



# EAST FACTS

## UNDP's Role in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS

*AIDS is devastating in terms of creating and deepening poverty, reversing achievements in education, and diverting meager health budgets away from other priorities. And by cutting deep into all sectors of society, HIV/AIDS undermines vital economic growth—perhaps reducing future GDP in Africa by a third over the next 20 years. Moreover, by putting huge additional demand on already weak, hard to access public services, it is setting up the terms of a desperate conflict over inadequate resources.*

MARK MALLOCH BROWN, ADMINISTRATOR

### The UNAIDS Partnership

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a co-sponsor of UNAIDS, an innovative joint venture that brings together seven UN system organizations to ensure a coordinated and intensive response to the epidemic. UNDP contributes to this partnership by helping developing countries meet the governance challenge posed by HIV/AIDS, and helping them mitigate the impact of the disease on efforts to reduce poverty.

### The Governance Challenge

National HIV/AIDS strategies, if they are to be successful, require an unprecedented social and political mobilization and a deep, community-led transformation of norms and practices. The full authority and power of the state needs to be brought to bear to ensure the active involvement of all sectors and levels of government, going well beyond the health sector. Resources from both national and international sources must be mobilized and then allocated in a coordinated and effective way. Therefore, HIV/AIDS poses a major governance challenge for developing countries.

### The Development Challenge

The spread of HIV/AIDS is significantly impeding efforts to reduce poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, and other regions where it is spreading rapidly. Developing countries now face the simultaneous challenges of preventing the further spread of the virus, coping with the extensive loss of human life and managing potentially catastrophic social and economic losses. These challenges can be met, but only if strategic decisions are made to redirect national and international policies and resources.

### The Role of UNDP

As a long-time trusted partner of developing country governments and civil society groups, UNDP provides advice and development services in the following areas:

■ **Advocacy and Policy Dialogue** to promote top-level political commitment and mobilization of actors across all sectors and all levels of society. World-wide, UNDP's advocacy goals include securing a greater share of national budgets for HIV/AIDS prevention, care and impact mitigation; and mobilizing the private sector, including for work-place HIV/AIDS policies. In the worst affected countries, UNDP is increasingly providing urgent policy advice on how to alleviate the impact of HIV/AIDS on poverty reduction efforts and maintain essential public services notwithstanding the loss of human resources and budgetary pressures.

In **Botswana**, UNDP supported the publication of a National Human Development Report focusing on how HIV/AIDS is reducing economic growth and increasing poverty. The report spurred a public discussion on the accessibility of ARV drugs ("cocktails") and whether the government should be responsible for providing them. Subsequently Botswana's Minister of Health asked the UNDP Resident Representative in **Gaborone** and the Deputy Governor of the Bank of Botswana to explore the financial viability of such an approach. Meetings were convened at UNDP with key stakeholders including the National AIDS Coordinating Agency, the Ministries of Health, Finance and Development and major insurance companies. Those consultations helped lead to a decision last year by the President of Botswana to provide free access to ARV drugs to any citizen who needs them (38.5 percent of the country's adults are HIV positive).

## Country-level services in support of national HIV/AIDS strategies in 2001

UNDP services	Typical interventions	Countries
<b>1. Advocacy and policy dialogue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊙ Advocacy/training/policy dialogue and coalition building, targeting opinion leaders, eg parliamentarians, religious figures</li> </ul>	Angola, Armenia, Aruba, Bangladesh, Belarus, Botswana, Burkina Faso, China, Côte d'Ivoire, DPR Korea, Gambia, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Poland, Russian Federation, Thailand
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊙ Development of HIV/AIDS research and advocacy materials, including studies, surveys, <i>National Human Development Reports</i></li> </ul>	Angola, Aruba, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Latvia, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Poland
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊙ Partnership with the private sector</li> </ul>	DR Congo, Guinea, Malaysia, Namibia
<b>2. Capacity development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊙ Support for setting up and strengthening sub-national multi-sectoral units to coordinate HIV/AIDS response</li> </ul>	Armenia, Belarus, Belize, Botswana, Bulgaria, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Rwanda, Swaziland, Tanzania, Turkmenistan, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊙ Support for preparation of national/sub-national HIV/AIDS strategies and plans</li> </ul>	Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Belize, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Haiti, Lao PDR, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Yemen, Zimbabwe,
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊙ Other capacity building/piloting on HIV/AIDS related issues</li> </ul>	Armenia, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Haiti, Kenya, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Myanmar, Poland, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Zambia
<b>3. Mainstreaming</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊙ HIV/AIDS issues mainstreamed across ministries/sectors</li> </ul>	Botswana, Lao PDR
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊙ HIV/AIDS mainstreamed into poverty reduction strategies</li> </ul>	Armenia, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa
<b>4. Human rights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊙ Mobilization of support to people living with HIV and AIDS and gender-focused interventions</li> </ul>	Armenia, Botswana, Burundi, Colombia, Gambia, Latvia, Malawi
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊙ Legal frameworks related to HIV/AIDS</li> </ul>	Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, China, Madagascar, Malaysia, Turkmenistan
<b>5. Public advocacy campaigns</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊙ Information, Education, Communication (IEC) targeting high-risk groups</li> </ul>	Botswana, Fiji, Gambia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Romania, Swaziland
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊙ Mass awareness campaigns, including innovative use of Information and Communication Technology</li> </ul>	Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Colombia, Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Latvia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Peru, Romania, Turkmenistan

Now UNDP is working to provide expert advice on the logistics of managing the drug distribution programme. And the President of Botswana had an abridged version of the *National Human Development Report* produced for distribution in all senior primary and junior secondary schools.

■ **Capacity Development:** UNDP is providing policy advice and assistance to help developing country governments strengthen their capacity to plan, fund, manage and implement national responses to the epidemic. This includes the urgent priority of decentralizing national AIDS programmes and mobilizing district and municipal-level authorities; improving management, human resource development and budgeting in national AIDS programmes and sectoral ministries; and policy recommendations responding to the impact of the epidemic on sectors such as education, manufacturing, agriculture and environment.

In **Burkina Faso**, for example, our country office worked with the government and UN country team partners to create a new National HIV/AIDS Commission attached to the Office of the President and formulate a multi-sectoral and results-oriented strategic plan. UNDP then supported a roundtable meeting that secured US\$94 million from donors—enough to implement the plan fully, if all the pledges materialize.

Similarly, in **Malawi**, UNDP facilitated the formulation of a multi-sectoral and results-oriented strategic plan; helped the government mobilize \$110 million from international donors to implement it; and is now assisting district, town and city governments and community organizations as they move forward with implementation at the grass-roots level.

■ **Mainstreaming:** UNDP provides policy guidance on the difficult challenge of integrating HIV/AIDS priorities into the core of development planning, domestic resource allocation processes, and sectoral plans. For example, in **Burkina Faso** and **Cameroon**, HIV/AIDS interventions now form part of the national poverty reduction strategies and, as a result, portions of debt relief savings are being allocated to HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

■ **Human Rights:** Discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS leads to an atmosphere of stigma, shame and denial and prevents them from participating in awareness and education campaigns. Gender inequities also help fuel the epidemic. So UNDP promotes a human rights approach that includes the formulation of anti-discrimination laws. In many countries UNDP is also supporting associations and networks of people living with HIV/AIDS, promoting their full participation in prevention efforts.

■ **Public Advocacy Campaigns:** UNDP is increasingly involved in developing national capacity to implement massive public information and media campaigns on HIV/AIDS. Twenty-one UNDP country offices reported successes in this area last year.

■ **South-South Cooperation:** Through its 131 country offices and its knowledge networks, UNDP plays a unique role in facilitating access to information, knowledge and best practices so that success stories from **Brazil**, **Thailand**, **Uganda** and elsewhere can be replicated. For instance, UNDP has brokered an innovative teacher capacity-building project between

**Botswana** and **Brazil**. The project initially covers 100 primary and secondary schools and technical colleges and will eventually target all teachers and students in Botswana through interactive TV broadcasting, e-mail and the Internet. The curriculum focuses on socio-cultural and gender issues relevant to young people, and aims to promote behavioral change by demystifying HIV/AIDS and examining cultural practices associated with sex and sexuality.

■ **Coordinator of UN System Activities at the Country Level:** Through the Theme Group on HIV/AIDS and the overall UN Development Assistance Framework, UNDP is working to ensure a coherent and mutually reinforcing response by the UNAIDS co-sponsors, bilateral donors and private foundations.

For more information on UNDP and HIV/AIDS, visit: [www.undp.org/hiv](http://www.undp.org/hiv)



For further information contact your local UNDP office or:

United Nations Development Programme  
One United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Fax: (212) 906 5364

Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement  
Bureau européen  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Genève 10, Switzerland  
Telephone: (41-22) 917 8542 Fax: (41-22) 917 8001

UNDP Liaison Office in Brussels  
United Nations Office/UNDP  
14 Rue Montoyer  
1000 - Brussels, Belgium  
Telephone: (32-2) 505 4620 Fax: (32-2) 505 4729

UNDP/Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office (IAPSO)  
Nordic Liaison Office  
Midtermolen 3, PO Box 2530  
DK-2100 Copenhagen 0, Denmark  
Telephone: (45-35) 46 71 54 Fax: (45-35) 46 70 95

UNDP Tokyo Office  
UNU Building, 8th Floor  
5-53-70 Jingumae  
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0001, Japan  
Telephone: (813) 5467 4751 Fax: (813) 5467 4753

UNDP Liaison Office in Washington, DC  
1775 K Street, NW, Suite 420  
Washington, DC 20006, USA  
Telephone: (202) 331 9130 Fax: (202) 331 9363

For more information, visit: [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)