



# Community Systems Strengthening

**Strengthening systems is our core business at NACOSA – it underpins everything we do. Coordinated, capacitated and resilient communities play a vital role in the national response and help improve access to services. The Community Systems Strengthening programme, funded by the Global Fund, supports the coordination of the national AIDS response and builds the capacity of community organisations and structures across the country.**

NACOSA helped pioneer the community systems strengthening approach in South Africa, which aims is to create functional, effective community systems and to enable community based and emerging NPOs to fulfil their role in the national HIV, AIDS and TB response.

*“NACOSA has greatly contributed towards building solidarity between HIV and AIDS organisations.”*

– NACOSA member organisation

## COMMUNITY SYSTEMS

Community systems are structures, mechanisms and processes through which communities respond to the challenges they face. They include community members, formal and informal community groupings and other civil society structures. Strong community systems enable people to access health and social services as well as contribute to the development of the local, provincial and national HIV, AIDS and TB response. Community systems are essential to ensuring that

health programmes are comprehensive and responsive, in particular to the needs of marginalised groups.

The Community System Strengthening programme aims to increase access to health and social services, build strong community linkages and networks and strengthen coordination within South Africa’s Global Fund programme, and its interface with all other stakeholders. The programme has two main components:

- Mapping, networking and coordination
- Institutional capacity building, planning and leadership development.

## COMMUNITY SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

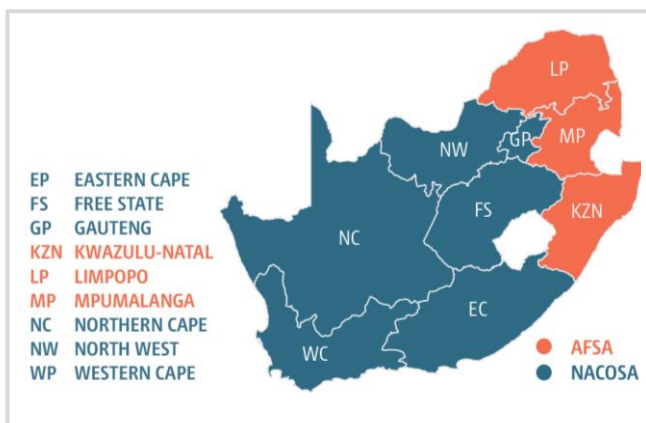
<b>26</b>	districts in 6 provinces
<b>280</b>	organisations consulted each quarter
<b>R18.6m</b>	investment by the Global Fund

NACOSA’s Capacity Assessment Tool used to understand capacity needs of 77 organisations.

## NETWORKING & COORDINATION

To create functional, effective community systems within the national response, it is vital to coordinate and link all the various role-players at national, provincial, district and local level. This component of the Community Systems Strengthening Programme includes:

- Mapping district-level organisations, services, networks and structures.
- Social mobilization and building community linkages.
- Advocacy and community-based monitoring for social accountability.
- Information and education materials for community structures and organisations.
- National, regional and global networking
- Support and input into national structures, plans and strategies, including the new National Strategic Plan.
- Establishment of a quarterly reporting mechanism to Provincial Councils on AIDS and Local AIDS Councils.
- Collaboration and coordination of the Global Fund response at national, provincial and local levels.



As principal recipients, the AIDS Foundation of South Africa (AFSA) and NACOSA, implement the programme across the country.

## CAPACITY BUILDING

The major challenges facing organisations and community groups are a lack of resources, skills and organisational capacity. The Community Systems Strengthening programme offers any organisation in the Global Fund-identified districts to apply for training and mentoring. This helps

build capacity, learning and sharing across communities.

Organisations in the Global Fund grant districts were invited to apply for capacity building support and were selected to be part of the programme. Organisations will receive:

- Capacity assessments to identify their specific needs
- Capacity building agreements to ensure buy-in and commitment
- Training workshops delivered by the accredited NACOSA Training Institute - [nacosa.org.za/training](http://nacosa.org.za/training)
- Individual and cluster mentoring, peer learning opportunities and technical assistance
- Mid-term assessments of capacity to measure distance travelled.

*“We LOVE our Mentoring Organisation, NACOSA! Being a part of their Community Systems Strengthening Programme has been amazing! We know that the future is bright with them by our side.”*

– Heart-to-Heart Care Centre South Africa

Organisations receive training based on their specific capacity needs but each will also receive **Risk Management and Planning for NPO Sustainability** training to lay the foundation for other institutional development. A full list of training available through the NACOSA Community Systems Strengthening Programme is available in the [Training Institute Prospectus](#).

Get resources and follow developments at [Nacosa.org.za/Community](http://Nacosa.org.za/Community)

## NACOSA – NETWORKING HIV AND AIDS COMMUNITY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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