The World Bank's Multi-country HIV/AIDS in Africa Program

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Youth and Technology: Supporting Health Informatics in Africa

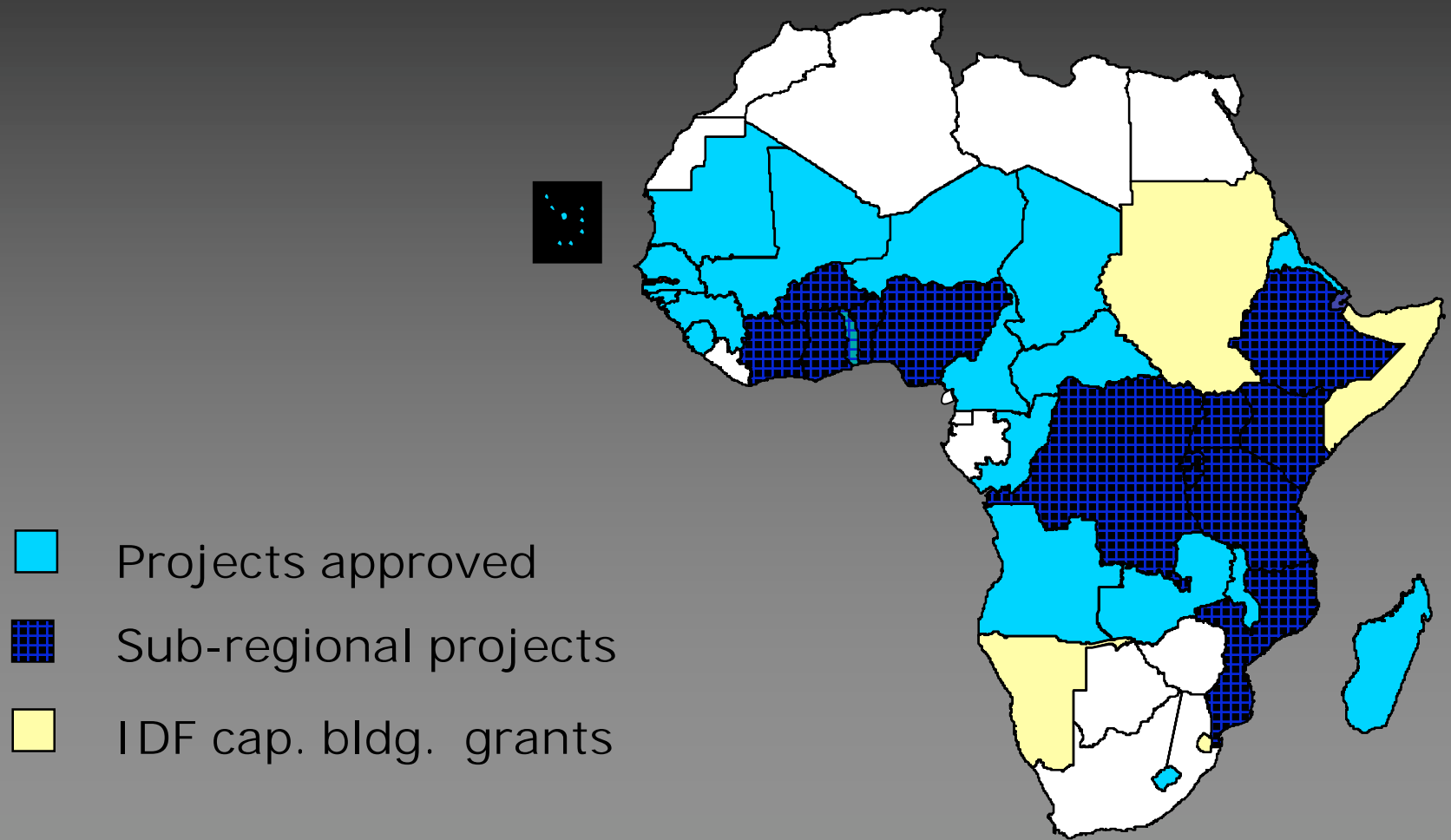*Anthony Bloome*

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World Bank

HIV/AIDS:
A World Bank Priority

- HIV/AIDS is a strategic corporate priority

- The Bank has been involved in fighting HIV/AIDS since 1986 and has programs in all regions

- One of the largest supporters of HIV/AIDS activities in the world:

    - More than 65 active projects and US$ 2 billion committed since 1986
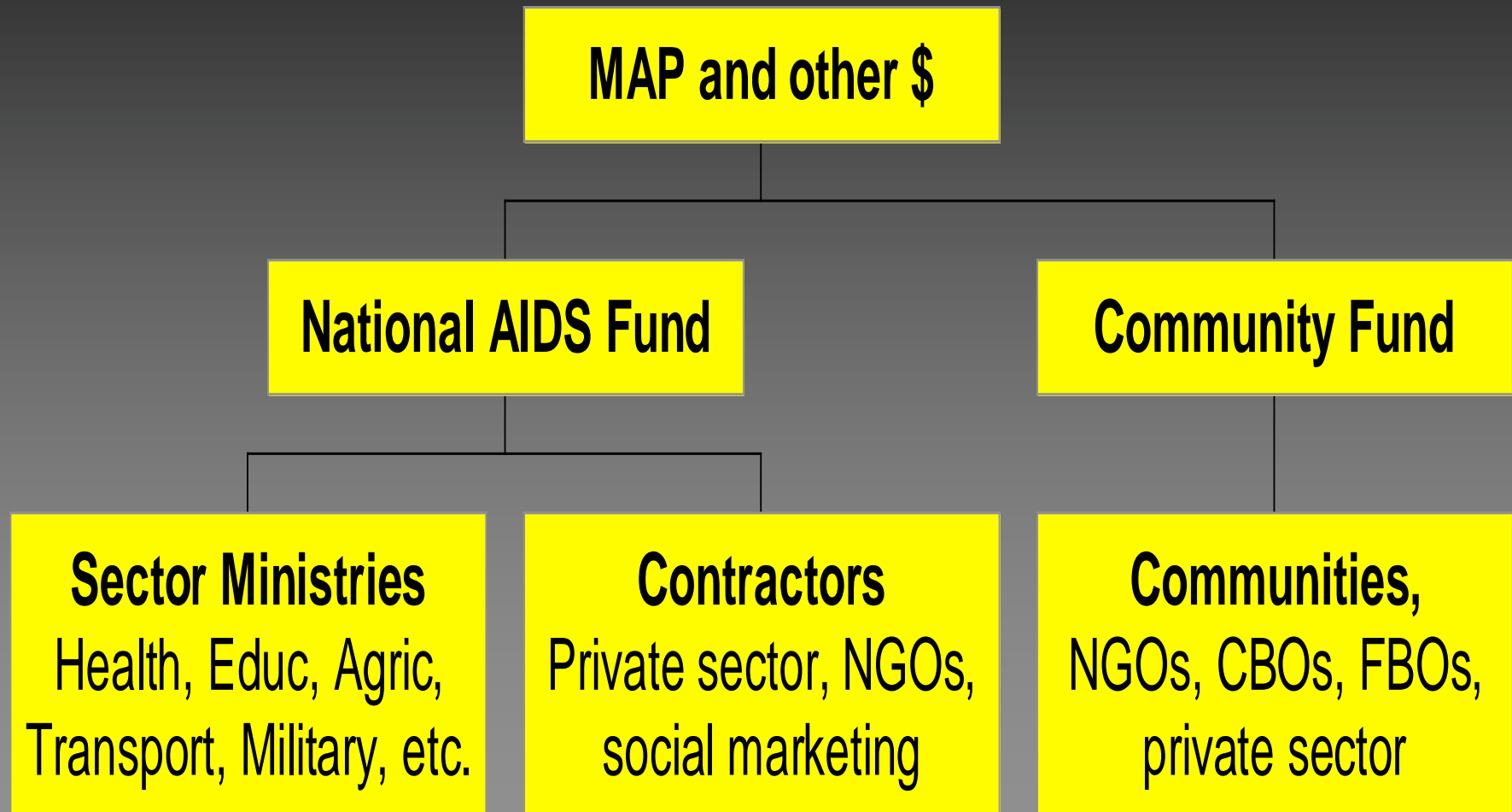
- All HIV/AIDS Funds are Grants

Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Program (MAP) for Africa

- USD 1.2 Billion, 29 countries, 3 sub-regional projects

- Roughly 40% of overall funds going to civil society

- Over 30,000 subprojects funded, large share at community level

MAP Projects February, 2005 – US$ 1.2 Billion

Legend:
- Projects approved
- Sub-regional projects
- IDF cap. bldg. grants

Typical MAP flow of funds

MAP and other $

National AIDS Fund

Community Fund

Sector Ministries
Health, Educ, Agric, Transport, Military, etc.

Contractors
Private sector, NGOs, social marketing

Communities,
NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, private sector

MAP at work

- **Cameroon** MAP 1st to scale up ARV; more than 1,500 communities already receiving grants

- **Benin** has disbursed to 20 of its 21 public sector ministries to implement their action plans

- **Kenya** has approved 800 subprojects, half of them at community level

- **Ethiopia** now has 70 VCT centers, compared to 0 pre-MAP

World Bank and the Private Sector

- Designing mechanisms within National AIDS Commissions (NACs) to engage private sector in national agenda against AIDS

- Forging partnerships with global corporations to provide treatment programs for PMTCT (Abbott, Glaxo, Boehringer Ingelheim)

- Identifying good practices in global corporations and promoting their replication in other companies and countries (Unilever, Shell, AngloAmerican, BP, Coke, etc.)

NAC/MAP Resources Can Be Accessed for Health Informatics

- Competitive funding process

- Grants typically under US$100,000

- Strategic Partnerships with National/Local Organizations

- Investments in ICTs are an important multi-sectoral contributor for combating HIV/AIDS -- they can:

    - Provide more timely & efficient service delivery

    - Promote communications

    - Bypass geographic, human and technology resource limitations

    - Build upon already existing strategic investments

Youth and Health Informatics

- Clearly recognize importance of technology literacy and skills for 21st century

- Enormous potential for combining interest in technology – which is cross-disciplinary and investments in "youth capital" for combating HIV/AIDS

- Youth can provide IT-support to health informatics applications and services

Brain Drain

- 38 of 47 countries in sub-Saharan Africa do not meet the WHO recommendation of 20 physicians per 100,000 population

- Ethiopia – 2 doctors and 2 nurses for 2000 people

- Malawi, 1 for 4000

- United States – 15 nurses for the same number

- Many communities have no doctors outside major cities and district capitals

- A variety of reasons for this –
    - Int'l recruitment, death, better opportunities

Rosenberg, Tina, "Think Again: AIDS," *Foreign Policy* (March/April 2005)

Health Care Paraprofessionals

- Distance Learning in Health Training Institutions

- South-South collaboration

- Increasing roles of mid-level cadres (those with less training than physicians or registered nurses)

    – Physicians for Human Rights: *An Action Plan to Prevent Brain Drain* (June 2004)

Involve IT-skilled Youth In HIV Service Delivery

- **Prevention**

  - e.g., peer education (e.g., AIDS hotlines)

- **Voluntary Counseling and Testing**

  - e.g., link to "best practice" e-mail and web resources

- **Medical Treatment**

  - e.g., assist in tracking compliance, data entry

- **Ongoing care of People with HIV/AIDS**

  - e.g., use of PDAs to track home-based care

- **Care of Survivors**

  - e.g., assist with IT vocational training

Types of IT-Supported Service Delivery

- **Services:**

    - **Data Entry (e.g., EMR)**

    - **Knowledge agents – e.g., identify and download relevant health information**

    - **Produce health materials – e.g., CD-ROMs, newsletters, websites**

    - **Link those infected and caregivers online with other support networks**

    - **Stay abreast of latest developments**

    - **Serve as IT instructors and service support**

- **Can employ out-of-school and vulnerable youth**

Youth, HIV/AIDS and ICT Pilots

- AIDSWEB Online project
- Social Action Website Design Competition
- HIV "Edutainment" Media Events
- Linking School-based telecenters with HIV NGOs
- HIV Material adaptation – print to electronic
- Online Counseling
- Youth IT Microenterprise Project

- Projects ran from 1999-2004
- Botswana, Ghana, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- Approximately 2000 youth reached
- Supported by WB, US Dept of State, World Links, AED, EDC, Ministries of Education, Rotary clubs, etc.

Online Peer Health Counseling Pilot

- Online Peer Educators targeted 800 youth

- Confidential support system

- Supported by informal peer discussion groups

- Eleven school-based telecenters in Uganda

Primary Partners:
World Links, Straight Talk Foundation's Adolescent and
Reproductive Health HIV/AIDS Counselors, SchoolNet-Uganda
AED, EDC

Busoga College, Mwiri

Mbale SS

Iganga Girl's School

Teso College

Youth Information (YouthIT) Microenterprise Project

YouthIT Project Objectives

- Trained 1000 youth in Uganda and Zimbabwe

- Integrated training to in- and out-of-school youth in **information technology and entrepreneurship education**

- **P**romoting youth **employment** (e.g., youth linkages with local industry/business)

- Exploring links between youth livelihood and HIV/AIDS

- Similar training can specifically include health informatics service applications

Involving IT-Empowered Youth in HIV Service Delivery

- Provide needed staff support

- Provide youth employment

- Increase awareness of the disease

- Lower stigma and discrimination associated with the disease

- Possibly serve as a "protective factor" to prevent catching the disease

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http://www.worldbank.org/afr/aids/ps/index.htm

IFC Against AIDS

http://www.ifc.org/ifcagainstaids