

The government's response to soaring HIV seroprevalence was to set up a **National AIDS Council** consisting of the Ministry of Health and other key players to oversee the implementation of the HIV/AIDS programme.

What does the programme aim to do?

The National HIV/AIDS and STD Strategic Plan for South Africa (2000-2005) programme is divided into 4 areas of priority:

- **Prevention**-promote safe sex, control STD's, improve access to testing and counselling
- **Treatment, care and support**-develop health services and expand care for orphans
- **Research, Monitoring and surveillance**-support AIDS vaccine development, investigate best practices, conduct research
- **Human and legal rights**-develop a supportive and appropriate social, legal and policy environment

Within the education sector the priority is the Tirisano "**Working Together**" programme (2000-2004) which aims to deal with the HIV/AIDS emergency through:

- **Awareness, information and advocacy**-to disseminate correct information and recognise the rights of girls and women
- **HIV/AIDS within the curriculum**-ensure that HIV/AIDS education are integrated at all levels of education
- **HIV/AIDS and the education system**-develop planning models to analyse the impact of HIV/AIDS on education

What are the limitations of the programme?

The programme mainly focused on children and youth (grades 4-9) and was limited to the areas of highest prevalence (KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and North West Provinces)

What was the approach?

The government set aside 8450 million FF over three years for the HIV/AIDS programme, 50% of the budget was allocated to a life skills programme in primary and high schools and voluntary counselling and testing as well as a care and support programme were introduced in an approach that integrated various existing programmes.

What are the recommendations?

To design a system this is able to strategically analyse data for planning and resourcing. Children and youth should be the integrating principle and attention should be paid to the relationships between men and women.