

STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION: PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

South African Constitution describes right to equality, freedom from discrimination and access to essential services.

The reality of People Living with HIV and TB is however different.

Stigma and discrimination impact negatively on HIV prevention and treatment and must be addressed as it is a barrier to the increase and uptake of health services.

NSP 2017 - 2022

Goal: Ground the response to HIV, TB and STIs in human rights principles and approaches. – Equal treatment and social justice.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to Networking HIV & Aids Community of Southern Africa (NACOSA) for providing Usapho Foundation with the privilege of changing lives through the Stigma Discrimination Reduction (SDR) project. This grant has assisted us with putting many tools in place and taught us the importance of well documented reports.

Our staff were truly capacitated through this grant period and it demonstrated to USAPHO that the staff was able to work well in teams and as individuals. It was challenging when we started the process, but the growth from learning to better engage with the community and have dialogues with the community and the other platforms had been extremely helpful.

We are empowered with the training and mentoring we have received during the capacity building phase.

We facilitated community dialogues which resulted in a steering committee being formed and thereby action plans implemented. Additionally, we also facilitated SDR support groups that empowered community members to speak about matters pertaining to stigma and discrimination. Likewise, we were able to network with relevant stakeholders to bring much needed services to the community through Jamborees and community awareness events.

