

Name of the Partnership/Initiative:

The Intersect HIV/Violence Against Women & Children Project

Expected date of initiation: Pilot in progress in South Africa

Expected date of completion: On-Going

Partners Involved:

Governments: In South Africa Provincial Commissions on Gender Equality are on board and liaisons with the Ministry of Health, Law Enforcement agencies, Justice Departments, and individual members of Parliament are being sought. Government involvement will also be sought in other countries where Intersect Coalitions are formed: *India will start up in September. Kenya, Nigeria, as well as several countries in Eastern Europe are in the planning stages.*

Intergovernmental organizations: We will seek to involve UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO

Major groups: UNIFEM, Equality Now (US, Kenya), International AIDS Trust, Apne Ap (International), Women for Women (International), National Minority AIDS Council (US)

Other: NGOs, CBOs, Labor Unions, Medical and Healthcare Associations, Population Councils, Children's Rights organizations, organizations from all related fields including University Researchers in countries where Intersect Coalitions form. Currently in South Africa such groups as: Centre for the Study of AIDS- University of Pretoria, POWA, Women's Voice, Institute for Women's & Gender studies, Women's Health Association, The AIDS Consortium, KZN Network on Violence Against Women, RAPCAN, Margaret Sanger Center for Reproductive Rights, SWAA, Mosaic, National Association of People Living With AIDS, Masimanyae, WIPPA, both Western and Eastern Cape Network on Violence Against Women, Tsa-Botsogo (Sowetto), POLICY Project, The Living Together Project, and a far reaching array of varied organisations are participating.

Leading Partner: INTERSECT

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative:

At no time in history has the threat to our human and natural resources been so acute. Also, at no other time has there been such a high level of the awareness, capacity, connectivity and commitment required to shift the social environment to one in which sustainability is possible. INTERSECT sees that as the co-epidemics of HIV and Violence Against Women & Girls rage rampantly out of control across the global landscape, not only are women at critical risk and girls, even baby girls, left to face unimaginable dangers, the impact on all aspects of society and the sustainability of the earth are under threat from these, and a vast array of inseparably related issues. Clearly, innovative, far-reaching and never-before-tried collaborative approaches on a massive scale are called for.

INTERSECT envisions and will provide the catalyst for the creation of Intersect Coalitions across nations worldwide to confront the results of HIV, Violence Against Women and Girls and the blowback into other movements caused in their wake. These multi-disciplined, diverse, broad-based Coalitions will inspire and work towards sweeping changes brought about through a shift in our approach to collaboration. The time has come to harness the existing creative energy of all related movements, coalitions, networks, appropriate governmental and intergovernmental institutions, major groups, NGO's, CBO's, grassroots organisations and individuals on an on-going basis, so that commonalities and intersecting points of vision and concern lead the way while bridging existing divides.

INTERSECT will:

- Bring together the Coalitions Networks, NGOs, CBOs, and individuals working in HIV, Violence Against Women and Girls, and all related fields.
- Facilitate Coalition Building Sessions at which Coalition members will make agreements, set aside differences, plan strategies and outreach, and begin to determine their course.
- Help to translate the outcomes of these dialogues into action
- Connect Intersect Coalitions within a given country so that they can act nationally as well as locally, with great strength, visibility and unity.

Intersect Coalitions:

- Form a cooperative and formidable challenge to the status quo and provide a catalyst for change.
- Outreach to include organisations and sectors which share common concerns such as: Labor Unions, Police and Judicial, Health and Human Services, including Men's Health, those working in Human Rights, Rights of the Child, Gender Parity, Economic Parity, Sex Work, Population, Sex Trafficking, Poverty, Food, Debt Relief, Treatment Access, Prevention, Educators from those working with our youngest children to most advanced, etc.
- Create highly visible, high impact campaigns and actions based on the intersection of pressing common goals and shared concerns of members.
- Ask participants to envision a coalition so broad, inclusive, and far reaching in its scope and size that it transcends the traditional barriers to effectiveness and influence.
- Are inclusive and diverse and do not require participants to completely share each other's views and specific agendas other than in the areas where their goals and concerns intersect.
- Are action oriented, with committed members who keep their ultimate goals in sight as a context for their participation.
- Activities operate on specific time frames and receive constant evaluation.
- Are not meant to become new organizations, but to be run by a rotating Chair and Task Force of the Coalition's design, made up of organizations & individuals who oversee activities, outreach, planning, and communication with participants and other Intersect Coalitions.
- Are designed so that power is shared and rests with no single organization.
- Assure that all participants are given a voice and a place at the table.
- Allows participants to accomplish the goals of the Coalition with less expenditure of human and financial resources than would be required were they to tackle these issues on their own.
- Use creativity, inventiveness, visibility and all peaceful means possible to change the social environment so that stopping the Spread of AIDS, and quality of life for People Living with HIV/AIDS is a priority, Violence Against Women and Girls is no longer tolerated, and neither is a threat to the sustainability of the earth.

Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:

The INTERSECT HIV/Violence Against Women & Girls (VAW&G) Project is designed to create a new way to view the potential and impact of Partnership/Initiatives. Powerful, multi-disciplinary, broad based Intersect Coalitions can prevent the co-epidemics of Violence Against Women and Girls and HIV/AIDS from tipping the scales of sustainability so that the goals of the Millennium Declaration can be realized.

Given the critical situations facing concerned citizens and the movements that represent their interests, the time has come to reinvent the meaning of Partnerships so that they are All-Inclusive, and Initiate and Manifest a shift in the balance of both human resources and the natural resources they impact. Thus the objectives of the INTERSECT HIV/Violence Against Women & Children Project as outlined above, are clearly in alignment with the objectives of Agenda 21, particularly the chapter 6 call to mobilise and unify national and international response to HIV/AIDS, and as it applies to: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS. In 23.2 of the Preamble it is stated that, "One of the fundamental prerequisites for the achievement of sustainable development is broad public participation in decision-making. Furthermore, in the more specific context of environment and development, the need for new forms of participation has emerged."

The Millennium Declaration resolves in section 19 that by the year 2015 “to have halted and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS, the scourge of Malaria and other major diseases that afflict humanity.” In section 20 the Declaration further resolves to, “promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable.”

Secretary General Kofi Annan has stated that, “We need a deep social revolution that will give power to women and transform relations between women and men at all levels of society. It is only when women can speak up, and have a full say in decisions affecting their lives, that they will be able to truly protect themselves and their children against HIV.”

Expected results:

- Provide a new form and framework in which new and already existing groups can come together to create actions and campaigns through which they can face their shared concerns and pursue their common goals.
- Set forward methods that allow for maximum input from the public, maximum participation on the part of individuals, CBOs, NGO, networks, already existing coalitions, and the broadest scale of collaboration among these players with government and among governments.
- Create the mechanisms to engage in cooperative action, raise awareness, innovate approaches to education, law, and public policy and marshal a formidable, highly visible and vocal force to affect significant change.
- Implement the objectives of Agenda 21 by harnessing the creative energy of various movements, not just those working in HIV and VAW&G, but all related areas as well, so that commonalities lead the way to a world free of HIV/AIDS, and in which those already infected receive treatment, care and respect, where prevention messages are successful, and where women can live free of fear with an equal stake and share in society.
- Provide a model for Partnership/Initiatives.
- Shift the perspective of society so as to eliminate stigma, cultural justifications for violence and prejudice, in order to assure the quality of life for People with HIV/AIDS and the safety of girls and women, ending a long accepted vicious cycle of violence and transmission.
- Lead the way to understanding that HIV and Violence Against Women and Girls are the portals through which sustainability can be approached.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

Specific targets and timeframes of the Intersect Coalitions, once they are up and running, are determined by the Coalition members in various countries.

A number of activities have begun:

- April 2002: INTERSECT held Intersect Coalition Building Sessions in four provinces in South Africa
- May 2002: Interactions between INTERSECT and local NGO's in India Begun
- July 2002: Interaction between INTERSECT and NGO's, CBO's and other groups in Kenya, Nigeria, Australia, Nepal, Phillipines, and other countries begun after meetings at the International AIDS Conference in Barcelona.
- August 2002: INTERSECT will meet with all existing Intersect Coalition Task Forces
- August 2002: First Intersect Coalition Actions in KZN, Western Cape and Eastern Cape will take place.
- September 2002: INTERSECT will launch in India and hold Intersect Coalition Building Sessions
- October 2002: Expansion into other provinces in South Africa will begin and plans will be set for launching Intersect Coalitions in other countries where interactions have begun

Currently there are four Province wide Intersect Coalitions in the early stages of operation in South Africa.

1. In the Eastern Cape, a yearlong campaign to use the Intersection of HIV and Violence Against Women & Girls as a tool to educate various populations from urban to the most rural communities will be launched with Youth Day and continue to mark national and international “days” of significance, particularly National & International Women's Day.

2. In KwaZulu Natal the Task Force is framing a campaign to educate from the grass roots to the top levels of society on the merits of cultural diversity but the dangers of allowing culture to be used as an excuse for Violence Against Women and Girls or the stigmatization and ostrisization of people with HIV/AIDS. They will begin on National Women's Day, August 9th.
3. In Gauteng a campaign to support the government's new plan to provide Post Exposure Prophylaxis to all rape survivors and to call attention to the connections between HIV/AIDS and violence and its cultural implications are in planning stages.
4. The Western Cape is rallying around National Women's Day to create community events to educate on the intersection of violence and HIV/AIDS and to mount a significant presence in National Women's Day events.

Coordination and Implementation mechanism:

In planning for the advent of Intersect Coalitions, which are designed to be ongoing, it seemed important to anticipate the ways in which collaborative efforts break down and build in ways to avoid such common occurrences.

Primary among the reasons so few coalitions sustain and are able to have huge impact is their limited scope and their need to become an organisation. Once an organisation is in place, then there is a power structure and the needs of the coalition often interrupt the flow of its mission.

Intersect Coalitions are meant to remain a coming together of already existing organisations with the capacity to share the business of the Coalition. Rather than form a new organisation, each Coalition is run by a rotating Chair and Task Force of the Coalition's design, made up of organisations & individuals who oversee activities, outreach, planning, and communication with participants and other Intersect Coalitions.

In this manner power is shared and rests with no single organisation and all participants are given a voice and a place at the table as well as the ability to participate at a level their capacity will allow.

Arrangements for funding

Please describe available and/or expected sources of funding for the implementation of the Partnership/Initiative (e.g. donor government(s); international organization(s)/financial institution(s); foundation(s); private sector; other major groups, etc.)

To a large degree individual Intersect Coalitions will seek their own funding with the help of materials and, where possible, contacts from INTERSECT. Also, INTERSECT will seek support from major funders with particular geographic interests to help Coalitions in those areas. Of course, the more member organisations that participate, the larger the pool of resources. Each organisation can contribute in accordance with their capacity to do so, and through this shared, cooperative method, actions can be quite easily funded with a need for a limited amount of additional funds.

INTERSECT is operating with seed money from the V-Day Fund, The Colin Higgins Foundation and private donations. A pro bono Development Director is preparing a funding plan and list of funders, both national (US) and international.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer:

Please include information if the Partnership/Initiative provides for training, informational support, institutional strengthening and/or other capacity building measures:

Again, this is a function of individual Partnership/Initiatives, but given the scope and broad base of these Coalitions,

Interdisciplinary trainings are already in the planning stages. The diversity of organisations and the variety of disciplines involved in the Coalitions, make available vast capacity building capabilities as they share their knowledge, technology, pool resources and data bases and make accessible to poor, rural and underserved communities, the vast information and skill sets usually available to only sophisticated urban agencies.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)

INTERSECT is currently working with UNIFEM, Equality Now (US, Kenya), International AIDS Trust, Apne Ap (International, India, Nepal), Women for Women (International), National Minority AIDS Council (US), and is seeking other links.

Monitoring Arrangements

Please describe expected arrangements for monitoring of progress in the implementation of Partnerships/Initiative after it will be launched at the WSSD:

(e.g. frequency/modalities of preparation of progress reports; electronic updates, news-letters, etc)

Regular reporting to INTERSECT from the Intersect Coalitions are being initiated, and evaluation sheets are being developed so that Coalitions can have input into the relationship between Coalitions and INTERSECT, as well as evaluate Coalition Building Sessions and follow-up.

Coalitions will also evaluate their activities and meet periodically to assess their methods and make changes where appropriate.

Other relevant information:

INTERSECT is happy to guide organisations in creating Partnership/Initiatives in HIV/VAW&G and related sectors.

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