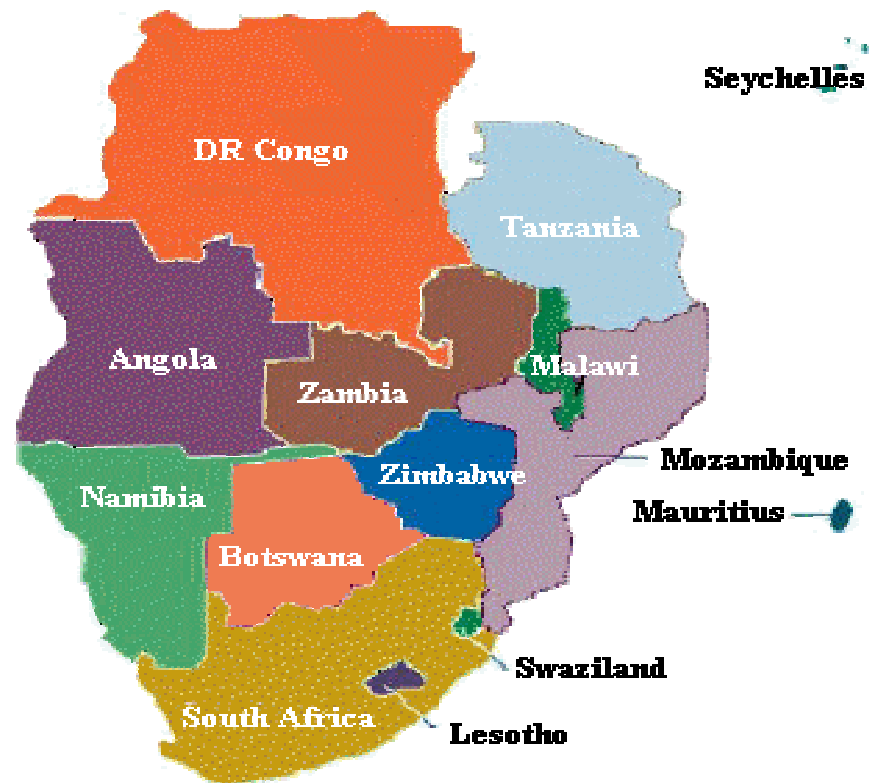


# ***The Challenge of Regional Grantmaker Collaboration on HIV/AIDS***



Barry Smith, SAGA Annual  
Conference, Johannesburg,  
19 September 2003

# Where do we stand?



# The Scope of the Issue

- Of the 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS, 28 million are in Southern Africa
- Infection rates across the region are on the rise
- Currently a 38.5% infection rate in Botswana
- Zambia now has the lowest life expectancy in the world – 33 years

# The Scope of the Issue

- Recent World Bank analysis forecasts devastating economic consequences
- Declining growth rates
- Loss of 'human capital' and productivity
- Drastic reductions in household incomes of the poor

# The Scope of the Issue

- WFP blames HIV/AIDS as the underlying cause of famine in the region
- Education and health systems are particularly at risk
- By 2005, between 8% and 25% of the region's doctors may be lost to HIV/AIDS
- One in three teachers in Malawi are HIV+

# The Scope of the Issue

- HIV/AIDS is the biggest common threat to the region
- And it is a regional, not a national, problem
  - Porous national borders
  - High levels of mobility and migration
  - Increasing economic integration
  - Similar rates and patterns of transmission

# Acting at the Community Level

- Communities are acting
- More and more local initiatives are emerging daily
- But there are many roadblocks to effective community-level responses

# Roadblocks to Community Action

- Inefficient and inadequate resource flows
- Lack of information
- Dominance of metropolitan elites in policy and decision-making
- Lack of community participation
- Lack of effective local partnerships across sectors (government/business/civil society)

# The Funding Context

- There is no up to date overview of resource flows and available funding from all sectors
- Lack of a regional perspective among donors
- Poor coordination and collaboration among funders
- National and sectoral divides
- Weak regional intergovernmental cooperation on HIV/AIDS

# The Funding Context

- Advent of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (since 2001)
- Since 2001, the Global Fund has approved projects worth US\$1.5 billion, 60% in Africa
- Pledge by US government in January 2003 to devote US\$15 billion to international AIDS prevention, treatment and care programmes

# The Funding Context

- Pledge by European leaders at the G8 summit to match the US contribution
- But at present the Global Fund is in a financial crisis – current pledges fail to meet its funding needs
- The pace of national level approval and distribution of Global Fund resources has been erratic

# The Funding Context

- Increasing levels of commitment and engagement from international multilateral, bilateral and NGO funders
- Increasing engagement of international private foundations working in Southern Africa

# The Funding Context

- Some key international foundation funders:
  - Gates Foundation
  - Clinton Foundation
  - Kaiser Foundation
  - Atlantic Philanthropies
  - Ford Foundation
  - Mott Foundation

# The Funding Context

- Some key international foundation funders:
  - The Open Society foundations
  - Bristol-Myers-Squibb Foundation
  - Rockefeller Foundation
  - Rockefeller Brothers Fund
  - UN Foundation
  - Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation

# The Funding Context

- Internationally, funders and corporates have formed HIV/AIDS networks and affinity groups:
  - Funders Concerned about AIDS (USA)
  - Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (Canada)
  - European HIV/AIDS Funders Group
  - Global Business Council on HIV/AIDS

# The Funding Context

- In Southern Africa, there is a growing movement among NGO and corporate funders to address HIV/AIDS as an integral development issue
- In South Africa, the CSI Handbook reports an increase of more than 50% in CSI health spending
- Of this, an estimated 60% is on HIV/AIDS – about 8% of CSI spending overall

# The Funding Context - Challenges

- No clear and 'joined up' picture of grantmaker resource allocation to HIV/AIDS in the region
- No overview of cumulative resources, and resource flows, from all sectors

# The Funding Context - Challenges

- Few cross-border or region-wide initiatives – and no map of what does exist
- Huge gaps in resource distribution to community level
- Can we live with this?
- Grantmaker collaboration on HIV/AIDS in the region is not a luxury – it is an imperative!

# Building a Regional Network

- 2001/2002: Synergos survey of grantmakers and potential HIV/AIDS regional responses
- July 2002: Southern African grantmakers meet in Windhoek to discuss a regional response to HIV/AIDS
- Decision to join together in SAHIC (Southern African HIV/AIDS Intermediary Grantmaker Collaborative)

# SAHIC Participants

- Foundation for Community Development (Mozambique)
- Community Foundation for the Western Region of Zimbabwe
- The Rössing Foundation (Namibia)
- INTERFUND (South Africa)

# SAHIC Participants

- Social Change Assistance Trust (South Africa)
- AMREF (South Africa)
- The AIDS Foundation (South Africa)
- The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund
- The Nelson Mandela Foundation

# SAHIC Participants

- SAGA (in a support and resource capacity)
  - SAGA works with SAHIC as part of its regional outreach and network support programme
  - SAGA recognizes the challenge of HIV/AIDS as a cross-cutting development and funding issue

# SAHIC: Overall Goal

- To help stem the spread of HIV/AIDS and ultimately to defeat the disease in Southern Africa

# SAHIC: Key Objectives

- Create an action-oriented network for cross-border collaboration
- Foster effective regional programmes
- Add value to existing initiatives on the ground

# SAHIC: Key Objectives

- An expanded, more efficient flow of resources to the community level
- Greater capacity and grantmaking infrastructure
- Stronger in-country grantmaker efforts that have regional impact

# SAHIC: Key Objectives

- Develop 'best practice' models, centres of excellence, information sharing and joint learning
- Facilitate constructive partnerships between government, civil society and the private sector at a regional level

# SAHIC: Key Objectives

- Champion an integrated approach to HIV/AIDS as a social and development issue
- Provide a grantmaker 'affinity group' to promote joint learning, mutual support, joint advocacy and dialogue

# SAHIC Membership and Structure

- An inclusive membership that is increasingly representative – and strategic
- Provision for ‘observer members’ from relevant support agencies
- A membership with proven capacity, accountability and good governance

# SAHIC Membership and Structure

- A membership committed to joint learning and information dissemination
- A streamlined, democratic structure
- Ability to co-opt experts or special skills into the executive committee

# SAHIC Philosophy and Approach

- Promote models that ‘think five years’ ahead
- Move from ‘national’ thinking to a regional approach
- Undertake a few targeted initiatives and then build on them

# SAHIC Philosophy and Approach

- Act as a catalyst for innovation
- Ensure that joint investments have a wider, transformative impact
- Be dynamic and bold

# SAHIC: Recent Developments

- A core group has developed the ‘SAHIC concept’ and framework
- Engaging with a broader range of grantmakers and foundations – to grow the membership
- Formulation and adoption of an action plan

# SAHIC: The Action Plan

- Build a more regionally representative and strategic membership
- Assemble a more complete database of grantmaker engagement with HIV/AIDS
- Track resource and aid flows
- Assess needs and resources for effective community and cross-border funding

# SAHIC: The Action Plan

- Practical exchanges between members
- Pilot regional funding initiatives
- Develop learning forum tools (website, list-serve, etc)
- Highlight best practice in community funding
- A funding feasibility study

# SAHIC: The Action Plan

- Adopt a joint advocacy agenda
- Develop relationships with AIDS service networks
- Secure 'champions' in government, business and civil society
- Establish a lean but effective full-time secretariat

# The SAHIC Challenge

- Translate vision into action
  - ‘The time for action is now, and right now!’
  - Nelson Mandela, Durban 2000 International AIDS Conference
  - Join with us in this vital SAHIC initiative
  - In joint action there is hope

