support, as well as forecasting and budgeting for human resource management and treatment and support needs. The information also provides a baseline against which to monitor and evaluate change over time.

Part Two of the project was an economic assessment of the impact of HIV/AIDS on the KZN economy and the people in the province. The purpose of this assessment was to inform strategic economic planning within the business community and within the provincial and municipal governments.

#### **NABCOA Strategic Plan Development**

The Namibian Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS (NABCOA) was established in 2003 to better engage the private sector in the national response to HIV and AIDS. In 2006, CADRE carried out an institutional policy and strategy review on public and private partnerships, which included NABCOA, National Planning Commission Secretariat (NPCS) and Lironga Eparu (LE). This review provided information on the strengths and weaknesses of NABCOA, with special emphasis on the need to develop a strategic plan.

In 2007, CADRE, in association with Social Impact Assessment and Policy Analysis Corporation (SIAPAC), was contracted by NABCOA to support the development of a five year strategic plan.

The purpose of the consultancy was to provide technical services including preparation of strategic plans, strategic situational analysis, setting strategic directions, facilitating steps of developing a successful strategic plan, and ensuring inclusiveness in developing a strategic plan.

#### **NawaLife**

CADRE has worked with NawaLife in Namibia since 2006, conducting community-based surveys on HIV/AIDS and providing support to monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The findings from four surveys in Walvis Bay, Rundu, Oshakati and Keetmanshoop were presented in 2007. Studies in six further communities were conducted during 2007/8 and findings will be released during 2008.

Data collection is conducted by Research Facilitation Services (RFS) who are based in Windhoek, and includes quantitative and qualitative sub-components. Data analysis is conducted in partnership with the South African Medical Research Council (MRC).

A week-long course on M&E was also provided to NawaLife staff and other Namibian HIV/AIDS organisations.

#### **South African National Strategic Plan**

Warren Parker provided support to the development of the situational analysis component of the 2007-2011 National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS. The South African epidemic has complex underpinnings and has grown to be one of the largest in the world. An urgent strategic response is necessary and the present plan informs the country's multisectoral response.

## Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT): the 'Good Start' II Study

The Good Start II Study is a randomised control trial undertaken in partnership with the MRC and University of Western Cape seeking to investigate the effectiveness of peer-educators in improving infant feeding practice and health outcomes, as well as access to social grants in three sites, Paarl, Rietylei and Umlazi.

CADRE have assisted with quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the effectiveness of HIV positive mothers as peer educators during antenatal and postnatal care at the three sites.

#### Third national South African HIV/AIDS survey

CADRE continues to work with the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), Medical Research Council (MRC) and other partners on the national HIV prevalence and socio-behavioural survey. The survey provides the most detailed data available on the AIDS epidemic in South Africa and is an important centre-piece to policy and strategy.

#### **UNAIDS Modes of Transmission study**

The current situation on prevention in most countries reflects a gross misallocation of resources. The UNAIDS Modes of Transmission Study aimed to address this by supporting a robust process drawing on national experts working together to analyse national evidence and draw out from this exercise recommendations for the national prevention strategies. This process focused on reviewing the evidence with the primary aim of guiding decision making and improving planning from what was currently in place. The key objective of this process was to help countries become more systematic in the approach to prevention.

CADRE responsibility was to provide direct technical support to country teams based on work plans developed during their orientation and requests during the implementation of the country work plan, as well as for coordinating the three key regional meetings and production of a Modes of Transmission report documenting the lessons learned and value added from the process.



#### **University of Michigan**

CADRE participated in a conference entitled Appraisal & Action: HIV/AIDS in southern Africa at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbour. The conference was focused on exploring the relationship between research, policy and strategy.

#### Website

CADREs website – www.cadre.org.za –includes access to a wide range of CADRE reports, articles and conference presentations. The site is presently being redeveloped to allow for content management system that can be operated by staff members. This will increase the capacity to update the site on a regular basis.

#### **Workplace Studies**

CADRE in collaboration with Epicentre Healthy Business have continued to design, manage and supply HIV workplace studies. In the past year HIV Prevalence and KAP (Knowledge, Attitude and Practice) surveys have been conducted in over 20 companies in South Africa.

The workplace studies provide employees with HIV voluntary counselling and testing services, which assists in determining the HIV prevalence and risk trends in the organisation. Examples of the surveyed companies include Daimler Chrysler (SA), Johnson and Johnson and the Unilever Group (SA).

## **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)**

CADRE provides support and training in HIV/AIDS-specific M&E in the southernAfrican region. The programme recognises that M&E is an important element in HIV/AIDS programme development and implementation, and is important for developing efficacy and cost-effectiveness of AIDS response programmes. M&E allows for rapid response to the changing needs of such programmes. This programme is led by Dr Kevin Kelly.

#### **M&E** support

During the past year we have continued to provide support to the PEPFAR funded Johns Hopkins Health and Education in South Africa (JHHESA) programme. M&E support has included conducting two programme evaluations (Lighthouse Foundation and Dance4Life) in partnership with other organisations, and developing the terms of reference for evaluation of DramAidE, ABC Ulwazi and Mindset. We have noted that the utility of these evaluations for development and strengthening of the programmes is not always fully harnessed, and have become increasingly sensitized to the need to work closely with organisations, both before and after evaluation, in assisting them to use evaluation for strategic planning and redevelopment.

In January 2008 Kevin Kelly participated in a four person evaluation team which conducted an independent review of Zimbabwe's Expanded Support Programme for HIV/AIDS. The report was positively received by development partners and the Zimbabwe National AIDS Council and indications are that the findings have been actively engaged with at a strategic planning level.

During the year under review CADRE was awarded a grant to conduct an impact evaluation for Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF). The focal area is the fund's 'AIDS in Society' Research Grant programme. CADRE is currently in the process of conducting this evaluation which involves work with 25 grant recipients. It is a conceptually challenging assignment which is tracking the impacts of the research produced on the policy and practice environment. This required development of a conceptual model for understanding the impact of research on policy and practice, and we believe that further refinement of this during the course of the research will be of considerable interest – not only to the RBF but also to other research grant programmes.

During 2007-2008 a further two evaluation training programmes were conducted. A two-day training programme entitled 'Managing for results' focused on results-based management. It was conducted for the Southern Africa AIDS Trust and was attended by about 30 programme managers from the Southern Africa region. The training workshop was conducted as a collaboration with VSO, an international organisational development and NGO support organisation.

CADRE also teamed up with Rhodes University's Centre for Social Research and Action (CASRA) in conducting a five day training programme which was formally accredited at the level 7 of the National Qualifications Framework. This very successful course included an assignment and performance-based certification. The feedback from participants was very positive.

Participants were from a wide range of organisations, including Statistics South Africa, government departments, the private sector and a number of NGOs. There were 50 participants, including from Tanzania, Egypt, Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Namibia. There have been numerous requests following this programme, including from the National Department of Education, and a number of provincial departments in the Eastern Cape to repeat this training and CADRE plans to run at least one such training a year.

CADRE has continued to assist the development of monitoring and evaluation in South Africa through Kevin Kelly's active participation as a board member of the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association. His portfolio on the Board involves development of linkages between academic institutions and the developmental work of the association and he also drives an initiative to found an African evaluation journal.

#### **African Journal of AIDS Research (AJAR)**

AJAR was established to promote AIDS-related social research in Africa and is funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida). AJAR submissions continue to grow with an average of over ten submissions a month.

We have had to introduce an editorial pre-review process to identify and exclude papers which are either not suitable in terms of content or the quality of which makes them highly unlikely to be accepted at peer review. This has helped to ease the burden on the editorial staff, but the growth in submissions remains a challenge to our efficiency. Our funding is worked out on the basis of the number of articles published rather than the number of articles reviewed and we have to find ways of generating other revenue streams to support the journal considering the growth in submissions. We are publishing a special issue this year for which additional funding has been raised through the University of Witwatersrand School of Business.

In 2008, AJAR will publish four issues and we plan to continue publishing four issues per year until the end of the current funding cycle which ends in 2010.

In 2008, Kevin Kelly was invited to join the governing committee of African Journals Online and also to participate in activities of the South African Editors Forum.

AJAR grows from strength to strength. The journal has grown well in reputation and stature and AJAR has certainly taken its place amongst the small stable of HIV/AIDS dedicated journals, and it provides a much needed home for African social science research.

The journal is available electronically through Ingenta, as well as African Journals Online and also in print format.



## **Communication and HIV/AIDS**

CADRE provides support in the field of communication development and communication strategy and has conducted a range of activities in South Africa and internationally. We develop and promote critical perspectives on the relationship between communication and HIV/AIDS through theoretical development, methodology development and rigorous approaches to research. Additionally, we are involved in the development, production and evaluation of communication interventions. The communication research team includes Dr Warren Parker, Helen Hajiyiannis, Mzimane Benjamin Makhubele and Pumla Ntlabati.

#### Strategic studies for HIV prevention communication

During 2006, CADRE undertook a national HIV/AIDS communication survey in partnership with Johns Hopkins Health and Education in South Africa (JHHESA), Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs (JHUCCP) in Baltimore, the Department of Health's Khomanani Programme, Health Development Africa (HDA) and Soul City.

The study findings were widely presented to stakeholders and policy-makers nationally and continue to form a useful basis for understanding gaps in communication. A follow-up survey is planned for 2008/9.

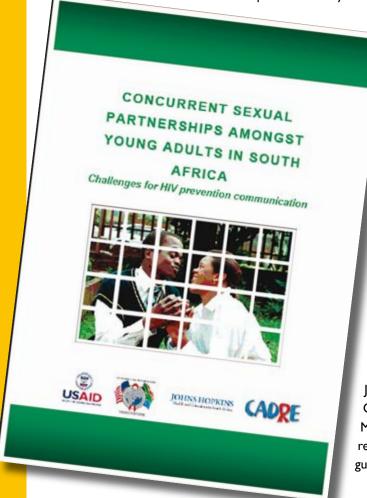
It was clear from the survey findings that there was a very low awareness of the risks associated with having concurrent sexual partners. When asked about ways to prevent HIV nearly all respondents mentioned condoms, yet less than half mentioned the importance having fewer sexual partners. Epidemiological studies and modeling exercises point clearly to a strong relationship between sexual partner concurrency and the occurrence of closely interwoven sexual networks where HIV is transmitted rapidly as a product of high viral loads occurring in early infection. These findings formed the basis of the qualitative study.

The qualitative study found that concurrent sexual partnerships were common in all study areas (which

spanned five provinces). There was a low perception of risk of HIV infection through such relationship practices and there were strong links between having many sexual partners and being poor or unemployed.

Another qualitative study focused on informal settlements. These areas have repeatedly been identified as contexts where HIV is more prevalent in South Africa. There is however little research that informs understanding of the particularities of HIV risk and impact in informal settlements.

A series of discussions were held with community members in Orange Farm, a large informal settlement south of Johannesburg through the assistance of Orange Farm Anti AIDS Club (OFAAC). Members of OFAAC were trained in research methods and provided with guidance and supervision from CADRE to





hold informal discussions with various sectors of the community. Thematic areas explored included: drugs and sexual exchange; shebeens, alcohol and sexual exchange; orphans, poverty and sexual risk; exposure to sex on television and sexual risk; perceptions of condoms; sugar daddies and sugar mommies and the link to HIV/AIDS; sexual abuse and the link to HIV/AIDS; poverty and crime and the link to HIV/AIDS; perceptions of sexual 'control' and sex in schools and the link to HIV/AIDS.

Thematic analysis of the transcripts in relation to risk of HIV infection revealed a range of intersections between risk of infection and poverty. This was further layered by various power disparities including those embedded in economic power and cultural power. HIV risk was also exacerbated by alcohol and drug use.

Such formative explorations will be continued through OFAAC in the coming period.

#### **Entertainment education course at UKZN**

CADRE continues to provide support to this course in Culture, Communication and Media Studies (CCMS) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal through lecturing. The course is run in partnership between CCMS, JHHESA, DramAidE and CADRE. We also provide inputs into curriculum development and to post-graduate students in their research projects.

## **Expanded dissemination of the television drama** series Tsha Tsha

Tsha Tsha has successfully completed a full run of 78 episodes on SABC TV. In parallel, CADRE has developed support materials to go with secondary distribution of the series on video-tape and DVD.

Resources have included the development of a facilitator's guide that can be used with the visual material to provide training and support to HIV/AIDS programmes. Over 250 video and DVD sets of each of the four Tsha Tsha series have been disseminated across the African continent. Feedback shows that the materials have been found to be useful as learning tools. There has also been interest expressed by HIV/AIDS programmes in other countries, for country-level broadcast.

A discussion guide and four thematic DVD compilations based on key themes from the last 26 episodes was initiated. The guide highlights strategies towards the effective management of HIV/AIDS. The guide is aimed at encouraging conversation and debate about individual perceptions

of risk to HIV infection in relation to sexual partnerships, care and support for orphans and vulnerable children, minimising the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and antiretroviral treatment. The guide will be completed during 2008.

Tsha Tsha series four was the recipient of international and local awards during 2007. These included: First place in AfricomNet's Annual Award for Excellence to HIV/AIDS Strategic Communication in the Mass Media category (for best HIV/AIDS communication strategy on



the African continent). At the 40th US International Film and Video Festival, Tsha Tsha received a first place Gold Camera Award for general education, second place in the Silver Screen Award in the category of community development and a third place Certificate of Excellence for social issues. There were over 1,200 entries and 24 countries represented at the festival. Locally, Tsha Tsha received 10 nominations at the South African Film and Television Awards (SAFTA) in October 2007, winning a Golden Horn Award in the television drama section in the best art direction category.

#### **Body Mind and Soul II**

CADRE continued to work with ABC Ulwazi to develop educational HIV/AIDS programming for use at community radio stations across South Africa. The 13-part radio drama series Body, Mind and Soul which was developed and broadcast in 2004 and rebroadcast in 2005, was extended to include further programming. Body, Mind and Soul II was developed as a follow-on project, with CADRE providing conceptual and research support. Eight 12-minute features were produced in four languages. A guide for presenters at the radio stations was developed by ABC Ulwazi using research conducted by CADRE to facilitate and inform responses to calls made by listeners to the radio stations post listening to the features. The overall theme of the features was the interrelatedness between HIV risk and having multiple sexual partners, pregnancy, abstinence and faithfulness. M&E support was also provided to ABC Ulwazi.

#### Pre- and post-broadcast evaluation of Trailblazers/ Masupatsela

During 2006, SABC, in partership with JHHESA, commissioned Freerange Films to develop a 13-part television documentary series. The overall objective of Masupatsela/Trailblazers was to profile individuals and organisations that work in the HIV/AIDS sector, often under difficult conditions, to show the innovative and or exceptional ways in which they support individuals and communities. CADRE supported the series through conducting rough-cut testing, pre-broadcast and post-broadcast evaluations. Pre- and post-broadcast evaluation activities were conducted in three South African provinces. The research provided extensive in-depth information about the series, offering learning towards understanding the broad impacts that could be expected from the series, as well as a wide range of considerations relating to production approaches. Support was also provided to the development of presenter's 'scripts' for the radio series of Masupatsela/Trailblazers.

#### **Conversations: HIV and the Family and Living Openly**

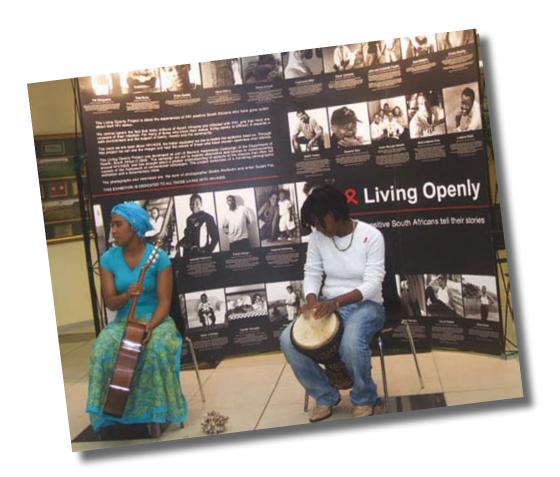
Conversations: HIV and the Family resource materials comprise a book of personal stories as told by people living with HIV, as well as a photographic exhibition. The project builds on previous

HIV/AIDS communication awareness campaigns. The Conversations publication and photographic exhibition, along with the Living Openly photographic exhibition were used extensively during the 2007-2008 period by non-governmental organisations, academic institutions and corporates to raise awareness about how HIV influences family life, and as a starting point for discussions about this topic.

Organisations using the resources include: Nike South Africa; Positive Women's Network; Open Society Initiative; South African Council of Churches; Lifeline and AIDS Helpline; ABC Ulwazi; United States Agency for International Development; Constitutional Hill; Centre for the Study of AIDS and the Living Together Project.

#### **Guiding policy and strategy**

CADRE contributes to communication policy and strategy through its publications in this sphere, and is also involved in presentations and policy think-tanks locally and internationally. Activities included a contribution by Warren Parker to a Consultation on Social Change Communication in Geneva, contributions to SADC communication policy and strategy through a programme funded by Sida, as well as meetings of international donors. Helen Hajiyiannis was also involved in a workshop on culture and creativity in HIV/AIDS prevention hosted by the UK-based Creative Exchange.



## Local level responses to HIV/AIDS

With the deepening of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in southern Africa, civil society organisations (CSOs) have come to play an increasingly prominent role in providing services across the HIV/AIDS continuum (prevention, care, treatment, support and rights), as well advocating for the needs of HIV-positive people and their families. The types of organisations involved in HIV/AIDS response range from informal associations and grassroots CBOs up to large NGOs that implement programmes on national and regional levels. Civil society is generally recognised as an important partner in strategies and policy frameworks for HIV/AIDS control and impact mitigation. However many CSOs, particularly those that are small, recently established, and/or located in rural areas, work under extremely challenging conditions with insufficient training and resources. One of the major challenges in this area, therefore, is identifying mechanisms and approaches for supporting the growth and effectiveness of local level responses and for facilitating the emergence of local coordination structures which draw together CSOs and other actors involved with AIDS response. This programme is led by Karen Birdsall.

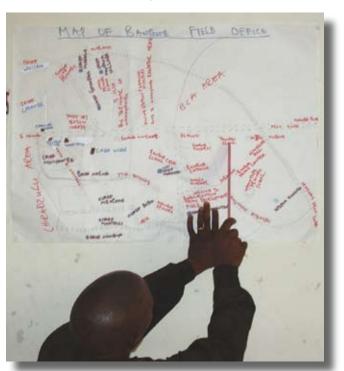
#### **Local Level Responses**

There is growing attention to the idea of aligning the efforts of civil society organisations (CSOs) working at community level with the priorities and objectives of national AIDS strategies. Most national AIDS plans now acknowledge the need to support decentralised, local-level activities in areas such as prevention, care, treatment, support and rights, and in many countries funding mechanisms have been established to channel resources to non-governmental organisations, faith-based organisations and community-based organisations. While this has led to greater funding opportunities for certain types of CSOs, many local organisations still struggle to access resources for their work and to comply with the often stringent application, reporting and monitoring requirements of donor organisations.

During this period, CADRE has built upon its previous research into the resourcing and development of community-level activity on HIV/AIDS in South and southern Africa, conducting several interrelated pieces of work looking at the experiences of CSOs in the current international AIDS funding environment.

#### **Civil Society Organisations' Access to AIDS Funding**

In 2007, CADRE completed a six-country study of AIDS funding for civil society organisations in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Zambia. The research was supported by the



Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) and involved a national survey of more than 400 CSOs across the six countries, interviews with representatives of donor institutions and intermediary funding bodies, and a community case study in each country. Findings from the study have been published in a report entitled Pioneers, Partners, Providers: The Dynamics of Civil Society and AIDS Funding in Southern Africa.

The research found that, on the whole, civil society organisations received and spent increasing amounts of money on AIDS-related activities over the period 2001-



2005, mirroring the dramatically increased funding flows to the region through the Global Fund, PEPFAR and other donor institutions. However the funding picture is very uneven: a small subset of large, well-established NGOs accounted for the overwhelming proportion of funding accessed by the surveyed organisations, and a significant minority of the organisations surveyed operated on the basis of in-kind donations only without any monetary support.

In countries such as Zambia and Malawi, where large-scale sub-granting models have been established to support CSOs, these have become a significant source of support for small and medium organisations in particular. In all of the countries, AIDS funding is heavily oriented towards service provision in core areas such as prevention, care and support, and impact mitigation, and rarely directed towards advocacy and rights-based campaigns.

## AIDS Funding and Civil Society Organisations in Tanzania

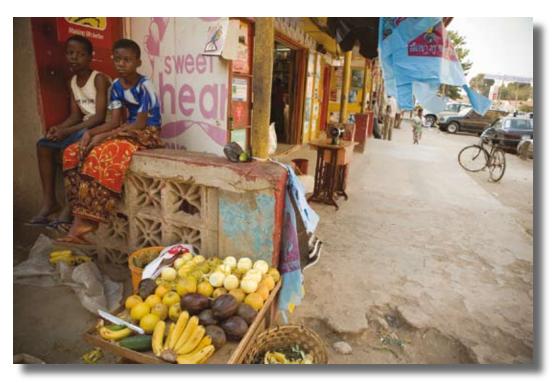
During 2007-2008, with support from the East Africa office of the Ford Foundation, CADRE undertook an exploration of the AIDS funding environment in Tanzania from the perspective of civil society organisations. The work was geared at two levels: first, a detailed case study of a well-established Tanzanian NGO which is renowned for its innovative, community-driven approach to AIDS programming and second, a national-level inquiry into AIDS funding dynamics and their impact upon local Tanzanian CSOs.

While the institutional case study highlighted the challenging experiences of one particular organisation in trying to resource its own locally grown model of AIDS response, the national-level inquiry looked more broadly at the way in which current AIDS funding trends are affecting Tanzanian CSOs.

It found that mid-sized local NGOs working on HIV/AIDS are struggling to resource their work, as many of the bilateral funders which previously supported individual projects have shifted their resources into basket funds which provide small grants to 'community organisations,' or into general budget support channelled through government. The study revealed that Tanzania's AIDS-related CSO networks could do more to work together in putting concerns about the funding environment on the agenda with donor institutions.

## An Evaluation of the Mentoring Resource Network's CBO Capacity Building Programme

In 2007, CADRE undertook an evaluation of the CBO support programme implemented by the Mentoring Resource Network (MRN), an alliance of South African NGOs that are involved in the capacity building of community organisations working on HIV/AIDS. As part of the evaluation, visits were made to MRN's eight provincial member organisations and to a selection of the 27 CBOs which had been provided with training and on-going support in areas such as proposal writing, financial management, and grant administration.



PIC: Brendan Bannon

#### **Publications**

#### Reports

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#### Radio programming

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### Staff and board of directors

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Staff who worked at CADRE during this period included:

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## **Partnerships**

Over the period, CADRE has worked in partnership with the following organisations and institutions:

#### Southern Africa

ABC Ulwazi • AIDS Foundation of South Africa • African Religious Health Assets Programme (ARHAP) • Centre for Municipal Research and Advice (CMRA) • ComMark Trust • Communication Culture and Media Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal • Heath Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division (HEARD) • Constella Futures • Curious Pictures • Dance4Life • Department of Health (KwaZulu Natal) • DramAidE • Eastern Cape AIDS Council (ECAC) • ECI Africa Consulting • Epicentre Healthy Business • Government of Mauritius • Health Development Africa • Human Science Research Council (HSRC) • Johns Hopkins Health and Education in South Africa (JHHESA) • Maromi Health Research • Medical Research Council (MRC) • Mentoring Resource Network (MRN) • Municipal Services Project – Grahamstown • National Inquiry Services Centre (NISC) • Namibian Business Coalition on AIDS (NABCOA) • NawaLife Trust • Nelson Mandela Children's Foundation Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) • Research Facilitation Services • Rhodes University • Rhodes University: Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) • Southern African AIDS Trust (SAT) • South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) • Technical Support Facility (TSF) Southern Africa • University of Cape Town (UCT) • Water for Africa • Wits Business School.

#### **International**

AIDS Accountability International (AAI) • Ford Foundation • Department for International Development (DFID) • Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) • Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health Centre for Communication Programs (JHU-CCP) • • Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) • Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) • US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) • United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) • Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) • United States Agency for International Development (USAID) • World AIDS Campaign (WAC).

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