Established in 2006, the Advanced Health Management Program (AHMP) combines distance learning and intensive workshops to provide health care managers working in HIV/AIDS with critical management skills. The year-long program offered in South Africa’s nine provinces now graduates more than 150 students per year. Many of these graduates have advanced to senior positions in their organizations or found significant outside funding to sustain and expand the projects they first designed as course assignments.

The program is designed to help participants develop managerial competency in areas such as financial management, operations management, human resources, project management, marketing, self-management, resource mobilization, leadership, and monitoring and evaluation. The assignments and group work help students develop the necessary skills for preparing business plans, action plans and human resources tools.

At the beginning of the program, students identify a problem to solve or an innovative idea to implement over the 12 months of the course. During the year, they chronicle their successes and failures. This methodology is a proven, powerful tool for developing transformational leaders, encouraging participants to become proactive managers able to solve problems and implement ideas.

As one of the largest health leadership programs in the world, AHMP is currently being adapted for replication in neighboring Swaziland, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The AHMP is managed by the Yale Global Health Leadership Institute and the Foundation for Professional Development.